

Delivery Models

How each community delivers their program is unique to the needs and capacity within the community. What is most important is that programs deliver all six components and reach the full target group of children from birth to six. Here are some examples of how communities are delivering Head Start.

Outreach & Family Services

Head Start funds focus on home visiting services supplemented by regularly scheduled family activities such as language nests, parent-tot drop-in programs, and parenting programs.

Daycare and Preschool Enhancement

Head Start funds enhance existing centre-based services, targeting gap areas and ensuring all six Head Start components are included in programming. Funds might be used to deliver outreach, or to provide extra ECE or cultural staff, nutritious lunches, culture/language activities, programs targeting younger children and parents, parent workshops, etc.

Stand Alone

Head Start funds are used to create centre-based programming that delivers all six Head Start components to children from birth to six - unconnected to any pre-existing program or source of funds.

Choices

Communities make different choices about how to best use their Head Start funds, taking into account community size, numbers of children, existing services and capacity, isolation factors and transportation challenges, as well as family and community needs and priorities, and availability of qualified staff.

Some communities use Head Start funds to supplement and enhance existing programs and services, while others create programs where none existed before.

BC FIRST NATIONS



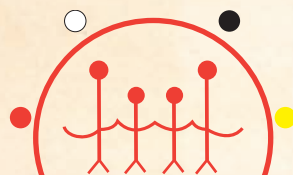
Head Start

ON - RESERVE PROGRAM

Health Canada

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Suite 540, Federal Building
757 Hastings Street
Vancouver BC V6C 3E6

Tel: 604.666.6919 Fax: 604.666.1690



"Together in Health
and Wellness"

Partnering First Nations organization:
Community Health Associates of BC

#2-3003 29th Avenue
Vernon, BC V1T 1Y9

www.bcfnhs.org

Resources including *Funding Policies, Guidelines for Models of Delivery, Needs Assessment Tool and Directory of Program Resources* are available on the BCFNHS program website.

BC FIRST NATIONS



Head Start

ON - RESERVE PROGRAM



What is Head Start?

BC First Nations Head Start on-reserve (BCFNHS) is a holistic, community-based program designed to enhance early childhood development, school readiness and overall family health and wellness for First Nations preschool children (birth to six years) on reserve.

Unique to Head Start's early intervention philosophy is the recognition that culture is a fundamental part of a child's health development and that caring, creativity and confidence flow from a strong grounding in community.

Each Head Start predict is intended to be locally designed and controlled, and to reflect the uniqueness of its First Nations community and culture, while incorporating six core program components.



Children, through being loved, valued and encouraged will gain the courage, the strength and the wisdom to use the power of a good mind and spirit in all that they do.

HEAD START STATEMENT OF BELIEF
AND VALUES ABOUT CHILDREN

6 Components

Culture and Language

Head Start programs provide children with a positive sense of themselves as First Nations children and provide them with opportunities to understand and experience the culture and language.

Education

Head Start programs encourage children to enjoy life-long learning by providing rich opportunities for their physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual development.

Health Promotion

Head Start programs provide opportunities for children to access health professionals, and for children and families to practice healthy lifestyles, with an emphasis on developing self-care and wellness choices for life.

Nutrition

Head Start programs provide children with wholesome food to help them meet their nutritional needs, and provide children and families with information and support in developing healthy eating habits that can be maintained for life.

Parent & Family Involvement

Head Start programs support and involve parent and family members as the primary teachers of children, and provide opportunities for parents to be actively involved in Head Start and to learn and grow as role models for their children.

Social Support

Head Start programs help families connect with resources and community services that can support and empower them in their roles as parents.



Head Start Program Design

Target Groups

Head Start is intended to reach children from birth to six years (and their families).

Flexibility

Head Start projects are intended to be flexible and responsive to community needs. All Head Start sites should work from their own unique vision, continually evaluating and reviewing community needs, asking "Is our programming working for us?"

Linkages

Head Start funds are meant to be integrated with existing services. Therefore it is important to collaborate with existing community programs, target Head Start funds to address gap areas, and build on what is already working well.

Outreach

Reaching out to children and families is central to Head Start philosophy. Ideally the program should offer home visiting and outreach programming to families who are not accessing centre-based services.