

## Profile of ABCD at Goshen House on the Hill

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.

On June 15, 1972, the Sisters of St. Dominic, in collaboration with Dominican College students, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and many remarkable volunteers, opened the House on the Hill Migrant Child Care Center. After several years, House on the Hill joined the network of Agri-Business Child Development centers.

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 Goshen ~ House on the Hill, 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:** 100+/- on average in 2 infant, 2 toddler and 4 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 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 Goshen ~ House on the Hill facilitates opportunities for families to honor and appreciate their home culture. Every year center parents plan and hold a Fiesta attended by more than 100 people from enrolled families past and present.

For additional information, please contact:

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ABCD at Goshen ~ House on the Hill

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