

### Head Start

Head Start is a national, federally-funded program that provides free comprehensive services for low-income preschool children and their families. These services include:

- Individualized instruction by highly qualified teachers
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum that fosters a child's intellectual, emotional and social growth.
- Screening and assessment
- Field trips
- Social services
- Medical and dental services
- Nutrition services
- Services for children with disabilities
- Parent involvement
- Family and community partnerships

### **Eligibility Requirements and Application Procedures**

In order to be eligible for a preschool program, the following must apply:

- the child is 3 to 4 years old on or before September 1, AND
- family income meets low-income guidelines

When applying, the following items are required:

- ☐ Proof of age (example: child's ORIGINAL birth certificate)
  - ☐ Proof of ALL household income from the previous year
  - ☐ Child's Medicaid card, if eligible
  - ☐ Proof of guardianship, if applicable
  - ☐ Proof of Broward County residency
- \*\*\*Eligibility is based on Income and other factors, NOT on a "First Come, First Served Basis".

### Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

What is the program? The Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program is designed to prepare Florida's children for kindergarten and develop the skills they need to become good readers and successful students. It includes standards for literacy skills, strict accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors. The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. is administering the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program at the local level which includes registering child care providers and providing applications and information to parents.

What are steps to receive services? When you complete the application process, you will receive a Certificate of Eligibility and a list Broward County VPK Providers. You will need to submit the Certificate of Eligibility to the provider you choose, prior to your child attending the program.

*Many child care programs are subsidized with federal, state, or local funding.*