Dickinson County

Early Childhood Programs

M E N U

Heartland programs *Making Connections*
Phone: 785-258-2787
Email: dawn.melcher@usd305.com

Kansas Children's Service League
Giving Kids Our Best. For Over 100 Years
Phone: 785-263-4011
Email: lstrang@kcsl.org

Parents as Teachers
Abilene: 785-263-4006
Chapman: 785-479-2062
Herington/Hope: 785-258-2263
Solomon: 785-655-2551

Early Head Start

- ☐ **Prenatal to age three can enroll**
  Income verification required.
- ☐ **Personal Visits -** weekly
  Staff are trained in child development and social services.
- ☐ **Developmental Screenings**
  To assess overall development, including but not limited to: Oral Health, Hearing, Vision, and Mental Health.
- ☐ **Play Groups**
  Twice a month to help families build support systems.
- ☐ **Parent Meetings -** 4 times a year
- ☐ **All children** have an opportunity at the age of 3 to transition to a preschool setting.

Healthy Families America

- ☐ **Prenatal to age 6 months can enroll**.
  Assessment required for eligibility.
- ☐ **Personal visits -** weekly
  Provides parents with early child development information using a variety of evidenced-based parenting curriculum.
  Models, consults and coaches parenting skills.
- ☐ **24 hour on-call** support and transportation assistance to medical appointments.

Services remain with the child until the child is 5 or is connected to an early childhood learning program.

- ☐ **Developmental Screenings** at 4, 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36 & 48 months to assess developmental delays.
- ☐ **Assists parents with accessing and utilizing community services** including medical, nutrition, education, support groups and housing.
- ☐ **Teaches basic skills** including money management, problem solving and job hunting.

Parents as Teachers

- ☐ **Prenatal to age three can enroll.**
  No income or needs assessment eligibility.
- ☐ **Personal Visits** – monthly
  Builds on parents' strengths as their child's first and most influential teacher.
  Provides parents with early child development information using brain based research.
  Provides parent-child activities and play ideas based on child's development.
- ☐ **Developmental Screenings**
  Tracks each child's progress in speech, motor, thinking, and social skills.
- ☐ **Play Groups** – weekly social fun for children and their parents.
- ☐ **Parent meetings** to enhance parenting skills, learn how apply child development knowledge, and enjoy social connections.
- ☐ **Connect families** to local agencies, preschools and support networks.

An early education program has many benefits for moms, dads and the kids. Evidence has shown that a child's development from birth to age three is critically important for learning and growing well. These programs provide families with fun filled learning and parenting support.
Choose from the program that best fits your family! **ALL ARE FREE &VOLUNTARY!**

These organizations assist one another in helping every child benefit from an early childhood program that best fits their family.