

PENQUIS

Pre-K Partnerships and Head Start

Penquis Child Development has been providing quality early care and education services since 1967. The program currently serves over 400 families through Early Head Start, Head Start and Child Care in 13 sites and 35 individual classrooms throughout Penobscot, Piscataquis and Knox Counties. Penquis Child Development partners with school districts, other CAP agencies, housing authorities, higher education, municipal authorities and Child Development Services to provide comprehensive services that are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage.

As a Pre-K partner with your local school district, Penquis is able to provide Head Start funding and staff to support the program, representing saved costs to the district, administrative staffing support, and classroom and family supports.

Enhanced programming with Penquis Head Start for all Pre-K participants includes:

- ❖ Working with teachers and families during registration, scheduling screening appointments
- ❖ Assist families with identified needs such as Transportation, clothing needs, resource information
- ❖ Assist families with referrals to community services
- ❖ Parent engagement/involvement activities including monthly parent meetings, workshops, opportunities to participate on Penquis Child Development Policy Council
- ❖ Nutrition activities in the classroom and for parents; diet modifications for children as needed
- ❖ Developmental screenings used in the classroom and referrals to CDS (if necessary)
- ❖ Opening the World of Learning (OWL), and Pre-K for ME curriculums and Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) for on-going developmental assessment, individualized learning
- ❖ Behavioral support-classrooms, individual children, families
- ❖ Monthly safety checklists and bi-annual health and safety inspections
- ❖ Quality assurances through the Head Start review process, Penquis Child Development Self-Assessment process, Quality for Maine Rating system, Maine DHHS Rules for Licensing of Child Care Facilities

Additional services for Head Start Eligible families include:

- ❖ Assistance with health/medical/dental needs or costs (Well Child Exams, Dentals Exams, Lead and Anemia screenings, vision and hearing screenings, height and weight screenings, Follow-up)
- ❖ A Family Partnership Agreement process looking at family strengths and needs and includes referrals, resources and family goal setting
- ❖ Home Visits which enhance the home-school connection.

Our Program Goals:

- ❖ Children will possess the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and later learning and life.
- ❖ Parents and families are engaged in the long-term, lifelong success of their child.
- ❖ Families will demonstrate awareness of good nutrition and healthy behaviors and will be able to relate those behaviors to school readiness.
- ❖ Child will demonstrate the social-emotional skills necessary to successfully participate in Kindergarten.

We look forward to working with you and your child!

***Enrollment in Head Start is based upon income eligibility. HOWEVER, we ask ALL families to apply, as there are also limited slots for those over income. This is a critical step in order for Penquis to be able to utilize Head Start funding for these enhanced services for all families in the program!**

In accordance with federal regulations, Penquis does not discriminate in access to or the provision of its services.