

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## ERSEA

If you have ever wondered “how does a child participate in Head Start or Early Head Start?” the answer starts with Family Enrichment Network’s ERSEA department. Families in either Broome or Tioga county contact the ERSEA office to ask for an application for their child. Applications are now started on the phone with the ERSEA Clerk and family, sharing basic information, followed by an email to the family. Families email required information to the ERSEA Clerk who then schedules a time to meet in person or by phone with the family to complete a pre-screening. The pre-screening is a tool used with all interested families that asks about the health, social, emotional, family, employment, and housing needs of the family. The pre-screening is taken to a ranking committee who reviews the information and assigns a numerical value to the paperwork. Completed, ranked pre-screenings are stored in a locked cabinet until an opening occurs and the highest need child is considered for placement. In June, the placement committee meets to review all returning and newly ranked children to plan for the fall placement in Head Start. Many factors are considered when placing children in a classroom such as boy/girl ratios, educational, social, and health needs to ensure a positive learning environment.

In the Early Head Start program we follow a Continuity of Care method that provides a best practice approach to early childhood education. This method allows the same teacher and children to move to older classrooms together, enhancing the social/emotional learning environment the children have enjoyed. Children enrolled in an Early Head Start classroom remain until after they turn three years old; that is when they can move to the Head Start program. Once a child is enrolled in a Head Start classroom, the child is able to remain in the program until they age out and move on to elementary school.

We have Head Start classrooms at our Cherry Street, Wilson school, Fayette Street, and Saratoga sites in Broome County. Our Early Head Start classrooms are at our Saratoga, Carlisle and Cherry Street sites. In Tioga County we have Head Start classrooms at our Newark Valley, Owego and Waverly sites. Our Early Head Start program in Tioga County is at the Owego site.

To contact the ERSEA office in Broome County call 607-723-8313, Ext. 850.

To contact the ERSEA office in Tioga County call 607-354-3111, Ext. 1104.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call (607) 723-8313.



*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.*