

Profile of ABCD at Seneca Falls Seneca County Head Start

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 Seneca County and the surrounding area since 1966. In 1992, ABCD was awarded a grant to provide Head Start services in Seneca County. Services began in two classrooms in the agency's Geneva center. A third classroom was soon added and, in 1994, a fourth classroom was opened off-site in Romulus, NY.

In 2002, ABCD purchased a 5,126 square foot building in Seneca Falls facilitating the provision of Seneca County Head Start services to children in the northern end of the county. Support from Region II Head Start enabled ABCD at Seneca Falls ~ Seneca County Head Start to serve an additional 17 children bringing the program to a total of 102 slots.

ABCD at Seneca Falls reorganized in 2005 in response to a greater need for services in Northern Seneca County. The Romulus site was closed and the Seneca Falls site was redesigned to serve 90 children in center-based programming and 12 families in a new home based program. The home based program brings educational, health, and social services directly into the home. A qualified home visitor makes weekly individual visits and facilitates bi-weekly group socializations.

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

Children Served: Children of eligible families aged 3 years to compulsory school age.

Number of Children Receiving Services on an Annual Basis: 90 +/- on average in 6 classrooms and 12 +/- on average in the home based program.

Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 5 days a week.

Eligibility: Eligibility requirements for Head Start include household income 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 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.

Geographic Areas Served: Seneca County
For additional information, please contact:

Nicole Backhaus, Center Director
ABCD at Seneca Falls ~ Seneca County Head Start
115 W. Bayard Street, Seneca Falls, New York 13148
Phone: (315) 568-8774 FAX: (315) 568-2702

www.abcdny.org