



Head Start is for children age three to five. Classes are held commensurate with the school year from September to June. Currently we have Head Start classrooms at four locations:

- Bigelow Avenue, Schenectady
- Bellevue Center, Schenectady
- Glen Worden Elementary School, Scotia
- Yates Village Community Center, Schenectady

All the teachers have an Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree; half are certified in early childhood education

The curriculum used is Creative Curriculum® by Teaching Stages with a focus on social, emotional and language development. This teaches early reading skills, numbers, science, music and art, fine and gross motor skills, and good health practices.

A nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack are provided daily.

Each year, all of the children are screened for developmental concerns. On average, 25 percent are identified with special needs and referred for further evaluation.

The children are required to have up-to-date medical physicals and immunizations. The staff nurse conducts hearing and vision screenings within 90 days of classes starting, and twice a year we record the height and weight of each student. Dental clinics are held for all students.

Services for those with special needs are provided through agreements with local school districts, Schenectady County, Sunnyview Hospital, U-Albany, Cloverpatch and Hometown Health.

SCAP maintains an open door policy and encourages parents to volunteer by reading to the children, chaperoning field trips, or lending a hand in the classrooms.

### **Head Start Where Success Begins!**

**SCAP enrolls 321 children annually with 20 families receiving home-based services.**

**Head Start provides an equal footing for children from families living below the federal poverty level and has multiple barriers to academic and social success.**

**Family engagement is critical to Head Start success. Regular workshops and other family support (meetings, trainings, counseling) is offered for parents, grandparents and other caregivers.**

**The Head Start Policy Council is made up of parents, community partners and other professionals, and is required to approve all major decisions and policies related to SCAP Head Start operations.**

