



Vermont Head Start Association



Definition of High Quality Early Care and Education Program (v. 01.27.2016)

Framework synthesized from Federal Head Start Monitoring Protocol, NAEYC Standards, STARS and NAFCC

High quality early childhood programs in Vermont strive to realize the promise of each child. These programs focus on: Child Health and Safety; Early Care, Education and Child Development; Family and Community Engagement; and Leadership and Management Systems. These programs seek to move up the quality continuum in STARS and to achieve high quality standards as indicated by 5 STARS, Accreditation or Federal Head Start Monitoring.

1. Child Health & Safety

- a. Screening and Referrals: health, developmental and behavioral
- b. Environmental health & safety
- c. Food & nutrition
- d. Assuring child and family access to Health and Dental Care
- e. Healthy Practices and Routines
- f. Appropriate Group Sizes, Ratios and Supervision
- g. Safe Transportation

2. Early Care, Education and Child Development

- a. Relationships and Teaching Practices
 - i. CLASS / teacher-child interactions
 - ii. Pyramid model / EMTSS / MTSS
- b. Curriculum and assessment
- c. Individualization
- d. Services for children with special needs
- e. Cultural and linguistic responsiveness
- f. Transitions and school readiness

3. Family and Community Engagement

- a. Family stability and well-being
- b. Partnerships with Families
- c. Parent-Child Relationships
- d. Parents as Their Child’s Educators
- e. Community Partnerships

4. Leadership and management systems

- a. Governance

Champlain Valley Head Start
431 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Capstone Head Start
20 Gable Place
Barre, VT 05641

**NEKCA / Child & Family
Development Program**
191 High Street
Barton, VT 05822

**Early Education Services /
Windham County**
130 Birge Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Bennington County Head Start
P.O. Box 588
Bennington, VT 05201

Rutland County Head Start
Box 222
Rutland, VT 05701

**SEVCA / Windsor County
Head Start**
15 Pine Street
Springfield, VT 05156

**State Head Start
Collaboration Office**
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671

- b. Fiscal stability and integrity
- c. Human resources
 - i. Credentials, training, professional development
 - ii. Compensation and benefits
 - iii. Practice-based coaching
- d. Facilities, materials and equipment
- e. Enrollment practices

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