

## Profile of ABCD at Fredonia

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 Chautauqua County's agricultural community since 1974. In 1987, the ABCD at Fredonia Center relocated from Dunkirk's Sacred Heart Church to its present site at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Fredonia.

Currently, Chautauqua County is one of the top grape producing counties in New York State. Other major crops include: strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, apples, corn, pumpkins/squash, and currants.

**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 Fredonia 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:** 119 +/- 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, children(s) age(s) and employment status. 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 mandated educational requirements. Teaching staff reflect the culture and linguistic diversity of the children served. Continuing education is a priority for all staff.

**Geographic Areas Served:** Areas of highest eligible farm worker family concentrations in northern Chautauqua County.

**Special Projects:** ABCD at Fredonia was the first ABCD center to achieve accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 1991. It also holds the distinction of being the first NAEYC Accredited Center in the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project network, which reaches from Maine to Florida. The Center has been recognized for its exemplary work tracking child outcomes and integrating all developmental domains into the daily curriculum.

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