

# Partnering with Head Start Families

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WCMCA HEAD START ORIENTATION



“We cannot pretend to work for the best interest of children while ignoring the needs of their parents.”

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**Joyce L. Frett**



# Head Start Performance Standards emphasize:

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## Family Partnerships

### Advocacy

- Family Goal Setting
- Accessing Community Services and Resources
- Services to Pregnant Women who are Enrolled in Programs Serving Pregnant Women, Infants, & Toddlers

# Head Start Performance Standards emphasize:

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## Family Partnerships

### Parent Involvement

- Parent Involvement in Child Development & Education
- Parent Involvement in Health/ Mental Health & Nutrition
- Parent Involvement in Community Advocacy
- Parent Involvement in Transition Activities
- Parent Involvement in Home Visits

# Head Start Performance Standards emphasize:

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## Community Partnerships

- Advisory Committees
- Transition Services

# Parent & Family Engagement at WCMCA:

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We believe:

- Parents are their child's first and most important teacher.
- Family is who the family says it is.
- Ready for kindergarten kids come from ready for kindergarten families
- That we should work with families; never work harder than the family.
- Dads count



# Parent Family Community Engagement (PFCE)

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Head Start and Early Head Start organizations need strong foundations to make the kind of progress that leads to lasting change for families and enduring progress for children.

The foundations for successful parent and family engagement include the following:

1. Program Leadership,
2. Continuous Improvement and
3. Professional Development of all staff.

# Head Start's PFCE Outcomes:

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## 1. FAMILY WELL-BEING

Parents and families are safe, healthy, and have increased financial security.

## 2. POSITIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Beginning with transitions to parenthood, parents and families develop warm relationships that nurture their child's learning and development.

## 3. FAMILIES AS LIFELONG EDUCATORS

Parents and families observe, guide, promote, and participate in the everyday learning of their children at home, school, and in their communities.



# Head Start's PFCE Outcomes:

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## 4. FAMILIES AS LEARNERS

Parents and families advance their own learning interests through education, training and other experiences that support their parenting, careers, and life goals.

## 5. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN TRANSITIONS

Parents and families support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition to new learning environments, including EHS to HS, EHS/HS to other early learning environments, and HS to kindergarten through elementary school.

# Head Start's PFCE Outcomes:

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## 6. FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO PEERS AND COMMUNITY

Parents and families form connections with peers and mentors in formal or informal social networks that are supportive and/or educational and that enhance social well-being and community life.

## 7. FAMILIES AS ADVOCATES AND LEADERS

Parents and families participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, or in community and state organizing activities to improve children's development and learning experiences.

# Your Work as Family Education Specialist

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Because WCMCA Head Start believes in the importance of developing supportive relationships with families – one Head Start staff person delivers Head Start services to both the child and his family.

To that end, teachers are:

**FAMILY EDUCATION SPECIALISTS**

# Your Work as Family Education Specialist

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- Build a positive working **relationship** with your Head Start families.
- **Goal set** with families around their child's education and their personal goals
- Implement **home visits** and hold **parent conferences** all using the opportunity to connect with families on their goals

# Your Work as Family Education Specialist

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- Hold regular **family events** and/or parent meetings.
- **Communicate** with weekly newsletters about weekly classroom and local resources available.
- **Invite parents to. visit** your classroom regularly

## In summary

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Head Start Family Education Specialists work in partnership with **parents** and **families** by helping them **engage** in their child's learning and within their own **communities**, not assuming to know the next step but by asking the next question so families can discover and take their own journey.

For more information on family partnership in Head Start or PFCE click on the link below:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family>