

Head Start Core Values*

Head Start Core Values	The Nation's Pride
Establish a supportive learning environment for children, parents, and staff in which the processes of enhancing awareness, refining skills, and increasing understanding are valued and promoted.	
Recognize that the members of the Head Start community—children, families, and staff—have roots in many cultures [and languages] . Head Start families and staff, working together as a team, can effectively promote respectful, sensitive, and proactive approaches to diversity.	
Understand that the empowerment of families occurs when program governance is a responsibility shared by families, governing bodies, and staff and when the ideas and opinions for families are heard and respected.	
Embrace a comprehensive vision of health for children and families and staff, a vision that ensures that basic health needs are met; encourages practices that prevent future illnesses and injuries; and promotes positive, culturally relevant health behaviors that enhance life-long well-being.	
Respect the importance of all aspects of an individual's development , including social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth.	
Build a community in which each child and adult is treated as an individual while at the same time, a sense of belonging to the group is reinforced.	
Foster a relationship with the larger community , so that families and staff are respected and served by a network of community agencies that work in partnership with one another.	
Develop a continuum of care , education, and services that allows stable, uninterrupted support to families and children during and after their Head Start experience.	

* Adapted from the Introduction to the 1998 Head Start Program Performance Standards.

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What has changed?

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Head Start Core Values	Evidence in my program
Establish a supportive learning environment for children, parents, and staff in which the process of enhancing awareness, refining skills, and increasing understanding are valued and promoted.	
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