

What is Head Start?

Head Start is a free comprehensive child development program, serving children from three to five years old. We provide children with developmentally appropriate activities that help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Head Start recognizes that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. We welcome parent involvement in program activities and we work as partners with parents to promote child progress.

Head Start is a child focused program with the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. We provide a range of individualized services in the development; health & mental health; and nutrition & parent involvement.

Head Start is part of a larger family, MATURA Community Action, located in Creston, Iowa. MATURA offers many services such as WIC, LI-HEAP, Weatherization, Workforce, Food Pantry, Outreach, and more. Ask your teacher for more information.

Need help with transportation?
While we do not provide transportation services, we have partnerships to help, just ask!

For more information please contact one of our centers – open September through May.

TAYLOR COUNTY

Little Dawgs Preschool

906 Pennsylvania St
Bedford, Iowa 50833
712-523-2116

UNION COUNTY

Creston Head Start

801 N. Elm St.
Early Childhood Ctr.
Creston, Iowa 50801
641-782-8002

RINGGOLD COUNTY

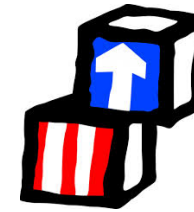
Little Raiders Preschool

302 North Lincoln
Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854
641-464-3107

MADISON COUNTY

Little Huskies North Preschool

1724 N. John Wayne Dr.
Winterset, Iowa 50273
515-462-1208



**MATURA
HEAD
START**

*Where Families and
Children Come First*



**Central Office
209 N. Elm St.
Creston, IA 50801**

**(641)782-6201
Fax: (641)782-6302**

Health & Safety:

Head Start assists families in achieving comprehensive health care including physicals, dental exams, vision, hearing, developmental screening, and follow-up. Health and safety related activities and preventative health and safety education are provided to children and parents. A fluoride tooth brushing program is part of our daily curriculum.

Parent Input for Curriculum:

Head Start believes that parents are their child's first teacher. We want to have them actively involved in their child's educational experience, from setting goals to sharing observations made at home.

Nutrition:

Our nutrition program provides meals and snacks that meet the food group requirements and offers nutrition education and food experiences to help children and families. Meals are served family style to enhance self-help and social skills.



Curriculum:

Our program uses Creative Curriculum, a research-based and research-proven solution for effective teaching strategies in early childhood. Creative Curriculum meets the high standards set by Head Start and aligns with state early learning standards. Using exploration and discovery as a way of learning, Creative Curriculum enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills.



Disabilities:

Head Start classrooms practice inclusion, which ensures consistent service and equal educational opportunities to children with special abilities. We work with various agencies to provide quality services to our children and families with special needs.

Mental Health:

Our classrooms provide opportunities to practice positive social skills of sharing, caring, and expression which enhances the child's self-esteem and self-image. Staff helps families procure services for needs in their local community.

Policy Council:

Our program is governed by a volunteer, parent-run Policy Council. The Policy Council is made-up of one parent representative from each of our classrooms/centers, as well as community representatives. Policy Council meets once per month to learn parent advocacy, plan strategies, and make decisions that drive our program.

Inkind:

Your time and services are considered "Inkind".

Head Start is a federally funded program. The federal government pays for 80% of the funding, while the other 20% is obtained through donated time, services, and items by parents and the gracious people of our communities. The federal government exchanges donations with dollars toward funding. With your help, we can meet our Inkind goal. Ask your child's teacher for ways you can be an involved parent.

