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BakerRipley's Head Start Program: Nurturing Young Minds for a Bright Future

BakerRipley, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to empowering emerging communities, is highlighting its renowned Head Start Program, a flagship initiative that has been at the forefront of early childhood education in Texas. With a rich history spanning from the program's inception, BakerRipley has become a pioneer in developing and implementing Head Start programs, authoring the playbook for Texas.

Head Start is a federally funded program aimed at promoting school readiness among infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. BakerRipley's Head Start Program encompasses three distinct offerings: Home-Based, Early Head Start, and Head Start, each tailored to meet the specific needs of children and families.

The Home-Based program, known as Savoy Home Based, is a comprehensive school readiness program that not only focuses on the child's development but also supports the entire family. Through 90-minute weekly visits in the comfort of their homes, families receive comprehensive services such as parent education opportunities, disabilities services, family support, monthly socializations, and referrals. This program is available for prenatal women and families with children under the age of 3.

Early Head Start caters to children from six weeks to three years of age. It provides a nurturing and enriching environment designed to foster infants' and toddlers' physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. With a low teacher-to-child ratio, infants and toddlers receive individualized attention and care. All necessary supplies, including meals, snacks, diapers, and infant formula, are provided.

Head Start, designed for children aged 3 to 5, is a comprehensive school readiness elevation program. The curriculum is aligned with the Pre-K curriculum adopted by the State of Texas, covering a wide range of subjects such as science, math, literacy, writing, art and music. Certified teachers, aided by a teacher assistant, guide children through engaging lessons, activities, and play. Nutritious meals and snacks are also included.

About BakerRipley

BakerRipley brings resources, education, and connection to more than half a million people throughout Texas each year. For more than a century, BakerRipley has offered innovative solutions to uplift and empower underserved communities as they pursue opportunities that create new and better lives for themselves and their families. BakerRipley is a United Way Agency. www.bakerripley.org #BakerRipley



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One of the key aspects of BakerRipley's Head Start program is the emphasis on parent engagement. Recognizing parents as their child's first teachers, BakerRipley actively involves families in their child's education journey. Each family enrolled in the Head Start program is assigned a Family Development Worker (EDV) or a Home Visitor (HV), committed to establishing a strong partnership with parents. Each EDV or HV helps families identify personal goals and offer support by using their own strengths, community resources, networking and education. A dedicated program for fathers fosters special memories and bonding opportunities with their children.

BakerRipley's Head Start Program has been recognized as a feeder for BakerRipley Community Schools, ensuring a seamless transition for children from early childhood education to elementary school. The program aims to prepare children academically, socially, and behaviorally for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Families interested in enrolling their children in BakerRipley's Head Start, Early Head Start, or Home-Based programs can do so by contacting (713) 273-3211 or by completing the online application available. Applications are accepted year-round. To learn more information about Head Start or apply online, go to bakerripley.org.

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