

Child Start Inc., Head Start seeks to provide opportunities for education and growth for staff, children, families, and the community in a caring and nurturing environment. We provide high-quality health, oral health, mental health, and nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate that support each child's growth and school readiness. In order to ensure consistency through all Head Start agencies we operate by following set Program Performance Standards, and Federal and State guidelines.

To help children thrive, CSI staff ensure children are up-to-date on required immunizations and follow the established Montana Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for well child and dental examinations, learn healthy habits, and have access to the medical and oral healthcare they require. **We are required to ensure that each child has completed specific health events within a set schedule laid out in the Head Start Program Performance Standards from the child's enrollment date.** They are as follows:

- Upon enrollment – Have completed their required immunizations set by state guidelines
- Within 30 days – Ensure each child has established medical and dental providers
- Within 45 days – Have completed a growth, vision, and hearing screening
- Within 90 days – Have completed both a well-child and dental examination

Our Health Office staff will work closely with each parent to ensure these standards are met and assist parents during this process.

**Immunizations** – before attending, children must be up to date on the following vaccines:

Hib: 4 doses\*

Polio: 3 doses

Hep B: 3 doses

PCV: 4 doses\*

MMR: 1 dose

DTaP: 4 doses

Varicella: 1 dose

- *may be fewer on catch-up plan*

*Children who are behind on immunizations may be able to attend if they are on a catch-up plan and the required paperwork is on file.*

**Our Health Office staff will be in contact with you throughout the school year about the health of your child:**

- **Well child and dental exams** – Head Start believes that regular exams with a doctor and dentist will ensure your child is growing and developing healthfully. Please call our Health Office if you are looking for a doctor or dentist for your child!
- **Special care plans** – These must be in place before your child attends so that we know how to care for him/her while at school. Special care plans are only required for children with special health needs such as asthma, epilepsy or food allergies/intolerances.
- **Vision and hearing screenings** – Health Office staff will complete these screenings for every child in the program. Results will be sent home and we will call you if your child does not pass the screening to help you find, and make an appointment with, a specialist.
- **Medication** – for your child’s safety, we will only administer medication when medically necessary. Call the Health Office if there is a medication your child will need while at school. Please do not send medicine with your child.
- **Tooth Brushing** – once a day after mealtime, children will brush their teeth. Classroom staff brush their teeth with children to model technique. Home based children will brush their teeth during parent/child activities.

**Sick Child Policy**

To help limit the spread of illness, **please keep your child home if he/she is sick.** If your child becomes ill while at school, the Health Office or your child's teacher will contact you to pick up your child. Examples of illnesses that would require your child to stay home:

- **Fever of 101 or more** - your child must be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** - you must wait 24 hours after the symptoms have stopped before your child returns to Head Start.
- **Unidentified rash** - a child with a rash may be required to be checked by their doctor before returning to school.
- **Bacterial infections** - your child may need to be treated with medication for 24 hours before returning to school for strep throat, impetigo or pinkeye.
- **Head lice or nits** – child must be treated and be lice/nit free before returning to school.

*If you need help with treatment, please contact the Health Office, local Health Department, or your child's doctor.*

- **Not feeling well enough** to participate in regular daily activities.

*Depending on your child's illness, we may require a doctor's note before they return to school.*