

Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool Oak Ridge, Tennessee

What We Believe

At the Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool Head Start Programs we provide a high quality learning environment for children identified at risk. We believe that all children have the capacity to learn and it is our goal to meet the unique and individual needs of each child and their family through developmentally appropriate programming and active family partnerships. We provide language-based full inclusion classrooms where teachers are highly qualified and provide programming to "light the fire" of learning in preschoolers while supporting families to take an important role in their child's education.

Who We Are

For 40 years, Oak Ridge Schools' Head Start Program has provided a high quality preschool education to children and families in Oak Ridge. We are an integral part of Oak Ridge Schools which allows for continuity of learning, family services and support. We have a blended funding program that uses Head Start, Title I, Pre-K and special education dollars.



Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool
Home of the Preschool Pup

What Makes Us Different:

- Full inclusion classrooms with culturally diverse populations
- A developmentally appropriate, language rich program for 225 three and four year olds
- Tennessee Certified Early Childhood Educators in all 14 classrooms
- Highly Qualified Teacher Assistants
- Developmental, Vision, Hearing, Speech/Language screenings
- On site Special Education services including Speech/Language Therapists, Occupation and Physical therapists, part-time School Psychologist and Inclusion Specialist
- A BiLingual Family Resource Specialist
- Free school bus transportation to and from the program
- Creative Movement Program that builds gross and fine motor skills through dance, music and sport activities (each class has 60 minutes of Creative Movement per week)

Special Programs for Kids:

- Literacy Enrichment programs that include Language and Literacy enhancement.
- Reading Buddies Mentoring Programs
- Food for Kids program (free snacks sent home on weekends for those in need)
- RIF and classroom volunteers

Partnering with the Community for Families:

- Corporate and Civic Sponsorships
- Legal Clinics
- Money Management Altrusa Workshops
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Angel Tree (Christmas)
- Altrusa Women's Club, Kiwanis International of Oak Ridge

We Involve Families!

- Parent volunteers in the classrooms
- Fall Family Night and Open House
- Week of the Young Child Activities
- Dad's Night Out
- Classroom Family Night (at the public library, in the park)
- "First Friday" Family Education Breakfasts

The Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool uses Creative curriculum with local goals and objectives aligned with national, state and local LEA curricula.

- Students are formally assessed using Brigance Inventory of Early Development three times a year.
- Formative assessments are ongoing throughout the year.
- Benchmark assessments are conducted quarterly.
- Assessment information is analyzed, discussed in collaborative teams and staff meetings to drive student learning.

Head Start Numbers and What They Mean

118 - Children funded by Head Start

107 - Other funding sources including Special Education, Title 1, and Voluntary Pre-K

56 - Children with a diagnosed disability which is an increase from 2009-2010

131 - Children served during the school year

14 - Classrooms

Head Start children are placed in all 14 Preschool classrooms with Title 1, State Pre-K, and Special Education students

43 - Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Special Services, Family Support, and Administration

100% of our teachers are State-Certified Early Childhood; 3 are also certified in Early Childhood Special Education

100% of our students were up-to-date on immunizations and health exams

93% of our students received dental preventive treatment and exams including fluoride and cleaning

121 - Families served

50% - single parent families

23% - families in which head of household in unemployed

22% - families without a high school diploma (increase in the number of parents without a high school education and with the number of unemployed)

2010-2011 Trends

19% In 2010-2011, 19% of Oak Ridge Schools' Head Start students were Hispanic

49% Increase in poverty in the community served (based on free lunch eligibility from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011)

47% Increase in unemployed Head Start Heads of household from 2009-2010

17 Former or current Head Start parents are employed with Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool