

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Early Childhood Development Department is under the umbrella of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Education Division and is comprised of five programs:

- Leech Lake Head Start
- Leech Lake Early Head Start
- Leech Lake Child Care Services
- Leech Lake Child Care Aware Baseline
- MN Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care (MN TREC)

Coordination within these programs, ensure that comprehensive early childhood services are available to children between the ages of 6 weeks through 5 years old.

Program objectives

- To provide early childhood opportunities that will prepare children for success in school and incorporate life long learning skills.
- To support families in their effort to nurture their children and be their child's primary educator.
- To support families in their effort to provide quality services and a positive learning environment.

Leech Lake Child Care Services is your local
Child Care Aware



LEECH LAKE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Early Childhood Division respects the values of the Band and the people we serve. We strive to implement services and policies that will enhance our children's social and educational growth. We respect the role of parents as their child's primary educator and commit our time and resources to the growth and development of all our children and families.

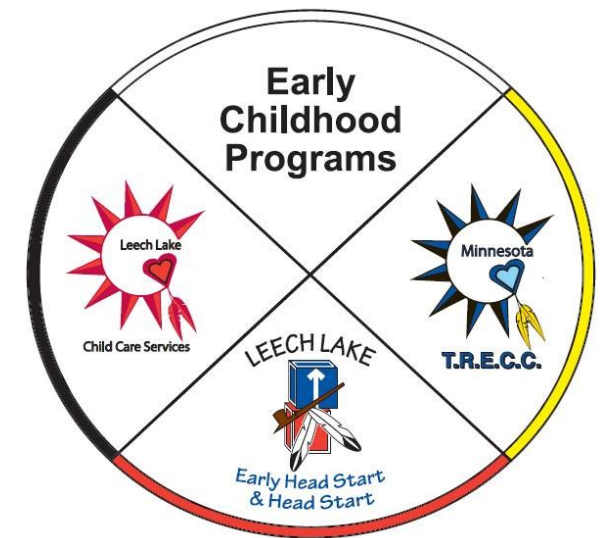
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LEECH LAKE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



CHILDREN ARE NOT VESSELS TO BE
FILLED BUT LAMPS TO BE LIT.

Swami Chinmayananda



HEAD START PROGRAM



EARLY HEAD START

MISSION STATEMENT

Leech Lake Head Start provides quality services to empower children, families and staff. We provide experiences that foster social emotional development and school readiness. We promote safe and healthy lifestyles through family partnerships, nutrition, health and transportation services. We provide opportunities to educate parents / guardians to become prime educators and advocates for their children. We hold the Anishinaabeg Language and Traditions to the highest degree with respect and value for other cultures.

Head Start Program

Days & Hours of Operation: Our classrooms are open 9 months a year. Monday—Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. To accommodate the families, we accept children into their classroom as early as 7:30am.

Enrollment: Please bring the following items with you when enrolling you child into Head Start:

- Child's Birth Certificate, Immunizations & Income Verification

Selection Criteria Priorities are as follows:

1. Children with a Disability
2. Returning Students
3. Low Income Families
4. High Risk Children: Single parent, Foster children, Children living w/ Grandparents or Parents are incarcerated
5. Children of Leech Lake Tribal members
6. Children of other Federally Recognized Tribe
7. Children eligible for Kindergarten or who have not yet received Head Start services
8. Children of Non-tribal members
9. Children who turn three between 9/1 - 12/31 of the year.

Classroom locations are as follows:

7 in Cass Lake, 1 in Bena, Ball Club, Sugar Point, Inger, Onigum, & Bemidji.

Bus Runs: Our reservation is set in a rural area, our bus runs range from across the street to 140 miles round trip.

Early Head Start Program

Days & Hours of Operation: Our class rooms are open 11 months a year, September—July being closed in August. We have class Monday—Friday daily from 7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. depending on which center your child attends.

Selection Criteria Priorities are as follows:

1. Teen Parent still attending High School
2. A Homeless Native American Family
3. A Native American Child with a diagnosed IFSP and receiving services
4. Single Parents of Low Income Families
5. Parents Attending Post Secondary School Full time
6. Native American Children Placed in Foster Care
7. Families living within the designated Service Area of the Leech Lake Reservation

Classroom locations are as follows:

Cass Lake - Bena - Ball Club - Onigum

HOURS

Ball Club & Onigum: 7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Cass Lake & Bena: 7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

CAPACITY

Cass Lake can take 24 children

Bena, Ball Club & Onigum can each take 12 children.

We also provide services for pregnant mothers.



MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the quality, affordability and capacity of child care through advocacy, supporting parental choice and expanding & strengthening the child care delivery system.

We promote building community through partnership, coordination and collaboration.

LOCAL SERVICES

Caregiver Services: We offer support and information on child care development issues regarding business practices, health & safety, licensing, maintaining your license and other issues surrounding your child care business. We also offer training at low or no cost. Our services are available to licensed and non-licensed providers.

Family Services: This program provides financial assistance to low-income American Indian families to subsidize payments for quality child care while parents/ guardians work, participate in an education/training program or looking for work. We also, provide parents with support and information on child care issues such as quality care, child development, tax benefits, health & safety, cost of care and other family needs. Our services are limited to families and providers residing within the Leech Lake Reservation boundaries or within five miles of that boundary.

STATEWIDE SERVICES

Our statewide program is called Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care (MnTRECC) and we serve as a foundation and a link where child care and other early childhood programs can gain access to resources and information that will enhance and strengthen the child care delivery system for American Indian children and families throughout the state of Minnesota. We also offer grants and technical assistance to all American Indian child care providers within Minnesota and trainer support to American Indian trainers.