

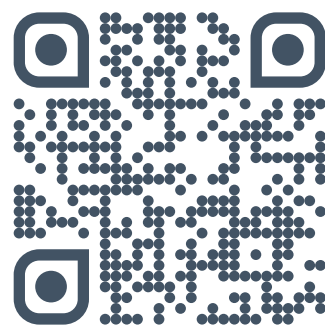


Upbring

Head Start Preschool

**Education plays a critical
role in every child's success.**

Upbring Head Start Preschool
sets your child up for a bright
future by providing a safe,
inclusive place in which to
learn, grow and thrive.



Upbring.org/HeadStart



Upbring

Head Start Preschool

Upbring Head Start Preschool helps prepare your child to enter kindergarten ready to succeed. We also offer support services to families that enable your child's continued growth.

Free to Eligible Families

Upbring Head Start Preschool is free to eligible families. We welcome children ages infant to five years old, including children with special needs, in an inclusive setting. And every child receives nutritious meals and snacks each day.

Eligibility and Enrollment

Upbring Head Start is a program for low-income families that helps children prepare for school. We use a criteria selection system and categorically eligible factors to determine acceptance into the program. Upbring assigns a family an advocate who will answer your questions, help with the next steps, and make sure we deliver the support you need.

Family Support Services

We can connect your family with job placement resources, parenting skills training, medical, dental, and mental health services, and other support that would benefit your family. Upbring Staff will take a strength-based perspective with families and focus on empowerment. Family Advocates will help facilitate and organize family engagement activities and other parent workshops to help parents be their child's first teacher. Family Advocates will provide year-round case management services to ensure families receive the necessary support to be successful.

Health & Safety Services

Medical and dental health is vital to your child's success. We'll work with you to make sure your child receives regular medical and dental check-ups and connect you to free or affordable resources. We make getting the care your child needs a priority. Hearing and vision screenings are conducted to ensure all children are up to date on state health requirements. We provide clean and safe environments for children's learning.

School Readiness

School readiness is foundational across early childhood systems and programs. It means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children. Head Start views school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Physical, cognitive, social and emotional development are all essential ingredients of school readiness. Managers, teaching staff, caregivers, family advocates and families can learn more about creating enriching and supportive learning environments for young children ages birth to five at upbring.org/SchoolReadiness.

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Consultative services are provided by Mental Health Consultants who adhere to the Office of Head Start Program Standards. The Mental Health Consultants conduct classroom observations which

provides more insight and allows them to determine the type of support that teachers need as it relates to how to work with children who present with social and emotional challenges. The Mental Health Consultants also checks in with staff and provide resources to ensure staff are prioritizing their mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, Mental Health Consultants work with children in the classroom (upon parental consent). The Mental Health Consultants attends parent and family engagement meetings to connect with parents and families and hear the ways in which they can assist parents with any social emotional needs they have questions on regarding how their child behaves in the community or at home. Lastly, the Mental Health Consultants work collaboratively with parents by providing insight into early childhood behaviors and social/emotional development, as well as how to access additional mental health resources and support for their child(ren) or themselves in the community.

Public School Partnerships

Upbring Head Start Preschool partners with public schools to help provide additional support to preschool programs. These Partnerships play a crucial role in providing high-quality early childhood education and support services to young learners. These partnerships enable school districts to extend their resources and expertise to enhance the educational experiences of preschool children, ensuring they are well-prepared for kindergarten and beyond. By partnering, Upbring Head Start Preschool and school districts can share best practices, curriculum resources, and professional development opportunities, fostering a seamless transition for children as they move from early childhood settings into formal schooling. These partnerships strengthen community ties and promote family engagement, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes for children and their families.

Special Programs

Special education services are governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and regulations outlined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Upbring is committed to providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to ensure all students with disabilities can access, participate in, and thrive in early learning settings.

Upbring's Special Programs Department works in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may need special education services. Special Programs Specialists (SPS) actively support Head Start classrooms by developing and maintaining strong relationships with LEAs and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to guarantee children's and family's needs, program goals, and objectives are being met. In addition, SPS supports teachers in implementing inclusive practices in classrooms to meet the needs of students requiring additional support. Special Programs Specialists assist parents with the LEA referral process if a disability is suspected, ensuring that students receive appropriate evaluations and services tailored to their needs.

