

## Head Start Parent Opinion Survey

Dear Parents:

Our commitment is to make Head Start more effective in meeting the needs of children and families. Head Start parents and staff work closely together to achieve this goal. Parent opinions and suggestions regarding the various parts of the total program are needed to fully realize this goal.

The enclosed questionnaire is being sent to all Head Start parents. We would appreciate your responses to the questions. You will find that most of the questions can be answered with a check mark.

Your responses help to direct our efforts to improve the program and provide quality services. Your input helps to ensure that the children receive the best “head start” possible.

After you have completed the questionnaire, please place it in your child’s backpack and return it to school. This should be done within a week after you received it. Though it is not required, you may sign the questionnaire if you so desire.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

Very Sincerely,  
Van Buren County Head Start

Revised 2013

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with this year's Head Start Program?

Very much **24** Much **6** Some **1** Little **0** Not at all **0** **1** no answer

2. How well have you been kept informed about your child's classroom activities and what goes on in school?

Very much **23** Much **8** Some **0** Little **0** Not at all **0** **1** no answer

3. Please check each of the ways that were used to inform you about how your child is getting along in school and about school activities in general.

Home visits **25** Notes sent home **31** Phone calls from teacher or co-teacher **10**  
Volunteering in the Classroom **4** My child tells me **24** Other parents **7**  
Classroom newsletters **1** No answer **1** Other: **teacher at bus stop; being part most activities.**

4. Please check the ways you think are best for informing parents about their children's progress and about school activities.

Home visits **19** Notes sent home **30** Phone calls from teacher or co-teacher **17**  
Volunteering in the Classroom **6** My child tells me **6** Other parents **2**  
Classroom newsletters **15** No Answer **2** Other \_\_\_\_\_

Any Comments: **communication is very good at the head start; all of the above are important**

5. During this past year, did you feel free to contact your teacher or teacher assistant?

Yes **30** No **1** No Answer **1**

6. During the past year, would you have felt free to contact the Head Start office if you had a question or concern?

Yes **31** No **0** No Answer **1**

7. How much did you participate in planning your child's education goals with your teacher?

Very much **16** Much **11** Some **4** Little **0** Not at all **0** No Answer **1**

8. How much help have you received in getting ideas on how to teach your child at home?

Very much **21** Much **7** Some **3** Little **0** Not at all **0** No Answer **1**

9. Did you participate in school readiness planning

Very much **9** Much **10** Some **8** Little **2** Not at all **3**

10. Did you attend the orientation in your child's school?

Yes 29 No 2 No Answer 1

11. Did you attend monthly parent meetings in your child's school?

Yes 18 No 14

12. Have you volunteered in the classroom this year?

Yes 8 No 24

If you checked yes, how satisfying was it?

Very much 6 Much 2 Some 1 Little \_\_\_\_\_ Not at all \_\_\_\_\_

13. Have you gone on any of the field trips with the children?

Yes 24 No 8

If you checked no, would you indicate the reason you were not able to:

**work for both parents; had family things come up; couldn't get off work due to security reasons; had to work but his dad did; had to work**

14. Please list any activities for parents other than those covered above, which you think should be added to the Head Start program.

**None:**

**I think all is well without having to add anything else;**

**None, great program;**

15. Listed below are some services that are regularly available to Head Start families. In the column, "Services Used" please check each of the services that you or your child (children) used during this school year. For each service that was used, check whether you found it satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

	Services Used	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Daily school bus	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>
Health services	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Dental services	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Emergency food	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
Clothing	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Further Education (GED, English Adult ED. , etc.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Housing	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Personal counseling	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Employment services	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Holiday assistance	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
Other _____	_____	_____	_____

Did you have any particular problems with any of the services that you need?

Yes 0 No 25 No Answer 7

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Thinking of the Head Start program as a whole, which parts of it did you like best this year?

**Everything; parent meetings; monthly meetings, notes sent home; I like how the teachers take time with each child; Parent Involvement and field trips; the way my child was taught thru-out the year made a big difference in her skills and knowledge; The field trips and getting to be involved in everything my child gets to do; Everything as a whole was a good experience; the programs they did for the children. They were very neat and well thought out; I like the personal connection I feel, I like the attention paid to my child and the sharing of information and advice for his advancement; trainings, children have excelled greatly in this program; I don't know where to start. There has been so many things that has been all round awesome; my child being around other children; I enjoyed the Halloween program done at the head start and hayride; the learning experience it has given my child. She loves it so much; the skill building; I like the way they let me choose the areas I wanted them to work with my child; home activities, field trips; I liked everything. She has really enjoyed her year here and I believe the teachers have done a wonderful job at getting her ready for kindergarten; The way the teachers taught my child;**

17. What problems did you have with Head Start this year?

**None(23)**

**The family events, where dad's get to do things with child, build a birdhouse. Things like that should be on weekends so all dads can go;**

18. What changes do you think should be made in the Head Start program this year?

**None(20)**

**Events should be scheduled so all parents can go; I think its great; Can't think of any; maybe different field trips;**

19. What training programs for Head Start parents would you recommend be added to those now being offered?

**How to have fun with your children**

**None(13)**

**I thought my training was great, can't think of anything; you have it covered well**

20. If you had the opportunity to talk about Head Start to next year's parents, what would you tell them?

**My child learned a lot; great program, best school readiness planning, caring staff and teachers, been a great two years; It's a great program, you should be excited; It is a well organized program staffed by caring, experienced and highly trained employees; The school is very educational and helpful to the children; I would say that this is a very good program and the kids love to come because they learn through playing; That it's a great program. My son has learned so much and has grown physically and mentally over the past year; It was very good. It helped him a lot to talking and I think in the way he act he is doing a lot better; It's a great program; That it is a great experience for both parents and children to go threwh and its good for the kids at home also; They are very well organized and the education is very well thought through. They take time with children as one on one to help them better understand things they may have difficulties with. They do a lot of activities that are well thought through and very educational. I love the teachers and other staff. They are very friendly and most def make you feel welcome and at home; Get involved! You are your child will love it; Is great for children to interact with each other and learn the main fundamentals getting ready for the big school such as name, colors, shapes, counting,etc; Head start is a wonderful program. I believe in it and its staff whole heartedly. Children are treated as individuals, not just a class. They are encouraged to try new things. Head start makes learning fun; They made a great decision by enrolling their child into this program. It's a great program; It's a good program; That it would be a great experience "hands-on" for their child and a great learning experience for the child; That its an amazing early learning experience for the kids and they love it so much; It is a great school and I would send any of my children; I would tell them that it's a wonderful program, and has helped my child in a lot of ways; It is a great program and I highly recommend it; I would recommend it;**