

Profile of ABCD at Middletown

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. In response to a housing shift in Orange County with more farm working families now living in the City of Middletown, ABCD at Middletown opened on March 3, 2003 in the former Academy Avenue School building. In 2007, the center launched a new home based program which brings educational, health, and social services directly into the home.

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, as well as Early Head Start, Agri-Business Child Development ensures that each child receives comprehensive educational, health and social services. Approximately 25% of enrolled children receive specialized services for children with disabilities. ABCD at Middletown is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Children Served: Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program: Children of eligible families aged six weeks to compulsory school age. Early Head Start Program: Children of eligible families aged six weeks to three years, as well as pre and post natal services to pregnant women.

Number of Children Receiving Services on an Annual Basis: 114+/- on average in 2 infant, 2 toddler and 3 pre-school classrooms, as well as the home based program.

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

Eligibility: Eligibility requirements for local agricultural workers and the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program include household income, employment status and child(ren)'s age(s). Requirements for the Early Head Start program include household income and child(ren)'s age(s).

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 two distinct areas – the rural Black Dirt region of Orange County and the urban setting of the City of Middletown.

Special Projects: ABCD at Middletown collaborates with a myriad of community partners to ensure comprehensive integrated service delivery. The Administration for Children, Youth and Families awarded a 3 year grant to ABCD at Middletown for an Oral Health Initiative designed to improve oral health education, access and services for underserved children and families.

For additional information, please contact:

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