

DELAWARE STARS PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT:



Wilmington Head Start, West 3rd Street Center

Learning and Love Team Up for Success

April 2019

You can't help but smile when you visit the Wilmington Head Start Child Care Center located on West 3rd Street. In classroom 4, a four-year old wanders up to his teacher, Miss Jennifer and says with all sincerity, "I love you with all my heart." Miss Jennifer Wynn and Miss Elizabeth Burton are just one of the center's team of teachers, all whom have created a safe, secure and loving atmosphere where learning thrives.

This sentiment is a reflection of the very strong relationships between children and teachers at this center. "It all starts with engaged teachers," said Cindy Gibbs, the education specialist and curriculum coordinator that has been working with Wilmington Head Start programs for more than 25 years. "We have devoted teachers and a supportive staff which results in our teachers having confidence; therefore, they are willing to try new things and grow in the classroom."

"Here, the teachers support each other and encourage each other," added Cherise Moore, center manager. "We are a big family."

In addition to the strong teaching staff, both Cherise and Cindy credit their program's success to PATHS®. The PATHS curriculum is a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior problems in young children while simultaneously enhancing the educational process in the classroom.



This is the center's second year working with the curriculum and according to Cindy, "We are already seeing positive outcomes. The activities we do from PATHS quickly bonds the teacher and the child."

Finally, their work with Delaware Stars is another component of what makes this center effective. "Working with Stars holds us accountable," said Cindy. "Stars helps us implement and attain that teacher and child interaction."

"Stars has taught us that there is always room for improvement," added Cherise. "Because of Stars, we are always striving to better take care of children and their needs."