

## Transportation Services

Buchanan County Head Start provides transportation to nine (9) classroom centers and one (1) home base program. The program attempts to meet the transportation needs of as many families as possible in order for their children to attend Head Start.

Transportation is offered for the following activities:

- ✓ Center
- ✓ Socializations
- ✓ Home base outings
- ✓ Parent meetings
- ✓ Parent workshops
- ✓ Medical
- ✓ Dental
- ✓ Other family services

Vehicles that transport children to and from classrooms and other locations are equipped with:

- ✓ Two-way communication system for vehicles in case of emergency
- ✓ A charged fire extinguisher, properly mounted near the driver's seat with sign indicating location
- ✓ First aid kit with sign indicating location
- ✓ Appropriate height-and-weight child safety restraints (harness/seat belts)
- ✓ Reverse beepers
- ✓ Other: flares and emergency reflectors

There is at least one bus monitor on board at all times, with additional bus monitors provided as needed.

Bus monitors are responsible for assisting children when entering and exiting the bus. Monitors assist with the bus restraints. No child is to be seated at the back of the bus, unless there is no other seating available, and then only if an adult is seated with the child. The bus driver and monitor complete a systematic "sweep" of the bus at the end of each route to ensure there is no child left on the bus.

Driver and bus monitor training is provided throughout the program year. Head Start provides pre-service training and in-service training opportunities to program staff and volunteers. These trainings enhance knowledge and job skills required for job responsibility. The training is directed toward improving the capability of staff and volunteers to deliver services required by Head Start regulations and policies.

Head Start attempts to ensure that special transportation requirements are met for children and families by implementing an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). These plans may include but are not limited to the following:

- ✓ Special pick-up and drop-off
- ✓ Special seating
- ✓ Special equipment
- ✓ Any special assistance that may be needed
- ✓ Any special training for bus drivers and monitors

- ✓ Special equipped vehicle for children and families with disabilities

A Head Start bus is not just a vehicle used for transportation. It is also a learning environment on wheels. The bus creates and serves as an extension of the classroom with activities that support the regular curriculum. With adequate planning, the bus can promote learning activities that can be sequenced from the time children board the bus until they exit. Safety procedures are only one of the topics children can be taught along with their classroom activities.

Head Start supports the rule of SAFETY FIRST! Safety begins with the individual. Enforcing safety and educating our families to the safety rules and regulations is vital to the safety of everyone in the program.