

RUCD HEAD START - COR ASSESSMENT/HIGH SCOPE CURRICULUM

Parents in the RUCD Head Start program are introduced to the Child Observation Record (COR) during their first home visit before class begins. The COR is a developmentally appropriate assessment instrument for children in eight different age appropriate content areas: approaches to learning, social and emotional development, physical development and health, language/literacy and communication, mathematics, creative arts, science and technology, social studies. The COR is the basis for all curriculum planning while allowing teachers freedom in theme selection, teaching style, and methods of presentation.

The COR provides the framework for on-going observation/assessment for each child. The COR is organized in a checklist format so the teacher can see at a glance where each individual child is developmentally in each of the six areas. This allows the teacher to plan activities to fit the individual needs of every child. It also allows children the time to explore and experiment with their ever expanding world.

Parents can also assist with record gathering for their child. All assessment is done through observation and anecdotal notes of the child's abilities in a naturalistic setting.

During the first few weeks of the program year, teachers work at organizing the curriculum to find a baseline or a starting place for each child in all six areas. A parent teacher conference is then arranged. Parents receive information regarding the COR process which shows their child's progress during the Parent/Teacher conference, a partnership between home and school is established. Parents are invited to Curriculum Brainstorming Sessions through the weekly newsletter where they are given the opportunity to help plan and present activities that teach and give their children opportunities to practice skills from the COR. Continued contact through notes, newsletters, parent meetings, and personal parent teacher contacts keep their partnership viable throughout the year.

Within two months of Head Start's closing date teachers make their last Parent Teacher conference/Home Visit. During this visit the teachers report the child's progress again using the COR family report and help the family prepare for the transition to kindergarten. The teachers give suggestions and encouragement to parents to continue activities that relate to the COR with their child during the summer months.