Durant MS
Early Childhood Resource Guide

EXCEL BY 5
CANDIDATE
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY
DURANT

Durant, MS
City Hall  662-653-3314

EXCELLENCE IN EARLY LEARNING FOR
DURANT CHILDREN
Building a strong constituency for a child-friendly community
Durant Excel by 5 Coalition

Early Childhood Resource Guide

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Dr. Seuss Birthday Party sponsored by MMRLS at Durant Library --- Mrs. Linday Fitts reads to Genesis Daycare students from Dr. Seuss books.

Fun Day at Durant Head Start, Spring 2014
INTRODUCTION

In our Durant, MS Community, parents, teachers, caregivers and other supporters are working in a shared effort to enhance early childhood resources available to families in our area. Durant Excel by 5 Coalition members and partners, with direction from Mississippi Excel by 5, offer this compilation of information about access to resources provided in our community for education, health care, and family support.

FOR EMERGENCIES call 911 or

Durant Police Department 662-653-6846
Holmes County Sheriff 662-834-1511
University Medical Center Hospital 662-834-1321

GENERAL LOCAL INFORMATION

Durant City Hall 662-653-3314
P. O. Box 272, Durant, MS 39063
253 West Mulberry St. Fax-662-653-6847

Holmes County Supervisors 662-834-0911

Holmes County Chamber of Commerce 662-834-3372
104 West China Street, Lexington, MS 39095
Fax-662-834-4544 www.holmescountymississippi.com

Preschool Resources Online
Website: www.msucares.com/childcare
PRESCHOOL / CHILDCARE

Creative Kids Childcare & Learning Center
357 Washington St., Durant, MS 662-653-3323

Genesis Day Care
164 N. Jackson St., Durant, MS 662-653-3261
Dora Christian, Director

Durant Head Start
1865 E. Magnolia St., Durant, MS 662-653-6542
Ida Studway, Director

Early Childhood Institute, Miss. State University
Starkville, MS
www.earlychildhood.msstate.edu/resources
Mississippi Child Care Quality Rating System

Participating licensed child care facilities can earn quality ratings of One, Two, Three, Four and Five Stars. All licensed child care facilities in the state are eligible for participation in this program. The more stars a facility has earned, the higher the quality of care that is provided. More stars = more quality for your child.

Facilities will receive monitoring visits and evaluations of their program. The Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS) and the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) are the two evaluation tools used by this system.

Participating child care facilities will make improvements in these areas:
Program Administration, Professional Qualifications of Staff, Child Learning Environment, Family Involvement and Program Evaluation

Benefits for children and families enrolled in a participating center include the following.
  Age appropriate learning environments
  Educated teaching staff skilled in age-specific methods
  Increased health and safety standards
  School readiness through the implementation of the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines
  Transition to kindergarten plan and portfolio
  Increased family involvement with the early childhood program and parenting resources and information
  Frequent information about the development of the child
  Skills that promote self-discipline

This system is funded by DECCD and implemented by the Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute. Participation is voluntary.
National Head Start Association
Comments on Pre-K Development Grants

Date Posted: 03/20/2014
“This is the moment we have all hoped for. It is a moment we intend to seize. While a comprehensive Pre-K program remains a vision for tomorrow, these grants represent an immediate opportunity to expand access to high quality early learning programs today.” The National Head Start Association submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Education on the Pre-K Grant process, highlighting the need for “a focus on high standards, a mixed delivery model, and strong partnerships among local providers for these grants to be successful.”
EDUCATION

Central Mississippi, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Program serves 6 counties within Central Mississippi. A total of 10 Head Starts and 3 Early Head Starts are served by this program. CMI mission statement is to provide quality services to children and families through partnerships. The Durant Head Start Center, one of six in Holmes County, is located within Durant and serves 100 children between the ages of three and five years old. The Durant Center presently has 17 staff members. Children who attend the Durant Center participate in a variety of educational activities. They also receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing indoors and outdoors in a safe setting. Head Start provides children with activities that help them to grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically.

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Durant Public School District -- Our mission is to increase academic achievement by providing quality instruction for every student. Durant Public School District embraces the principle that all students can learn. We are here to provide the challenges and help needed to ensure that students reach their academic potential and become positive, contributing members of society. Only through a shared responsibility among the students, educators, families, and community can students’ success be guaranteed. The staff at Durant Public School District is committed to preparing all students for a global, competitive society.

Preschool Resources Online
www.earlychildhood.com
Mississippi Library Partnership

The mission of the MLP is to provide a central database that patrons can utilize to provide easy access to resources available among 55 member libraries. Established in 1993 by Miss. State University and Miss. University for Women, the Partnership continues to impact libraries and provide exceptional service to its members. For more information visit:  http://library.msstate.edu/mlp

Durant Public Library
15338 North Jackson Street, Durant, MS 39063-3708
Hours 8 – 5 Monday thru Friday Phone: 662-653-3451
Fax: 662-653-3108    Dial-A-Story: 662-834-9282

Durant Public Library serves the citizens of Durant, MS in Holmes County and the surrounding area. It is a branch of Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, Kosciusko, MS, which is a member of the Miss. Library Partnership, based at and managed by the Miss. State University Libraries. MMRLS strives to provide quality up-to-date materials, technology, programming and services, along with life-long learning opportunities to its customers of all ages. In addition to checking out books, library customers have access to DVD’s, computers, audio tapes, fax, computer classes, and many online databases. To assist with the early childhood educational needs of its community, the Durant Branch offers the Early Literacy Station for ages 2 – 10, and for those who have special needs. There is summer programming for three age groups: 3-4, 5-11, and teens. We offer monthly story hours and puppet shows for Head Start and area day care centers and are available to present story hours to elementary grades at local public schools. It’s never too early to start learning, and Durant Public Library has much to offer.

BEST OF ALL – IT’S FREE
Genesis Day Care, Dora Christian, Director

Motto: “Where every child receives an early start”

The goal and purpose of Genesis Day Care is to provide healthy, safe, affordable, accessible child care to low socioeconomic and impoverished families located in (but not limited to) Durant, MS, and surrounding areas of Holmes County. Our philosophy incorporates open communication between staff and parents in a safe and stimulating environment that enriches the children through these important first years.

At Genesis Day Care we are committed to providing a healthy, clean, safe, comfortable, loving environment, where they can learn, play and grow. To fulfill this goal, we are focused on providing the children with a sense of respect for self and others. We promote the value of structure and flexible schedules. Structured activities will include the use of curriculum for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, which includes regular reading times, arts and crafts, and musical activities. Outdoor play, free play, birthday parties, and educational videos are some of the more flexible activities we provide. Our priority is to have FUN! Play is a child’s work; therefore having fun is a top priority and is built into all daily activities.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Encyclopedia of Early Childhood Development

This Encyclopedia, published on the Internet, is available free of charge. It covers topics related to the development of the child, from conception to the age of five, and presents the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.


Between the Lions

This site is for children ages 4 to 7 to promote literacy, but has information for parents and teachers that go along with the children's site. The site includes stories, games, coloring pages, and more.

www.pbskids.org/lions/
NURTURING HOMES INITIATIVE
Growing Mississippi’s Children

www.nurturinghomesinitiative.org  662-325-3083
Laletrice Fletcher, Field Technical Assistant  601-826-1187
Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network

MISSION: To Improve the quality of the early educational experiences provided in family childcare homes through mentoring, improving the learning environment, and delivering research-based information.

WHO QUALIFIES: In-home childcare providers who provide full-day, full-year childcare services to children from birth to 5 years of age.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Through one-on-one visits to your home, our field technical assistants will support your goals and model appropriate activities for children from birth to five.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: Provided to correspond with lessons, you will receive valuable educational resources that engage and inspire young learners. These materials will foster creativity while enhancing your learning centers.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL ONLINE: Individuals seeking professional development can obtain a variety of online professional childcare training services through the Nurturing Homes Initiative’s affiliation with Mississippi State University.

Mailing Address: Miss. State Extension Service, Nurturing Homes Initiative, Box 9745, Mississippi State, MS  39762
SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Executive Dir. H. S. McMillan 800-443-1000
1281 Hwy 51 North (P. O. Box 1698)
Madison, MS  39110
Highway 82, Greenwood, MS  800-704-3759

Child Protective Services, MS Dept. of Human Services
www.mdhs.state.ms.us  Local contact:  662-834-1221

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Holmes County Health Department  662-834-3142

Holmes County Hospital and Clinic
Lexington, MS, operated by the University of Mississippi Medical Center since April of 2000. Prior to becoming part of UMC, the hospital was Methodist Healthcare of Middle Mississippi and before 1984 was known as Holmes County Community Hospital.  662-834-1321

Mallory Community Health Center
Dewery Montgomery, Director
Durant  662-653-0505  Mon-Thurs 8 – 5:30; Fri 8 - 1
Lexington  662-834-1857  Mon, Wed – Fri 8 – 5;
             Tues 8 – 7; Sat 8 – 1

Since 1993, MCHC has been working to assure that all persons regardless of their ability to pay have access to quality, comprehensive, cost effective primary health care services. Established in Lexington, the Center now services the regions with four additional clinics in Canton, Tchula, Vaiden, and Durant.
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Information website: www.mallorychc.org
Mallory Community Health Center states objectives of their services in Durant and Holmes County. “Our doctors really care about the well-being of every patient. With a focus on infant mortality, teenage pregnancy, and health and nutrition education, MCHC is dedicated to ensuring the next generation of Central Mississippi children and their families have a good healthy start.”

Durant Physicians

Dr. Fletcher Shrock
North West Ave Durant 662-653-3011

Dr. Sarita Glover-Jackson, FNP
Glover Primary Care 662-653-3999

Dentist:
Dr. Daryl Roby
15423 North Jackson St., Durant 662-653-3880

General Dentistry Services provided by Dr. Roby are oral health instructions to child and parent, oral health supplies, cleaning and fluoride, behavioral-management problems referrals, orthodontics referrals.

Pharmacies

Howell & Heggie Drug Store
NW Depot St., Durant 662-653-6441

Fred’s Pharmacy
Hwy 12 West, Durant 662-653-3007
COUNTY COURTS

Chancery Clerk: Henry Luckett
P. O. Box 1211, Lexington, MS 39095
  hluckett@holmescountyms.org 662-834-2508

Circuit Clerk: Earline Wright-Hart
P. O. Box 718, 22549 Depot Street, Lexington, MS 39095
  ehart@holmescountyms.org 662-834-2476

Youth Court: Judge Robert Clark, Youth Court Referee
P.O. Box 179, Lexington, MS 39095 662-834-6133

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Medicaid / Human Services, Lexington, MS 662-834-1221

WIC Program, Lexington, MS 662-834-2140
  Women, Infants, and Children’s Nutrition

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Mississippi Employment Security Office 662-653-2426
  Lexington, MS

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Information Number 800-722-1213
  www.socialsecurity.gov

RECREATION

Holmes County State Park
  Main Office, State Park Road, Durant, MS 662-653-3351
SPECIAL EVENTS

Durant City / National Night Out – First week in August

Durant Library – Summer Reading Program
The Durant Public Library will be hosting its Summer Reading Program throughout June and July. Registration is open to all children, and programming is free.

From Durant School Supt. Louise Sanders-Tate: ltate@durant.k12.ms.us
Education is a joint effort; therefore, I ask parents to be involved in their child's education. I also ask them to find time to help their children complete school assignments, encourage their children to read, and teach their children to take responsibility for learning.

Ms. Rochelle Culp of Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, presented a program on health and fitness to Durant children registered in the Summer Library Program at Durant Public Library. Ms. Culp led the children in exercises and inspired them to eat healthy.
Fun Day  Spring 2014

Durant Head Start
DURANT EXCEL BY 5 COALITION received status as a Candidate Early Childhood Community after adoption of a charter and bylaws and approval by the State Excel by 5 Board. Pictured, left to right, with local supporters and members, are Sharron Cauthen, Dr. Daryl Roby, John Estep, Velma Smith, Arnita Knight, Mayor Tasha Davis and Chairperson Geraldine Sturgis, Laletrice Fletcher, Dora Christian, James Young, Sheta Riley, Supt. Louise Tate, and Ida Studway. The Coalition will operate under the leadership of a twelve-member Steering Committee with activities directed toward early childhood learning.

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SURVEY RESULTS: Durant Excel by 5 in April, 2014, conducted an informal survey of families with pre-kindergarten children, asking about community needs. In response to the question “What could the community do to better support families of young children?” parents listed

1. first “More community events for children” and
2. second “More educational programs for 0 - 5 children.”

When asked “What do you think are the biggest needs for young children, parents replied “love, security, stable home, and more activities for young children!”
Williams-Sullivan Visitors -- Durant Head Start transitional children visited Williams-Sullivan Elementary School in spring 2014. They were able to visit the new program they will attend in the fall. They met the kindergarten teacher and principal and toured the classroom and school.

Williams-Sullivan Elementary School offers pre-kindergarten to 4 year old children in the community we serve.

Williams-Sullivan Elementary is a part of the Holmes County School District and is located in Durant, Mississippi. The program is in its fourth year of implementation. The focus of pre-kindergarten at Williams-Sullivan Elementary is early literacy, early numeracy, and preparing our students to be life-long learners. Williams-Sullivan Elementary School is in partnership with the Barksdale Reading Institute to provide quality literacy instruction to all students. Barksdale Reading Institute also places literacy and other support personnel into the school and provides the school with related literacy materials and supplies, including those necessary to implement Accelerated Reader.

On-going professional development is provided to Williams-Sullivan Elementary teachers to deepen teachers' knowledge of reading instruction so that children will leave the third grade reading fluently and with comprehension at the 3rd-grade level.
Durant Mayor and Board of Alderpersons

Tasha Boyette-Davis, Mayor
P. O. Box 272
253 West Mulberry St., Durant, MS 662-853-3221

Board of Alderpersons
Barbara Booth Bo Patterson
Linda McDonald Ronnie Gladney
Henry Robinson, Jr.

Holmes County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 239, Lexington, MS 39095

Supervisor Dist. 1 Leonard Hampton 662-834-1758
Supervisor Dist. 2 James Young 662-653-3846
Supervisor Dist. 3 Debra Mabry
Supervisor Dist. 4 Larry Davis
Supervisor Dist. 5 Willie Townsend
Office 662-834-0911

The Holmes County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the most efficient and effective service to its citizens. We solicit the input of all citizens to make our county a better place to live. “There’s No Place Like Holmes.”

James Young, President
Holmes County Board of Supervisors
Mayor Tasha Davis, Head Start Reading Circle
Durant Library

Durant Excel by 5 Coalition
Steering Committee

Geraldine Sturgis, Chairperson
Supt. Louise Sanders-Tate, Vice-Chair, Certification Mgr.
Sharron Cauthen, Secretary
Tasha B. Davis, Mayor of Durant
Dora Christian, Genesis Day Care Center Director
Laletrice Fletcher, Nurturing Homes Initiative, MSU
Betty Hathcock, Librarian, Durant Public Library
Dewery Montgomery, Director Mallory Health Center
Ida Studway, Durant Head Start Director
Sheta Riley, Durant Head Start Family Services
Dr. Daryl Roby, Dentist, Durant
James Young, Durant, Holmes County Supervisor