

EARLY HEAD START

- NEMCSA Early Head Start is a federally funded program offered to pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families.
- The Early Head Start Model is a continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support program.
- The EHS program seeks to enhance parent-child interaction and emphasizes the influence between the parent-child relationship and the child's development. This is done within the context of home-visit and group settings.
- The program philosophy is based on the belief that there is a strong relationship between parent-infant emotional connectedness and cognitive development; and that being securely attached as children is a key factor in school readiness.
- Early Head Start delivers services through the Home-Based program option. Family Support Coordinators provide weekly home visits to enrolled families and offer socialization (parent-child playgroup) twice monthly. Center-based Childcare is available in Bay County for working or student parents with infants/toddlers.
- EHS provides access to community resources through service coordination and referrals, to further support the family and the child's development. Health, behavioral and developmental screening is an ongoing component of the program.
- Early Head Start also provides opportunities for parenting education, parent support groups, family events, family literacy activities, volunteer services, and development of family goals.
- The program is offered to families who live in Cheboygan, Alpena, Ogemaw, Iosco, Arenac or Bay County; meet Head Start income guidelines; are expecting a child; have an infant or toddler; or have a child with special needs under the age of three.
- EHS staff complete pre-enrollment applications in the families' home. For enrollment information, call 1-800-968-2226 ext. 257 or send a referral to the Early Head Start Manager in your area.