

 Policy #: E-10	Effective Date: 5/29/97	Page #: 1 of 1
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COMPONENT: EDUCATION

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: To provide experiences appropriate for the age of the children and implemented with attention to different needs, interests, developmental levels and cultural backgrounds of individual children.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE:

In order to help children gain the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in their present environment, the teacher's approach to early childhood education must be developmentally and linguistically appropriate. Education staff must recognize that children have individual rates of development as well as individual interests, temperaments, languages, cultural backgrounds, and learning styles.

Education staff must provide for the development of each child's learning using various strategies including experimentation, inquiry, observation, play, and exploration. Staff must implement learning centers both indoors and outdoors.

The overall goal of the Head Start program is to bring about a greater degree of social competence in preschool children from low income families. Highland Rim Head Start stresses socialization rather than academics.

Rest Time

Education staff must provide rest time for each Head Start child. Children are required a daily rest time of one hour, individual cots, and clean covers. Quiet, soothing music should be played to assist children with relaxation. Children in the Extended Care program will have a rest time of no longer than 1 ½ hours.