Ozark Opportunities Inc. Child Development (Head Start & ABC Pre-K and Early Head Start) programs will be available in the following two options for the 2020-21 school year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We want to allow all families to determine the best educational option for their child. Options include the following:

✓ Option 1= Full-Time Classroom Instruction
  - Children will attend in person each day the school is regularly in session from 7:30 am. to 3:00 pm.

✓ Option 2= Home Based Learning (Project E.C.H.O.)
  - Children will primarily learn from home utilizing the ECHO Distance Learning Google Classroom™ platform as well as educational paper packets.

*NOTE: In the event of a school or center closure, children will be expected to transition to the online/paper-based learning method. Additional details of the program listed below.

About “Project ECHO”:

“Project ECHO” is a home-based curriculum providing 32 weeks of high-quality educational activities to children at home through various platforms. These learning platforms include a combination of IXL™, Google Classroom™, Zoom™, Google Meet™, and paper-based learning activities. The curriculum is designed to help parents/guardians to become educators at home.
Curriculum Elements:

**ECHO Google Classroom:** Each week, your child will engage in learning activities that can be completed at home. Every unit is filled with educational activities and corresponding videos for you to access at home. These videos include read-aloud books, recorded lessons from teachers, songs, and educational material for you to do with your child.

**IXL PRE-K:** IXL ([www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)) is a learning app that will help your child build math skills. IXL's skills are aligned to the Arkansas Curriculum Framework and the Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework for 3 & 4-Year-Old Children ([https://www.ixl.com/standards/arkansas/math](https://www.ixl.com/standards/arkansas/math)), and provides comprehensive coverage of math concepts and applications. Children can progress into Kindergarten skills after mastery of Pre-K. Teachers will be able to generate reports to track child progress throughout the school year. Children can access IXL thru a tablet, computer, or smart phone.

**Literacy Based:** Every child in the program will receive a minimum of one book corresponding to every unit topic. Parents and guardians will provide a minimum of two reading sessions each week with their child. Every unit has several read-aloud videos for you to view with your child.

**ZOOM/GOOGLE MEET Meetings:** Teachers will have one Zoom™ Meeting per week with their students as this will provide socialization skills via technology. Returning children will be able to see friends from last year as well as meeting other children. All children will be encouraged to communicate during the virtual call.

**Educational Packets:** All children will receive two-week paper packets that includes unit information and skill building activities. Parents will be expected to document all of the learning activities they completed with their child as well as returning a signature sheet for each unit. All programs have activities that are developmentally appropriate for infants, toddlers, and Pre-K aged children.

**Developmental Testing:** Children who are learning at home will be expected to complete three checkpoints for developmental testing throughout the school year. Teachers will work with parents to gauge the skill level of each child and pinpoint developmental goals throughout the school year.

**Parent Involvement:** Parents will be able to utilize parent meetings via the Ozark Opportunities, Inc. Child Development YouTube Channel each month. A monthly Parent Newsletter will be generated around socio-emotional skills, health, nutrition, financial literacy, safety, and modern parenting skills.

- **Parent Communication:**
  Parents/guardians will be provided with an Ozark Opportunities, Inc. OzarkOpp. Gmail account where they will receive links to assigned activities, parent meetings, and important information concerning health and safety. It will be a priority to help all families to access material via the internet. In the event a family cannot access the internet, there will be locations in the local community in which a Wi-Fi hotspot will be provided.
- **Technology:**
  We are also working hard to provide a tablet to every family in the program. Technology is limited all across the nation due to the high demand from all educational facilities. We will be serving families with no means of electronic devices first.

- **Supplies:**
  Families in both home-based and in-person learning will receive a backpack full of supplies to use at home. For children who are attending in person, these supplies will need to be reserved for the event that a location closes for an extended amount of time. This will provide families with all of the materials that they will need to complete all of the home-based activities while the child is in quarantine.

  *Questions???***

Our mission is to provide you with multiple options to help be your child’s first teacher. We are working hard to ensure that our facilities are safe and practicing CDC-recommended routines to maintain a safe environment. If a center cancels classes, we are asking that all families participate in the home-based program until we reopen.

If you have any questions about this year’s program options, you can call your Family Support Worker or call (870) 416-8705 for further information. We look forward to working with you and your child this year!