

Profile of ABCD at Lake Ontario

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 the agricultural community in western Wayne County since 1979. The discovery of young children in a truck parked in the field while their parents worked nearby sparked the creation of a seasonal center. ABCD at Lake Ontario, located in Williamson, New York replaced the original seasonal center in response to increased enrollment and the need for additional space.

Currently, western Wayne County is one of the top producing counties in New York State for apples, cabbage, corn, onions, and potatoes.

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 Lake Ontario 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.

Geographic Areas Served: Areas of highest eligible farm worker family concentrations in western Wayne County.

Special Projects: The Center Parent Committee is highly involved and dedicated to the center. The parents work together with staff to maintain and continually improve the facility.

For additional information, please contact:

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