

WHAT IS OPERATION HEAD START?

The anti-poverty program of the Federal Government is accepting applications for summer HEAD START projects. The program is designed for children who grew up without very many advantages. The HEAD START program will offer children between the ages of four and seven years, both boys and girls, special opportunities this summer. The program is entirely voluntary and is open to all children in the area if their parents want them to attend the centers. Children will live at home and attend the centers during the daytime.

The HEAD START program is designed to make the children feel that he is "somebody." Classes will be very small and there will be two or three teachers in each class so that each child can have special, personal attention. What he thinks, what he paints, the condition of his health will be important to the special teachers in the child development centers. The centers are not schools and the HEAD START program will not teach school subjects. The centers will offer many special services such as medical care, a good meal each day at the center, trips to museums, factories, libraries, counselling services and others. The children will have the opportunity to put on a play, to plant seeds in a garden, to learn and play new games, to have a story teller, have their own puppet show, to work with carpentry tools and to help in keeping the center clean and neat.

The Louisiana Commission on Child Development plans to have centers in many cities and towns--even out in the country--in Louisiana this summer. The program for each center will be different from every other center because the parents will help plan the program--to say what opportunities and experiences they would like their children to have. The centers will be trying to do the same things for the children everywhere in Louisiana, but each community will go about it in the way they think is best. The goals that the

Office of Economic Opportunity (anti-poverty program) of the United States Government has set for the HEAD START program are the following:

1. To improve and expand the child's mental process, to help him to develop the ability to think, reason and speak clearly.
2. To help in the child's social and emotional growing up by encouraging self-confidence, self-expression, self-discipline and curiosity.
3. To help the children get wider and varied experiences, to increase their ease in talking and to improve their understanding of the world in which they live.
4. To give the child many chances to succeed and be praised for his good work. This is to help erase the frustration which may have come from past failures, or successes which no one paid any attention to.
5. To have a climate of confidence for the child which will make him want to learn, not just in school, but when he is with friends, at home, or alone.
6. To increase the child's ability to get along with other people--his family, other children at the center, the teachers at the center--and at the same time his family will be helped to understand the child and his problems, thus giving the child another chance to grow and learn and feel that he is somebody important.