



ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK

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Head Start and Early Head Start ERSEA

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) is the process of how interested families enroll their child into Head Start or Early Head Start. Families who live within our service area, Binghamton, Johnson City, Susquehanna Valley School Districts, Town of Binghamton, and Port Dick are eligible to apply for the programs we offer in Broome County. Families who live in Tioga County are eligible to apply for the programs we offer in Waverly, Newark Valley, and Owego. Children six weeks to 3 years old are considered for the Early Head Start program and children 3 to 5 years old are considered for the Head Start program. In Broome County expectant women are eligible for the Pre-Natal program offered through Early Head Start where a Socialization Specialist works directly with the Mom to Be through the pregnancy and for up to 12 weeks after the birth of her child. Both programs require proof of income for the previous 12 months, using the yearly updated Federal Poverty Guidelines and proof of birth, such as the birth certificate. Interested families contact the ERSEA office to receive an application packet consisting of an application, cover letter and brochure for the age appropriate program by mail. Families complete the application and return it to the office where the information is computerized and given to a Family Advocate. The family is contacted to schedule a pre-enrollment screening with a Family Advocate who takes the family's required proofs and reviews the pre-screening tool with the family, at their home, when possible. The tool asks about child and family needs and preferences to give the Agency a well-rounded sense of the child, which is taken to the twice monthly ranking and used for placing the child when an opening occurs. The Federal Standard states the highest needs children be placed first which means the placement of children is not by when the process is completed but how the application is scored. The Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer transportation, meals, home visits by Family Advocates, Nurses on site, degreed education staff, field trips, socialization and much more which explains why we have extensive waitlists for almost every program, all at no cost to the family.

Interested families may call 607-723-8313, Ext. 850 for Broome and Ext. 1104 for Tioga application packets. We are currently working finishing the current 2015-2016 program year and preparing for the 2016-2017 year. We have planned a Pre-Enrollment Screening Event for Broome County service area families for May 19, 2016 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Cherry Street site. For more information on this event call 723-8313, Ext. 850 and an application packet will be sent to the family.