



## **ABC Head Start Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **What is Head Start?**

Head Start is an early childhood intervention model created in the 1960's. The Head Start model combines health, nutrition, and education services to reduce the impact of poverty on children and their families.

Head Start offers a ½ day preschool program that runs from September to June - Tuesday to Friday morning **or** afternoon. Head Start's programs are free subject to eligibility. Fee for service or subsidized programming may also be available. Head Start's goal is to give children and their families the tools they need to be ready for kindergarten.

Each classroom at Head Start has access to professionals including teachers, early childhood educators, home educators, speech and language specialists, occupational therapists, social workers, family resiliency workers, designated special needs assistants, behavioral specialists and a health team.

Children will also be provided with a nutritional snack daily.

### **How old does my child need to be to start Head Start?**

In Alberta age cut-offs are determined by Alberta Education. Parents or guardians will need to provide their child's birth certificates for enrollment.

Children who have significant developmental delays are eligible if they are 2 years and 8 months old on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Children who have mild or moderate developmental delays are eligible if they are between 3 years 8 months and 4 years 6 months on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Children who do not have a developmental delay are eligible if they are between 3 years 8 months old and 4 years 6 months old on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Children with significant developmental delays may be eligible for two years of Head Start programming if they are 2 years and 8 months as of September 1<sup>st</sup> subject to further eligibility and assessments.

### **How do I get my child into the Head Start program?**

Parents or guardians must apply online at [abheadstart.org](http://abheadstart.org) for their child to be considered for the program. Spots in Head Start are limited. Children with significant developmental delays or mild/moderate developmental delays will be given priority.

For children who do not have a developmental delay, household income and vulnerability are considered for program eligibility. The income and vulnerability criteria were established to recognize the need for Head Start programming for families where factors in addition to developmental delays and income may create barriers to success in learning and in life.

Some examples of vulnerable families are those experiencing challenges of social isolation, recent job loss, new to Canada or to Edmonton, are a lone or teen parent, experiencing housing or transportation

barriers, parents with developmental or literacy barriers, dealing with mental health or addictions or family violence.

Families may be accepted if they meet income and/or vulnerability criteria below:

Family Size *includes all members residing in the home	Income Only Criteria	Income & Vulnerability Criteria *a minimum of 3 vulnerability factors must be present
Up to 3 members	\$40,398	\$44,423
4 members	\$49,031	\$53,934
5 members	\$55,612	\$61,173
6 members	\$62,720	\$68,992
7 or more members	\$69,830	\$76,813

### **Which site will my child go to?**

ABC Head Start Society currently has four sites in Edmonton. Your child's application will be sent to the closest site to their home address. Please see below for the site information.

North Campus: 7315 Delwood Road, Edmonton Alberta

Killarney Site: 13110 91 Street, Edmonton Alberta

Millwoods Campus (located in Millbourne Market Mall) 7609 38 Avenue Edmonton Alberta

West Campus: 16604 - 91 Ave, Edmonton Alberta

Westmount Location: Opening Soon.

### **Will my child get bussing?**

Alberta Education provides bussing for children who are eligible. As per Alberta Education policy, your child may be deemed ineligible for bussing due to proximity to the school or level of need. Please visit [http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2019\\_096.pdf](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2019_096.pdf) for updated information on Alberta Education Transportation Policy.

If your child is ineligible for bussing, you will be required to transport your child. If you are not eligible and cannot transport your child, we can work with you to determine other options.

### **When will I know if my child is accepted into Head Start?**

Once a complete application with supporting documentation is received, parents or guardians will be contacted within (10) business days. If you have not received any notice after 4 weeks, please call 780-461-5353 to check the status of your application.

Once eligibility is determined, your child's information will be sent to Alberta Education. Your child will be officially accepted into ABC Head Start when Alberta Education confirms they will be funding your child's place in the program. If Alberta Education does not fund your child, your child may still be able to attend ABC Head Start for a fee or at a subsidized rate. You will be notified of your child's official acceptance, classroom and bussing information prior to the start of the program in September.