



Parents as Teachers™

An evidence-based approach to outcomes for Indian Head Start children

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded child development programs which serve children up to age 5, pregnant women and low-income families. They emphasize school readiness, comprehensive health screening, parent involvement and leveraging existing social services. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start, funded by the Office of Head Start in Washington, D.C., is administered at the local level by Tribes.

Indian Head Start supports high quality comprehensive early childhood development and education services by placing value on the cultural uniqueness and diversity of Native communities. It seeks to preserve Native identity through culturally appropriate and relevant family-centered child development and educational services.

What Parents as Teachers Brings

- > **A reputation for success**
 - A federal designation as evidence-based
 - An i3 grant recipient, bringing more than \$17 millions directly to support Native American families
- > **Experience**
 - Head Start/Early Head Start
 - Bureau of Indian Education
 - Tribal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
 - Investing in Innovation (i3) grantee (solely focused on Tribal communities)

> Commitment to cultural competency

It is the policy of Parents as Teachers to work and provide services in a culturally competent manner.

Why Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers understands that a strong family is a powerful indicator of a child's future success. So within the Parents as Teachers approach is a focus and emphasis on parent/family well-being; on strengths, capabilities and skills; and on building protective factors within the family.

In addition to strengthening families, Parents as Teachers has made a strong commitment to honor human diversity as a central part of its mission. Our work celebrates the unique cultural and linguistic diversity of AI/AN communities by integrating culture and native language into our services.

We offer an approach to home visiting that achieves Indian Head Start outcomes... an approach that is relationship-based, culturally sensitive and parenting-focused. Together, our curriculum and training prepare staff to promote school readiness and parent engagement, hallmarks of Early Head Start.

Parents as Teachers has decades of experience working with AI/AN families—on traditional homelands, with Bureau of Indian Education schools, and in Tribal communities across the country. The results of our work show increases in family involvement in school and significant increases in the number of children screened for health, hearing, vision and developmental delays, leading to fewer IEPs and successful transition to kindergarten.

Our vision is that all children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential

FACT SHEET

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Here's how our work aligns with Head Start Performance Standards.

Expected Outcomes for Children and Families <i>(From Program Performance Measures for Head Start Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers, April, 2006)</i>	The Parents as Teachers Connection <i>(Using the Foundational Curriculum)</i>
Programs strengthen parents as the primary nurturers of their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 200+ parent handouts on developmental and parenting topics, including fatherhood. <i>(Handouts help parents reinforce the learning in between personal visits.)</i>
Programs support and enhance parent-child relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 200+ activity pages encourage parent-child interaction. <i>(Individualized activity pages are used on every visit to help parents explore and strengthen their own parenting behaviors and their child's growth/development.)</i> > Book sharing and literacy activities are part of every personal visit. > Activity pages and a family journal involve families in observing, reflecting and documenting children's developmental progress.
Programs enhance children's growth and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Parent educator resources and parent handouts designed to help parents understand what comes next in their child's development so they can provide support for development and learning. > Covers the five Head Start essential child development domains (language, cognitive, social-emotional, physical, approaches to learning). > Includes developmental milestones tool that is used with families to track children's development.¹

¹ Tool has shown face validity; milestones are based on reliable indicators of development, such as those developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Tool has been used by EHS programs to aggregate data in ChildPlus and is currently being revised so results can more easily be summarized and aggregated across participating children. Parents as Teachers recommends Early Head Start grant applicants seek additional guidance from Head Start around the use of the milestones tool and/or other child assessment tools to satisfy Performance Standard § 1307.3 b(2).

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