



**ORGANIZATION/MISSION: WESTCHESTER FAMILY SERVICES/HEAD START**

Family Services of Westchester is the umbrella organization that supports initiatives across a wide range in need populations across the county.

Head Start is designed to give young children a “head start” on education, while supporting parents in their role as the primary influence in their children’s education and development.

Head Start is a federal program that was created in 1965 to increase the school readiness of young children (ages 3 to 5) in low-income families. But Head Start is more than just a pre-school program: Head Start provides comprehensive education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. Recognizing that parents are their children’s most important teachers, Head Start also works with parents to help them navigate the school system and sharpen their parenting skills.

With new research on brain development demonstrating the crucial importance of the first years of life, Early Head Start was created to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children aged 0 to three, and promote healthy family functioning.

There are 5 Head Start sites in White Plains. The United Interfaith Food Bank supports these 5 centers.

**SITE LINK:** <http://www.fsw.org/our-programs/early-childhood/head-startearly-head-start>

**TASKS:** 3 teams of 2 read for 30 minutes in each of the 3 classrooms of 2-5 year olds. Each child will also receive a book to take home. Eastview Head Start center, located at: 350 Main St

White Plains NY 10601 Phone(914) 872-5295

**MATERIALS:** 50 books appropriate for 0-7 year olds.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:**

Able to read children’s stories in an engaging voice.

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** 3 minimum- 6 maximum

**DATE:** February 8

**CONTACT:** Enid Forster, MST Assistant Director for Early Childhood Educational Programs, FSW

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