

The STARS Program: This program serves up to 22 Pre-K children ages 3 to 5. The program provides a very flexible and busy schedule designed to meet the needs of each child. Our early childhood programs use the Early Learning Guidelines Curriculum. This high-quality early childhood classroom has areas for children to work and play individually, in small groups, and in a whole group with the teacher as the learning leader. We call these areas “learning centers.” This program also has predictable times of day when teachers and children come together to share ideas, listen to stories, and plan their next activities. Daily lesson plans that support children’s mastery of specific competencies and objectives in the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines are posted weekly.

Planned curriculum activities help develop the social, emotional, physical and intellectual abilities of each child.

Project Joy is a grassroots nonprofit that uses the power of play to heal and strengthen children whose lives have been deeply impacted by fear and trauma. Our mission is pretty simple. It is to ensure that nothing destroys the playfulness of children (not poverty, not violence, not hurricanes). Project Joy is a grassroots nonprofit that uses the power of play to heal and strengthen children whose lives have been deeply impacted by fear and trauma. Our mission is pretty simple. It is to ensure that nothing destroys the playfulness of children (not poverty, not violence, not hurricanes). Nothing. We accomplish this by providing training and tools to frontline childcare providers who are caring for our nation’s most vulnerable children. Project Joy is a grassroots nonprofit that uses the power of play to heal and strengthen children whose lives have been deeply impacted by fear and trauma. Our mission is pretty simple. It is to ensure that nothing destroys the playfulness of children (not poverty, not violence, not hurricanes). Nothing. We accomplish this by providing training and tools to frontline childcare providers who are caring for our nation’s most vulnerable chil

It's really pretty simple, children learn and develop by playing, pretending, and interacting with other children. Healthy play comes naturally to most children, but at times, all children need some adult structure and support to help them play happily and safely.

This program is open **Monday thru Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM.** Both private and income based child care slots are available.

**STARS North - Located at North Hancock Elementary - Kim Cheek - 228-216-4041
Beachcheek@aol.com**

**STARS East - Located at East Hancock Elementary - Pernethyia Harmon - 228-493-2015
pharmon.starseast@gmail.com**

**STARS West - Located at West Hancock Elementary - Shannel Smith - 228-216-5764
starswesthc@gmail.com**

Private Rates : 400.00 per month - payment arrangements are as follows: On the 1st \$200.00 and the 15th \$200.00

After-Care is offered at STARS West Only

The after-care class is open from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Closed for the Summer.

After Care \$210.70 a month or \$105.35 twice monthly

The programs provide diversified activities and programs that meet the interests of all youth. Core programs engage youth in activities with adults, peers, family members and volunteers that enable youth to enhance their self-esteem and develop their full potential.

- Character and Leadership Development – Empower youth to support and influence their center and Community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and other’s cultural identities.
- Arts - Enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.
- Recreation, Fitness and Sports - Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.
- Education and Career Development - Enables youth to become proficient in basic educational

disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.