**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, E.O.C.**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**1304.21; 1304.21 (a) (2) (iii); 1304.40 (d); 1304.40 (e); 1304.40 (e) (1-4); 1304.40 (e) (4) (i-ii); 1304.40 (e) (5); 1304.40 (i)**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION

**POLICY:**

The program provides opportunities to include parents in the development of the program’s curriculum and approach to child development and education.

**PROCEDURE:**

**1.0 Parent Involvement in Child Development and Education**

1.1 The program, when operating Home School program options, builds upon the principles of adult learning to assist, encourage, and support parents as they foster the growth and development of their children.

1.2 The program provides opportunities for parents to enhance their parenting skills, knowledge, and understanding of the educational and developmental needs and activities of their children and to share concerns about their children with their Family Service Advocate or Home Base Teacher/ Home Visitor and Classroom Teacher.

1.3 The program provides, either directly or through referrals to other local agencies, opportunities for children and families to participate in family literacy services by:

1. Increasing family access to materials, services, and activities essential to family literacy development
2. Assisting parents as adult learners to recognize and address their own literacy goals.

1.4 Home Base Teacher/Home Visitors provide resources, materials, and services to families that address the four major activities defining family literacy in Head Start:

1. Parent and child interactive literacy activities
2. Training for parents as the primary teachers of their children
3. Parent training that leads to economic/financial self-sufficiency
4. Age-appropriate education for children that prepares them for success in school and life.

1.5 In addition to the two home visits, Teachers in center-based programs conduct staff-parent conferences, as needed, but no less than two per program year, and one socialization session to enhance the knowledge and understanding of both staff and parents of the educational and developmental progress and activities of children in the program.