

BOURBON COUNTY PRESCHOOL HEAD START

Transition Policy

In order to enhance the continuity of children as they move from the Bourbon County Preschool Head Start Program to the public school system, activities will be planned that address the transition needs of families and children. The focus is on collaboration between Head Start, public elementary schools and other community agencies serving the child and family. Parent involvement and information exchange with school districts will be encouraged early in the year preceding transition.

During the Spring, we combine kindergarten, Preschool at-risk, Head Start, and other (local) preschool registration applicants. Parents are aware of all programs and how each program works together. This ensures both the parent and child are comfortable with their selection and their first time entrance in school. During this registration parents have the opportunity to visit the school their child will be attending, meet the staff that will be working with their child, and meet other parents.

Children with disabilities and their parents are involved in all of these activities. They have meetings with school personnel prior to entering school to select the program that meets their individual needs. Parents and staff discuss program options that are available, are made aware of the specific screenings, testing, and the placement selection. Parents are encouraged to be involved in all planning for their child. This is an on-going process for those students receiving services from an outside agency and/or turning three in the middle of the school year.

At the beginning of each school year, records and general information about each child is sent to the school where the child will attend. The school personnel and Head Start work together to provide these services to the families that are leaving Head Start and entering the public school system. During the school year, the Head Start staff will talk to teachers, parents and children to make sure that the family needs are being met.

At the end of the Head Start program before entering kindergarten, each child having a disability and their family will meet as part of an Admissions and Release Committee to discuss transition needs. If service providers will be changing, the families will have an opportunity to meet these providers and have a chance to ask questions about the change in programs. They will review the Individual Education Plan to make sure it is appropriate to continue into the next school year and make changes accordingly.

Policy Council Approval: 4/10/14

