

**STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM**



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**Stafford Schools Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded Family Development program serving 28 low-income families of infants and toddlers and pregnant women. This program provides Stafford County teen parents, in particular, with the support needed to complete their high school education.**

**The mission of the Early Head Start program is:**

- **to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women,**
- **to enhance the development of very young children, and**
- **to promote healthy family functioning.**

**A family is eligible for Stafford Schools Early Head Start if living at or below the poverty level, McKinney-Vento, providing Foster Care, and resides in Stafford County. Eligibility will be determined at the in-person interview.**

**Early Head Start services are provided at no cost to the family. 10% of the program enrollment may include over-income families, 10% of the program enrollment must be children with special needs (IFSP's). Early Head Start children will be served in Head Start after the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday if the family is still income eligible.**

**Components of the Early Head Start program include:**

**Early Childhood Education/Development      Mental Health**  
**Health/Safety      Family/Community Partnerships**  
**Nutrition/Dental Health      Disabilities Services**

## **Stafford Schools Early Head program options:**

**Services to Pregnant Women** consist of monthly or weekly home visits by the Coordinator/Nurse to pregnant families. The newborn is automatically enrolled at birth in the Home-Based option.

**The Home-Based option** consists of 90-minute weekly home visits by a Home Visitor Teacher/Family Service worker to 12 infants or toddlers and their primary care provider. The family also attends center-based socializations (play groups) twice a month which includes a snack or meal. These slots are most useful for families with parents that are not employed, not in school, or have no transportation. Families move from Home-based to Center-Based when Center-Based slots become available.

**The School Year Center-Based option** consists of a classroom of 8 children, ages 2 months to 3 years, who are transported by their families to the Melcher Center for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week of child development services during the school year. They are cared for by 2 Classroom Teachers from 7:45am to 2:00pm. A Family Service Worker is assigned to your family. During the school year, the family receives monthly contacts and 2 home visits from the Classroom Teachers/Family Service Workers. During the summer, the family receives 90-minute weekly home visits and attends twice a month center-based socializations (play groups). These slots are most useful for families with parents that are full-time students who are off in the summer, as well as children with socialization needs.

**The Full Year Center-Based option** consists of a classroom of 8 children, ages 2 months to 3 years, who are transported by their families to the Melcher Center for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week of child development services year round. They are cared for by 2 Classroom Teachers from 7:45am to 2:00pm. A Family Service Worker is assigned to your family. The family receives 4 home visits a year, and a monthly contact. These slots are most useful for parents that are employed full-time, as well as for children with special needs (IFSP's).