

How Our Programs Work

DCP partners with parents to prepare children for school and to support family goals. Parent engagement is the cornerstone of our programs.

We provide:

- A safe environment for learning through play, indoors and out
- Evidence-based curriculum, individualized to meet each child's needs
- A nutritious, breakfast, lunch, and snack at no cost to parents
- Child screenings with ongoing progress reports to parents

Apply for Early Childhood Programs

To apply for Early Childhood Programs, complete the online application on our website or contact us for more information.

Main Office

248 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605

For a complete listing of DCP program sites, visit our website.



www.downeastcommunitypartners.org

Contact Us

207-610-5187

enrollment@dcpcap.org



Early Childhood Programs

Your Head Start to Lifespan Opportunities
in Hancock and Washington Counties



We're Here to Help Kids Love to Learn.

At Downeast Community Partners (DCP), we understand that the first years of life are critical to healthy development and lifelong learning. We know that the best thing we can do to support healthy growth and development for children is engage parents and families in the process. As such, DCP's Early Childhood Programs exist to support the whole family while providing high-quality early care and education to children throughout Hancock and Washington counties. We welcome all children and work with the family, and other providers as needed, to determine the best program and developmental goals for each child. All of our staff share the same commitment: We're here to help kids love to learn.

Our Locations

We proudly offer a variety of programs and partnerships throughout Hancock and Washington counties. Visit our website for a current listing of locations.

Program Types

Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to five by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development and partnering with the whole family to provide supports and resources.

Pre-K

We partner with schools that have Pre-K programs to provide school readiness along with the rich family support services that Head Start offers.

Childcare

We provide childcare in three of our locations for children ages 6 weeks to school age. We accept state and private subsidies and have funds available for families who need care immediately while they are awaiting other subsidies.

Family Futures Downeast

Family Futures Downeast (FFD) is a 2-generation college program designed for parents and their children, empowering the whole family to achieve their goals. While parents attend specially designed online courses, DCP staff provide educational and family supports.

Staff Qualifications

- All teachers have degrees in early education or related fields. All infant and toddler caregivers are certified in infant and toddler development and many have degrees in early education.
- All staff have completed extensive training, including CPR, first aid, emergency preparedness, trauma and resiliency, developmentally appropriate practices, and family engagement.
- All DCP Early Childhood Programs are licensed by the State of Maine.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursements for healthy meals and snacks that are prepared in our programs and for children in family home daycares sponsored by DCP.