The Secrets to Head Start Success

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The Secrets to Head Start Success

- Performance Standards
- Parent Participation
- Team Building
Agenda

- Milestones
- Performance Standards
- Parents Participation
- Teams

Head Start Mission

To promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through education, health, nutrition, social and other services for children and families.
Since it's 1965 launch, Head Start has enrolled 30 million children

Head Start Program Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2010

Make Your **OWN** Billboard!
Head Start Milestones

- 1964: Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, (War on Poverty)
- 1965-1966: Project Head Start launched a 8 week summer program
- 1972: 10% budget set aside to serve children with disabilities
- 1977 Bilingual and bicultural programs initiated in 21 states
- 1995 First Early Head Start program grants distributed
- 1998 Head Start reauthorized to expand to full day and full year services
Head Start is the only federally funded program that empowers parents with rights, roles & responsibilities.
Performance Standards

- To bring best practices into classrooms
- To promote continuous improvement & innovation at ground level
- To provide training to teachers & directors
- To help teachers & directors improve classroom instruction
- To provide peer-to-peer technical assistance

Helping all children realize their dreams and potential will help us build tomorrow's workforce, strengthen our economy & fulfill America's promise."

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, September 22 2010
What do parents mean at YOUR Head Start facility?

Making a Billboard

- Imagine what your billboard would say
- How it would look
- What image it would convey
- How do you want Head Start to be seen by the outside world?
- Which of Head Start magnificent qualities could you display?
- How can you summarize Head Start offerings in a snapshot that will grab drivers going 60 miles per hour and hold the attention of commuters stuck in traffic as well?
Now it’s your turn
Take out a blank sheet of paper & write down a concise headline for your billboard & draft an image
Also write any other brief message you’d like to add, possibly to get people who are driving by to take a desired action
Here is a recap of the information you’ll need to capture:

Let's hear from you!
Questions, Comments, Feedback
We Know that:

Parents are the single most important influence on children’s decisions
Students with involved parents – no matter what their income or background – are more likely to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more
Parental Influences

We also know that:

When parents are involved, children succeed in school

The earlier in a child’s life parents become involved, the bigger the impact

Successful Children

Have Parents Who:

Are more knowledgeable about child rearing practices and child development.

Are more confident in their parenting skills.

Engage in more language-and literacy-promoting behaviors with their children.

Are more involved in their children’s schooling.
Challenge
Provide information to all families who want or need it, not just to the few who attend workshops or meetings at the program site

Redefinition
Workshop is not only a meeting on a topic held at the school building at a particular time, but also the content of a topic to be viewed, heard, or read at convenient times and varied locations.

"Having parents become captivated by their own children, supportive of their education, and irrationally committed to the idea that their children mattered."

Urie Bronfenbrenner, "Father of Head Start program" and Human Ecologist
How can parents be empowered by YOUR Head Start program?

What are the ways parents are empowered to be involved with YOUR Head Start program?
#3 Secret to Head Start Success: Team Building

“Why Teams”
GROUP VS TEAM

Group - a collection of individuals together in a unit to accomplish individual tasks

Team - a group with a common purpose, committed to working together interdependently, and who are accountable as a unit within an organization

TEAM APPROACH

A distinctive style of work aimed at harnessing the collective talents and energy of people
Keep Them Informed

Challenge your team with fresh facts
New information causes a team to redefine
Enrich its understanding of the objectives
Help the team to set clearer goals.
Team Elements

Teams learn and demonstrate behaviors
Your team will not normally form on its own
Some point in time the ownership of the team needs to shift to the other members as a whole.

Productive participation

This has four levels:
- Contributing data and knowledge
- Sharing in the decision making process and reaching consensus
- Making the decision
- Making an imposed decision work
Responsibilities are shared
Others provide support
New and fresh ideas from other team members
Variety of skills and backgrounds
Provision of relief when one member is overloaded
Sense of accomplishment
Produce outstanding results and succeed despite difficulties. Members believe they are responsible for the output of their team and act to clear difficulties standing in their way.