I-CARE, Inc.
2026-2027 Head Start Application

Head Start is a comprehensive Early Childhood Education program that contributes to children's learning and development through a content rich curriculum (Creative Curriculum), learning experiences, along with School Readiness & Parent, Family and Community Engagement Goals. Head Start accepts applications throughout the year, children must have reached their 3rd birthday on or before **August 31, 2026,** to be considered for enrollment. Falsifying information can result in your child losing their enrollment slot in the program. If your address or telephone number changes, please contact I-CARE, Inc. Head Start with the changes at (828) 464-1108. Applications can be mailed to **I-CARE, Inc. Head Start, P.O. Box 7049, Statesville, NC 28687, or dropped off at the Newton location listed below.**

This is not an NC Pre-K application. For more information about NC Pre-K, please call 828-695-6505.

Instructions and Information for Application

Required Documentation	☐ Complete Application ☐ Proof of Birth, Certified copy of Birth Certificate ☐ Medicaid or Insurance Card ☐ Immunization Record ☐ Attach proof of total household yearly income from all sources to the applications ▪ Paycheck stubs for the last month for jobs worked must match the name on the application. *If paystubs are not available, you may submit the following:* ▪ W-2's or tax return for the previous year **or** ▪ Letter from your employer with income information ☐ If the following income applies, we also need verification of: ▪ Social Security, SSI or SSDI (Award Letter) ▪ Cash Assistance (SNAP, TANF/Work First) (DSS Award Letter) ▪ Child Support (Award Letter, copy of checks or DSS printed copy) ▪ Veteran's Benefits (Award Letter) ▪ Unemployment/Worker Comp (Copy of Check) ▪ Pell Grant (Award Letter) ☐ If you declare **no income**, I-CARE, Inc. will provide a Verification of Declaration of Zero Family Income form that must be completed by applicant
Eligibility	**Age:** Children must be between ages 3-4 **Income:** I-CARE, Inc. Utilizes the Federal Poverty guidelines published each year. Families who are at or below the guidelines will be selected first. **Family Situation:** Families experiencing homelessness or children in foster care will be selected first. **Disability and/or Delay**: Children with a diagnosed disability, delay, or suspected delay will be given priority points to provide a continuum of services with local providers and local school systems.
Selection Process	Upon receipt of required documentation, your child's application will go through a Selection Criteria process. The child will then be enrolled, if an opening is available, or placed on the waiting list if there are no openings. Completion of the application and submission of required documents does not guarantee enrollment into the HS/EHS program. Families will be notified by phone and letter whether their child will be enrolled or placed on the waiting list.
Fees	There is no cost to attend Head Start There is no cost for meals served (breakfast, lunch, snack)
Calendar	Same as Local Education Agency (subject to change)
Classroom Learning Environment	Some learning environments for preschoolers will have combination (3/4-year old's), 3-year-old, and 4-year-old classrooms. All learning environments will make accommodation (if applicable) to the needs of specific populations (disabilities, foster care, and homelessness, etc.)

Head Start Classroom Location

Newton Head Start (249 East N St. Newton, NC 28658)