

Profile of ABCD at Florida

Agri-Business Child Development (ABCD), founded in 1946, is committed to providing the highest quality early childhood education and social services to farm worker and other eligible families across New York State. Children, 8 weeks old through school age, benefit from the culturally and linguistically diverse programming recognized nationally as a hallmark of Agri-Business Child Development.

Agri-Business Child Development has provided services to Orange County's agricultural community since 1976. The expanded need for services and a facility in close proximity to the farms of Pine Island prompted the Agency to replace its seasonal "Fieldstone Center" and open the ABCD at Florida Center for year round services in 1995.

Currently, Orange County is one of the top 10 producing counties in New York State for onions, pumpkins, lettuce, sweet corn, and specialty vegetables and herbs for retail and ethnic markets throughout the Northeast. Orange County is the number one pumpkin growing county in the State.

Services Provided: As a provider of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, Agri-Business Child Development ensures that each child receives comprehensive educational, health and social services. ABCD at Florida is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Children Served: Children of eligible families aged six weeks to compulsory school age.

Number of Children Receiving Services on an Annual Basis: 71+/- on average in 2 infant, 2 toddler and 2 pre-school classrooms.

Hours of Operation: 8-12 hours a day, 5 days a week.

Eligibility: Eligibility requirements for local agricultural workers, as well as, the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program include household income, employment status and child(ren)'s age(s). The center utilizes a system of points, in accordance with the Head Start Performance Standards, to ensure that the neediest of the eligible families receive services.

Transportation: Given the rural location of families served and the lack of public transportation, busing is provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers to and from the center on DOT inspected school buses. Educational activities are provided while children are in transit.

Staff Possess Special Skills and Knowledge: Staff must meet State and Federal educational requirements. Teaching staff reflect the culture and linguistic diversity of the children served.

Geographic Areas Served: Areas of highest eligible farm worker family concentrations in Orange County, primarily in the rural Black Dirt region.

Special Projects: ABCD at Florida collaborates with a myriad of community partners to ensure comprehensive integrated service delivery.

For additional information, please contact:

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