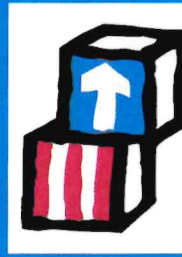


Mercer County Head Start



September 2026

Welcome to Our School Family!

Angie Fiely, Early Childhood Education Director

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to partner with you as we support your child's learning, growth, and success throughout the year.

As part of your child's learning experience, teachers will regularly send home At-Home Activities designed to reinforce the skills and concepts being taught in the classroom. We encourage you to complete these activities together and return them to school. Working through these activities with your child provides valuable insight into their strengths while also identifying areas where they may benefit from additional support.

Throughout the school year, we will also offer a variety of family engagement opportunities that allow you and your child to learn and have fun together. These events will be shared with you on a monthly calendar so you can plan to participate. We encourage you to read the monthly newsletter to stay informed about upcoming activities and important information.

Your involvement is an essential part of your child's success. We encourage you to actively participate in home visits and parent-teacher conferences. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their strengths, and identify skills to continue developing as we build a strong foundation for kindergarten readiness.

At the beginning of the school year, you and your child's teacher will establish two individualized goals to support your child's development. As those goals are achieved by your child, new goals will be created to encourage continued learning and growth.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers. By working together as partners, we can provide the best possible learning experience for your child.

The Head Start family wishes you a wonderful school year filled with learning, laughter, and memorable experiences. We look forward to an exciting year together.

“All behavior is a form of communication. Ask yourself what the child's behavior is communicating: What need does the child have that is not being met?” – Becky Bailey



Sip, Sip, Hooray! — Easy Ways to Keep Little Ones Hydrated on Warm Days

Angie Stephenson,
Health and Safety
Manager

Offer water often: Small sips throughout the day work better than waiting until they're thirsty.

Add water-rich foods: Watermelon, oranges, berries, cucumbers, and yogurt can help with hydration.

Make it fun: Let your preschooler choose a colorful cup or reusable water bottle.

🕒 Build in water breaks: Offer drinks before, during, and after outdoor play.

☉ Keep cool: Take breaks in the shade or indoors during the hottest part of the day.

Watch for signs: A dry mouth, unusual tiredness, or peeing less often can be signs they need more fluids.

Go easy on sugary drinks: Water and milk are generally better everyday choices.

Dental Van

Thursday, October 8, 2026, a mobile dental team will be at the Ed Complex providing dental exams. Children who the Coldwater or Rockford classrooms are welcome to come to the Ed Complex and receive this service. If you would like your child to participate, contact your Family Advocate for a consent form.

Child Physicals Due

If you have not already turned in your child's physical, the last day to do so is October 1, 2026.

Get Involved & Make a Difference!

We'd love for families and caregivers to get involved! Your time, ideas, and participation help make our preschool community a happier, stronger place for everyone.

If you are interested in being part of addressing and improving safety concerns or would like to be part of teams that help to develop menus and classroom cooking activities, contact Angie Stephenson, the Health & Safety Manager or your Family Advocate.

Come be part of the fun, connect with other families, and help create wonderful experiences for our children.

■ Building Entry & Exit Reminder

For the safety of our children and staff, **please use Door #12 every time you enter or exit the building**, no matter where you are going in the building. Using one designated entrance helps us better monitor who is entering and leaving and helps us keep your child safe.

Important September Dates

Tuesday, September 1 – 1st Day for Celina & Rockford Locations

Monday, September 7 - No School All Locations
Coldwater Location could start any time after Monday, September 7 – Be ready Coldwater families!

Tuesday, September 8 – No School Rockford

Tuesday, September 8 – Policy Council Election Begins

Thursday, September 10 – Parent Committee (Health) 2:30PM

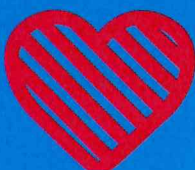
Friday, September 11 – Rockford in Session

Thursday, September 17 – Policy Council with ECSD as Guest
12PM & Parenting Class 2:30PM

Saturday, September 26 – FUDGE Event

📄 ID Required for Pick-Up

Please remember that **anyone picking up your child must bring a valid ID every day**. This is an important safety measure that helps us ensure we are releasing children to the correct person while also respecting the privacy and safety of every family.



**Thank you for helping us keep
our school family safe!**