



Indiana Head Start Association

[www.indianaheadstart.org](http://www.indianaheadstart.org)

## **Family Stability and Well-Being – How Head Start Continues to Support Families & Communities during COVID-19**

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“More than ever, communities in Indiana are depending on their local Head Start programs—for early childhood education, absolutely—but also for so much more.” That’s what Rhett Cecil, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Indiana Head Start Association, recently said when discussing the myriad of creative solutions that Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Indiana have implemented to support the children and families served by the programs across the state of Indiana during the COVID-19 crises.

### **How does the work continue in the midst of the COVID-19 crises?**

While most Head Start programs are not operating school-based, center-based or home visiting services right now, Hoosier Head Start teachers and staff are continually connecting with children and families in creative ways. Teachers and staff are employing a variety of tools to stay connected with their children and families – through text messages, email, phone calls, home and virtual visits, Zoom and Facebook. CAPE Head Start of Posey County has seen its team utilize Facebook to post videos and virtually read books with their children, as well as stopping by homes to see children and their families from a safe distance and drop off educational packets for the children to work on.

The Head Start programs in our state have also labored to connect their families to provide social support and much needed resources as well. Human Services, Inc.’s Head Start-Early Head Start programs in Jackson, Brown, Decatur, Shelby, Johnson, and Bartholomew counties have worked to provide their families much needed household items such as toilet paper and soap, diapering supplies, and food items to name just a few. In addition, the staff at Human Services, Inc. worked diligently to provide their families with resources for utility and rent assistance, employment and health insurance, and home internet through partnerships with Comcast and AT&T.

It has been awhile since things have been "normal" for all of us .Creative solutions and caring teams, teachers, and staff demonstrate how Indiana’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs continue their commitment to the education, health and safety of children, and to the wellbeing of the whole family, can make a meaningful difference during this challenging time.

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