

# Head Start

Annual Report Supplement  
2023-2024  
(Compiled May 2024)



*Ashtabula County Head Start will empower children, families, and our community by providing support, education, and advocacy.*

## Who We Serve

Head Start is funded to serve 300 children (ages 0-5), expectant mothers, and their families in Ashtabula County.

We service families that have children with disabilities, are low-income or homeless, or any family who meets the income qualifications.

A family with an age eligible child becomes categorically eligible if they are receiving Ohio Works First, Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), is experiencing homelessness, or if a child is in foster care.

## Program Summary

Over the past nine months, Head Start has served 384 children and 2 pregnant women from 341 families. Of those served, 271 were preschool age and 115 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The percentage of enrolled preschool children that acquired medical exams is 96% and 55% received dental exams. 90% of infant and toddlers also had medical and dental screenings.

## Program Options

The list below identifies the Head Start sites throughout Ashtabula County. The Program also provides services to children and families through a home visiting option.



### Ashtabula

Main Avenue  
4510 Main Avenue

Collins  
104 W. 45<sup>th</sup> Street

Edgewood High School  
2428 Blake Road

Ontario Elementary School  
2304 Wade Avenue

State Road  
4200 State Road

### Andover

Pymatuning Valley Primary School  
5571 State Route 6 West

### Conneaut

Lake Shore Primary School  
755 Chestnut Street

### Geneva

Cork Elementary School  
341 State Route 534 South

### Jefferson

ATech – Building B  
1565 State Route 167

### Orwell

Grand Valley Elementary School  
111 Grand Valley Ave. West

**Audit Report for FY2023** – ACCAA received an Independent Auditors report via S.R. Snodgrass, P.C. d/b/a S.R. Snodgrass, A.C. in West Virginia for the period ending March 31, 2023 and was issued a "clean" opinion. This means that after review of financial and program records, it was determined financial reports are presented accurately and fairly in all material respects and are in compliance with the rules and regulations governing financial and program reporting.



## ABOUT OUR STAFF

Head Start has 68 total staff members.

### Qualifications of Staff include...

#### 11 Preschool Teachers

- 1 with a Master degree
- 3 with a Bachelor degree
- 6 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a CDA (In the process of getting a degree in ECE)

#### 6 Infant/Toddler Teachers

- 4 with a CDA
- 2 open positions

#### 11 Assistant Teachers

- 10 with a CDA
- 1 open position

#### 6 Home Visitors

- 1 with an Associate degree
- 5 with a CDA

#### 3 Family Advocates

- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 2 with an Associate degree

#### 6 Site Supervisors

- 1 with a Master degree
- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 2 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a CDA
- 1 open position

#### 1 Health Specialist

An RN with a Bachelor degree

#### 3 Program Managers

- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 1 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a Specialized Certification

#### 1 Coordinator

Has a Bachelor degree

#### 1 Assistant Director

Has a Bachelor degree

#### 1 Director

Has a Bachelor degree

## How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten

- School readiness goals are established and aligned with Creative Curriculum, DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) Assessments, the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, as well as, Ohio Learning and Development Standards.
- Home visits and parent conferences are conducted with families to assist children with school readiness skills by discussing children's developmental strengths, as well as areas to strengthen for kindergarten entry.
- Monthly Parent Meetings are offered at each site, as well as virtually, presenting a host of parent chosen topics, such as "Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten" and "Developmental Milestones".
- Head Start classrooms are designed to provide developmentally appropriate activities and instruction that will enhance each child's developmental needs.
- Classroom staff continually observe each child, document observations and provide activities to assist each child with specific skills needed to further their development.
- Head Start assists children and families with the transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.
- All children receive developmental, social emotional, speech, vision and hearing screenings within forty-five (45) days of enrollment. These screenings allow for timely referrals to various local agencies, as well as, Local Education Agencies (LEA) if necessary.

## Family Engagement Within Our Program

Engaging families in their child's learning process is a critical piece of Head Start. From being a part of everyday successes in the classroom to having a say in how the Program is run, families play a huge role in the Program.

Informal and planned communication happens every day! Staff and families discuss children's progress, classroom happenings, changes in a family's life including setting and reaching goals, and various resources available. This is done via home visits, conferences, parenting workshops, informal conversations and group socializations.

Behavioral Specialists are available to assist families, as needed, with various issues.

Parent Meetings and Policy Council provide families an opportunity to voice concerns regarding policies and programming as well as helping to plan family events.

Activities to promote male engagement are offered throughout the year. Getting men involved in a child's education as early as possible has many positive effects. Events like the *Cardboard Challenge*, *Men of the Year Awards*, and *Father Engagement Swim Classes* allow children and the men in their lives time to enjoy special activities together and to welcome men into early education.