Transition/Literacy Plan

The Transition/Literacy staff will ensure that each child at Head Start has a smooth transition into the Public School System and throughout Head Start to promote literacy.

The Public Library will keep the Transition/Literacy staff updates on all events that take place. The Public Library also provides Head Start with Library cards enabling us to sign up each parent/guardian with their very own card and maintaining 100% enrollment yearly. The Caney Fork Library provides Head Start with a variety of books throughout the school year and Educational Theme Packs to be used in the classroom upon request. Head Start provides families the opportunity to check out books at our center with an onsite Lending Library. Information is sent out periodically on how to check books from our library. Opportunities will be made available at least once a month using Community Partnership reading times. During the initial home visit, prior to entry into school, teachers will promote literacy with a book swap. Each child will be afforded the opportunity to trade a book they own for a new book provided at this time. First Books gives children the opportunity to read and own their first new book. The book is kept here at the center for that child and other children to use during the year and at the end of the school year it will be sent home with the child. When children read book at home, the parent/guardian send in the names of the books they read and at the end of the year all participating children receive a book when the budget allows. The top three readers receive recognition for their efforts through the Top 3 Reading program.

Exposure to literacy is important to our parent/guardians as well as being accessible too. Every month a different author is selected and posted in a centralized area where parent traffic is existent, along with the parent information news to familiarize the parent/guardians with the author; giving them a list of books written and pertinent information on the author. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library warehouses books for purchase at discounted prices for children to receive one book monthly from birth to age 5. The Spencer Lion Club finances the purchase of these books and Burritt Memorial Library organizes the distribution of the books for Van Buren County. Head Start maintains 100% participation for all children and their siblings. Head Start distributes any return books (i.e.: due to change address, etc) as necessary. The Van Buren Health Department sponsors the “Head Start Book Smart Express” which is a section set aside for books, materials and brochures to help promote literacy for parent/guardians to review at their convenience while visiting the Health Department.

Head Start will provide subscription opportunities to parents and guardians through Parent child Magazine and Highlight Magazine. Scholastic Book Clubs enables parent/guardians to purchase book at discounted prices and allows Head Start to receive free materials for the Lending Library. These opportunities allow participants to receive quality affordable books. The Book It program provides information about a reading program to encourage literacy. Children receive Pizza Hut Certificates for their reading efforts.

Power Packs cover a large range of developmental thematic focuses, which a parent/guardian may choose which theme to work on. The power packs can be obtained from our Lending Library which is open daily to allow access to the parent/guardian to check out periodically.

Transition/Literacy staff will ensure each child transitioning to Kindergarten, in addition to children who are at risk or at high risk on their developmental assessment, using B-Smart Kids Computer Program, Lap 3, and Lad D and additional tools. Documentation must be kept to confirm each child's progress. The Family Service/ Transition Specialist must coordinate and inform the parents/guardians and teachers of transition activities related to the cafeteria lunch program and working conjunction with the School System to arrange all necessary activities that Head Start children will participate in. The Transition/literacy staff will arrange Kindergarten orientation to include a tour of the Elementary School, meeting with Kindergarten Teachers/Principal, participate in a Kindergarten classroom activity with current Kindergarten students, and eat in the lunchroom being introduced to cafeteria style lunch service with Kindergarten students. Training will be provided to the students on transportation of the county school bus.

Back packs and school supplies are provided to each child entering public school in partnership with the parent Committee through donations. The Transition/Literacy Specialist will provide over the summer a calendar of activities for all the Head Start children to take home to encourage continued educational opportunities for the child and families.

Transition training will be provided for the Head Start parents/guardians.