

breakfast, lunch and snack each day.

- Medical/Dental—Full screening/examination and follow-up treatment as necessary.
- Parent Involvement—We offer volunteering and training opportunities throughout the year.
- Disabilities—Children are fully included in the regular classroom setting. Parents, teachers, and children are offered extra support through our Early Childhood Disabilities/Mental Health Specialist, our on-staff Speech-Language Pathologists and the school district's special education department.
- Social Services—Family counseling, crisis intervention and emergency assistance are provided.
- Multicultural Education—Activities reflect the culture of children around the world.

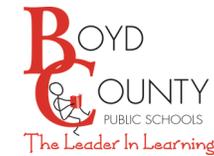
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Spotlight
on our
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM



HEAD START
KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL
IDEA-B



BOYD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEAD START/PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OPTION Center-Based

How are we different from a daycare setting?

Our program is both state and federally funded and our main purpose is preparing disadvantaged children and their families for school and meeting life's challenges. Our center-based classrooms offer three- and four-year-old children the opportunity to learn with other children their age in an all-day classroom experience. Our center's classes meet five days a week—Monday through Friday—for at least 160 days per school year. Our program is designed to meet the emotional, social, health, nutritional, physical and cognitive needs of our students while providing educational experiences along with socialization and play.

What are our educational practices?

Our curriculum is based on the Montessori approach which was first brought to our program in 1985. This method of teaching was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori while working with less fortunate children in Rome,

Italy, more than 100 years ago. Dr. Montessori emphasized that children "learn by doing" and believed that



"the hand forms the mind." Therefore, the classroom environment is designed to

facilitate the development of the child's concentration, investigation skills, independence, and sense of personal empowerment. The Montessori preschool allows children freedom to move about, working alone or with others, on an activity that they have selected, uninterrupted, for as long as they wish. Areas of study that can be found in a Montessori classroom include Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

How do we know what to teach?

Our program has aligned our teaching with Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, and the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. Our teachers have worked together to identify core concepts and skills that are to be taught and built upon throughout the school year, so that every child receives the same education no matter whose classroom they are assigned to. Teachers also work together in teams to share ideas for lessons and activities to add to their weekly lessons plans. Everything that is done in our classrooms on a daily basis helps to ensure that every child leaving our program is ready to enter kindergarten with confidence.

What are our staff's qualifications?

- Our lead teachers are certified through the Kentucky Department of Education by meeting the state eligibility criteria for Early Childhood educators and most hold a Master's degree or above.
- All of our lead teachers are required to become Montessori certified through the North American Montessori Center's training program.

- All instructional assistants are required to obtain a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an Associate's degree or beyond in Early Childhood Education.
- Our Family Advocates have successfully completed the Family Development credentialing program offered through the Kentucky Head Start Association.
- Our Early Childhood Specialist of Parent Involvement/Health, Safety, and Nutrition holds a BA in Social Work and a Family Development credential; our Early Childhood Specialist of Education holds a Master's Degree, emphasizing Early Childhood and Disabilities, and has earned her Montessori certification; and our Early Childhood Specialist of Disabilities and Mental Health is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist who has worked with the early childhood program for several years.
- Training for all staff is ongoing and specific to the needs of our staff and children.

How do we focus on school readiness for the entire family?

Preschool children and their families benefit from all of the following special services:

- Educational—Early childhood education allows children to gain a wealth of knowledge when their minds are most absorbent.
- Nutritional—Children will receive a healthy

Continued —>