

## **Umatilla Morrow Head Start Early Head Start Home Base Summer Program**

The Early Head Start Home Base Summer Program will provide the following:

- § **One home visit per week lasting a minimum of 1 1/2 hours each.** This home visit must be planned and conducted with the participation of the parent. The home visit **may not** be conducted with a child care provider or other temporary caregiver.
- § **The home visits must, over the course of a month, contain all elements of all Early Head Start program components: education, health, social services and parent involvement. No component should be overemphasized to the neglect of the others.** The home visitor is the person responsible for introducing, arranging, and/or providing the Early Head Start services. Since we have Family Advocates who will be working and following up on social services, the home visitor will need to collaborate with the Family Advocate and plan at least one home visit in conjunction with them. Family Advocates may be making more home visits or will be asking the home visitor to follow-up on particular services or needs so as not to overwhelm the family with home visits.
- § The purpose of the home visit is to help parents improve their parenting skills and to assist them in the use of the home as the child's primary learning environment. The home visitor will assist the parent in providing learning opportunities to enhance their child's growth and development. Home base home visits are more adult-focused with the parent taking the lead and the home visitor acting as the mentor for the parent.
- § Home base programs require a minimum of two socialization groups per month and must focus on both the child and parent. Like the home visit, the socialization groups may not be done with a child care provider or any other temporary caregiver. The time of the socialization group will vary depending on the activities planned and in order to accommodate the needs of families as much as possible.
- § The purpose of the socialization activities is to emphasize group interaction through age-appropriate activities. The infants and toddlers are supervised by the home visitor with parents observing at times and actively participating at other times.
- § The activities must be designed so that parents are expected to accompany their infant and toddler to the group socialization to participate, observe, or engage in parent-specific activities. If parenting or parent support group will be done at the socialization groups then the Family Advocate will need to be involved in the planning and child care coverage will need to be worked out ahead of time to ensure the required staff-child ratio. A parent child activity may be planned to incorporate parenting topics and should the Family Advocates should be included in the planning and implementation process.
- § During the group socialization we will follow the nutrition requirements and provide appropriate snacks and meals for the infant /toddler and for the parent. Menus will need to be developed with the USDA manager and/or the Registered Dietician, who will need to know what your socialization group activities will be and the length of time scheduled for the socialization period. If you are planning nutrition activities during socialization, you will also need to involve the

USDA manager and/or the Registered Dietician to assist in the planning and implementation of these activities.

§ **Remember for all new families, you will need to develop goals after screening and assessment. This is a wonderful time to build an ongoing partnership with the family that will carry over into the center program.**

Education: Help the parents enhance the cognitive, social-emotional and physical development of their infants/ toddlers.

§ Since we have already established some goal with the parents in working with their infant or toddler, the home visitor will need to discuss with the parent if these are still appropriate and determine how they will be worked on in the home environment. The home visitor, with the parent, will continue the assessment process begun during the center based program. Activities designed to implement the goals should be developed based on the availability of materials in the home.

§ As the home visitor works with the parents, they will provide information to the parent on what they are teaching or reinforcing with their infant or toddler.

§ As the home visitor plans the home visits they should consider what community resources may be available to assist in helping the parents carry out the activities.

Health and Nutrition: Include a full range of services covering the physical, dental, mental health, nutrition and safety of family health. Prevention needs to be stressed for each.

§ Health, safety, and nutrition goals for each infant or toddler should be developed with the assistance and input from parents along with needed follow-up and goal tracking.

Social Services: includes assisting the family in assessing areas of strengths and needs and developing goals with activities to meet them and resolve emergent needs and concerns.

§ Because the Family Advocates will be working with the home visitor to follow-up/develop the Family Partnership Plan, home visits should focus on helping the parents utilize resources, build support systems in the community, and develop parenting skills.

Parent Involvement should be encouraged, modeled, and mentored during home visits and in group socialization. Parents will also become involved in the agency and program throughout the year.

§ Information about Policy Council will also be provided to our new families that describes how they can be involved in the development of the program for their own infant or toddler and the program as a whole. In addition, career ladders and other opportunities and resources in the agency should be addressed with the parent. Collaboration will occur between the teacher and the family advocate regarding the delivery of this component on home visits and in socializations.