

## How Parents Can Help Children Succeed in School

### **Prepare your child for the upcoming school year:**

Drive them by the school where they will attend and start talking about things they will do at school (read stories, play outside, eat lunch, and meet new friends)

### **Read to your child and let them read to you:**

Children who are read to have larger vocabularies and have a better understanding of the world around them

### **Use clear and correct speech:**

“Baby talk” and careless speech hamper reading, writing, and spelling. Children must hear the right sounds and associate them with the right letters

### **Answer their questions:**

Adults should realize that inquisitive children are not trying to be a nuisance; they are merely trying to satisfy a vital need to know and learn about their world

### **Provide rich experiences:**

What children learn in school depends, in part, on the extent of the related experiences they bring to school. Going on walks, trips to the zoo, parks, libraries, museums, nature centers, fairs, and farms are great ways to develop rich experiences

### **Develop their confidence:**

The timid, fearful child is a reluctant learner. Parents can give small tasks that develop self-confidence. Examples: reading books, building with blocks, dressing dolls, putting on and tying shoes, zipping coats, dressing themselves, and taking care of bathroom needs

### **Set an example:**

Children are small mirrors of the homes from which they come. Parents should set an example of the speech, behavior, and values that they want to see reflected in their children.

### **Establish Routines:**

In order for children to be successful in school, they need to follow routines. Some important routines are: bedtime routines, regular attendance, meal time routines, and behavior expectations

# NICAO – Head Start

## Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement in Head Start/preschool is about building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children. Our hope is that you will take advantage of the opportunities that are provided throughout the school year. We are dedicated to make a difference in the lives of children and families.

A variety of family engagement opportunities will be offered to each family throughout the school year, these include:

- **B.L.U.E (Building, Learning, Understanding, Engaging) Activities:** Classroom teachers will send home monthly activities for you to complete with your child that will support learning in the classroom. These activities will provide a meaningful one-on-one experience with your child and enhance their skills toward school readiness.
- **Family Engagement Events:** Family workers will plan several events throughout the school year that could focus on the areas of health, safety, math, literacy, and transitions. These events are fun for the whole family and help parents develop an understanding of the importance of their role in their child's education. Head Start encourages fathers to become an integral part of the program and their child's Head Start experience.

There are other ways for your family to become engaged in your child's education, these include:

- Attend Initial Parent/Family Events to learn more about the program
- Become a member of the Head Start Policy Council
- Participate in home visits with your teacher and family worker
- Participate in conferences with your teacher
- Volunteer in your child's classroom

Children with actively engaged parents show increased literacy, positive interactions with other children, fewer behavior problems, and are more motivated to learn.

**You Matter!**