Semcac Head Start
Together we build bright futures.

**THE FACTS**

The mission of the Head Start program states that we are committed to building bright futures by enriching young children, ages Birth—5 years old, and empowering their families. Comprehensive services and community opportunities support healthy families.

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**Why is Head Start Unique?**

- **Medical, Dental, Nutrition & additional comprehensive services are offered** for the wellbeing of the child & family; promoting healthy living for the whole family.

- **Our priority is at-risk families.**

- We offer **support for healthy parent-child relationships** including support for the parents & guardians to strengthen the family and achieve goals.

- Family members can **volunteer. Parents are involved in program decisions.**

- **Teachers have a full set of credentials related to child & family development.** They are well qualified and licensed.

- Head Start provides children with **nutritious snacks & meals.**

- Head Start plans **services based on an annual community needs assessment** to learn what the current and greatest needs are in the area.

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**Semcac’s Head Start Services**

The program is based on proven research of what works for children & their families.

**CENTER– BASED CLASSROOMS**

Head Start classroom setting services are offered 4 days per week. Head Start for preschool age children, 3—5 years, operate September—May. Early Head Start has toddler rooms which operate year round. Twenty classrooms are located in the 6 counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Steele & Winona.

All sites operated by our program are licensed with the Dept. of Human Services.

**HOME-BASED EDUCATORS**

Home-based educators travel, weekly, to the homes of enrolled pregnant women and homes with children ages Birth—3 years of age. Additionally, there is a socialization event at the Center nearest the family, every 2 weeks. Home—based services are offered all year in Fillmore, Houston, Mower and Winona counties.

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**Semcac Head Start Stats (average over 5 years)**

61% of families were single-parent.

68% of enrolled working families meet income eligibility based on 100% federal poverty guidelines (for example, a family of 4 earns $24,300/ year).

77% of parents and guardians have a high school diploma or less education.

8 homeless or foster children are served each year.

16% of children served had special needs.

26% of children are Hispanic/Latino origin.

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They help my family and the relationship with my child. — Head Start parent, 2016

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**Promoting Positive Results**


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Semcac Head Start is rated a **4 STAR HIGH QUALITY PROGRAM** by Parent Aware. Head Start partners with parents to support their role as the primary decision makers for their children. Children develop skills that prepare them to enter kindergarten with confidence.
Semcac is a Community Action nonprofit agency.

Semcac’s Mission: To assist people to achieve or maintain independence & self-reliance utilizing their own & community resources.

Semc is an equal opportunity employer.

LOCATIONS

Classrooms
Dodge County
Kasson
Fillmore County
Preston
Houston County
Caledonia
LaCrescent-Hokah school
Mower County
Austin 2 sites
LeRoy-Ostrander school
Steele County
Owatonna
Winona County
St. Charles
Winona

Home-based
Fillmore County
Houston County
Mower County
Winona County

HEAD START ENCOURAGES PARENT INVOLVEMENT.
THE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF HEAD START PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MAKING DECISIONS TO BETTER THE PROGRAM.

Voice ideas. Share information. Give input in program design & policies. Be involved in hiring staff. Be an advocate. Serve as a link to the community.

Enrollment applications for Head Start
866-808-0260
The application is also available for download on the Semcac website.

Who is eligible to enroll in Head Start?

Eligibility criteria are based primarily on the family income and the child’s age as well as whether a child has a disability. Indicators of a child and/or family at-risk, such as a single parent family, a parent with special needs, referrals from social services or public health, and living in a location that would prevent them from experiencing preschool, will be considered. Income eligibility is determined according to the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines, released annually. At least 10% of the total number of enrollment opportunities will be made available to children with disabilities.

The environment is welcoming and the staff seemed to treat each student as if they were the only one. You can tell they actually care about the children. Head Start parent, 2016

For every $1.00 invested in a Head Start program, taxpayers save $18.00 per child.
(Due to reduced spending on remedial services, lower school dropout rates, fewer requiring state assistance.)

Head Start is a program of the Federal government, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. Head Start helps low-income families break the cycle of poverty by promoting self-sufficiency and prepares low-income children to enter kindergarten, confidently, with the social, physical, emotional and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for success in school.

- MN Head Start Assoc., Inc.

Donations make a notable impact on this program. Transportation for Head Start students is a challenge. Budget cuts have eliminated all bus services. Please visit www.semcac.org and learn how you can help.