**What is a Parent Committee?**

The Parent Committee is a very important part of the Head Start Program, so important that in each center they have their own organization. The Parent Committee is made up of parents of children who are enrolled.

Many studies show that children do better in school when their parents are involved in their education. By becoming involved in Head Start, you show your child that learning and sharing are important. The more time you spend volunteering at Head Start, the more successful your child is likely to be, and the better our Head Start program will be.

Head Start offers you an opportunity to participate in the Parent Committee. The Parent Committee has regularly scheduled meetings throughout the school year. Parents will be notified of the Parents Committee activities through a newsletter, flyer and meeting notices. Minutes of the previous meeting are post on our parent boards. Attendance of every parent is very important and strongly encouraged.  What happens in these meetings is vital to what happens in the center.

One purpose of the parent involvement in Head Start through the Parent Committee is to help develop the best possible child development program. Here are just a few of the ways parents can help accomplish by participating in the Parent Committee.

* Work closely with the center staff in developing and carrying out daily activities and policies of the program.
* Make suggestions about how the program could be improved.
* Elect one representative to Policy Council and at least one alternate to serve on the Policy Council.
* Help to plan and conduct special activities.
* Discuss parenting issues and other topics of interest at Parent Meetings.

**What happens at the first Parent Committee meeting?**

At the first meeting, an introduction to all aspects of the Head Start program is presented by staff and/or former parents.  Officers are elected who will help in leading and organizing the meetings.  **We will elect the following officer at our first Parent Committee meeting: President/Chairperson,and Policy Council Representative and Policy Council Alternate.**

**Policy Council**

The Policy Council is the governing body of Head Start. It is composed of parent committee representatives, community representatives and staffed by the Head Start Director. Its function is to oversee the Head Start program, ensure compliance with federal regulations, and make decisions regarding programming. Policy Council meetings are held on a monthly basis. Elected parent will share information with their center at each Parent meeting.

Help us make this the best educational center for your child.

**First Parent Committee Meeting** will be at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Childcare will be provided.**