

## PROGRAM SERVICES

Head Start is a federally funded program provided at NO COST to low income families living in Ravalli County. The comprehensive pre-school program serves 3 and 4 year olds and provides 4 hour classes, four days a week – mid September through mid May - at the Hamilton Center and in Stevensville. Limited bus service may be available.

Head Start is designed to develop the special strengths and meet the needs of each child and his/her family. RHS provides:

- Nutritious breakfasts and lunches.
- Child health, nutrition and dental education.
- Disability, wellness and mental health services.
- Parenting classes and early literacy support.
- Links to community resources.
- Family goal-setting and support.

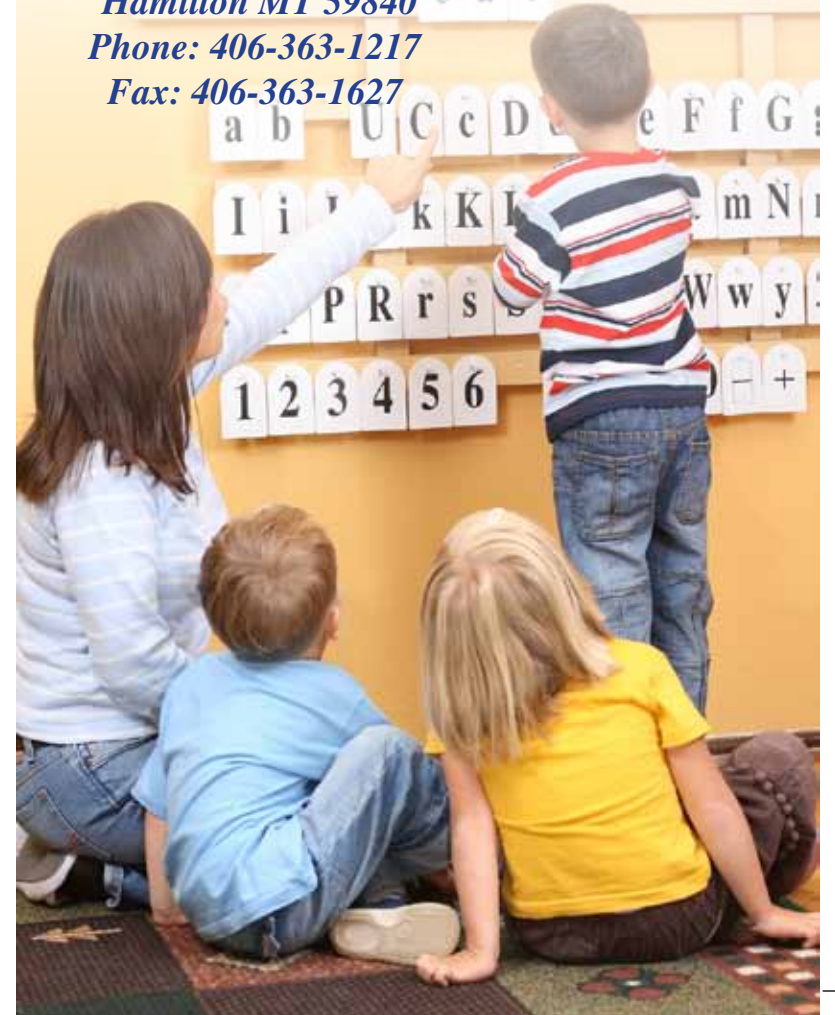
Ravalli Head Start and Missoula Early Head Start are services provided by Ravalli Head Start, Inc.



R A V A L L I



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## RHS SERVICES

### Child Development:

- Qualified staff trained in child development and early childhood education.
- Age-appropriate curriculum in a nurturing setting.
- Coordination of support services for families and children with disabilities.

### Family:

- Home visits and family activities throughout the year.
- Ongoing parent education, trainings and professional development opportunities.
- Parent volunteer, leadership and advocacy opportunities.
- Help accessing local area services.

### Health:

- Vision, hearing, dental and lead screening.
- Help finding health insurance and a family doctor and dentist.
- Health and wellness information and training.
- Evaluation of each child's social and emotional development.
- Opportunities to learn about strengthening each child's social/emotional resilience.

### Nutrition:

- Nutritious meals and snacks provided by USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Nutrition education for children and families

## ELIGIBILITY

- Families with children who are 3 years old on or before September 10th, and children who are 4 (or 5) but not yet eligible for kindergarten.
- Families who meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines. RHS may serve a limited number of "over-income" families.
- Families who are homeless, or who receive TANF or SSI, or who provide foster care to a TANF eligible child.
- RHS is committed to serving families and children with disabilities.
- \* Eligibility does not guarantee enrollment.

### Income Guidelines 2010

Family Size	Yearly Income	Family Size	Yearly Income
1	\$10,890	5	26,170
2	14,710	6	29,990
3	18,530	7	33,810
4	22,350	8	37,630

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.

Applications are scored on an established points system that reflects the highest need for services.

Applications are accepted year round and can be picked up at the RHS center or mailed upon phone request.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Ravalli Head Start believes that parents have the greatest influence on their child's development. RHS encourages:

- Developmentally appropriate pre-school curriculum
- Activities and behaviors that build a positive relationship with your child.
- Maintaining your child's regular (85%) attendance.
- Volunteering in the classroom or for other HS family activities.
- Taking part in teacher home visits and conferences.
- Taking your child for yearly physical and dental exams.
- Setting and working toward family and kindergarten readiness goals.

In accordance with Federal Law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin, sex, age or disability.

