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[Watch a video about joining the Sunbeam family.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocKvT0tfnV0)  
[Download photos of Sunbeam’s Early Childhood Services.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sunbeamfamilyservices/albums/72157708724715984)

**Sunbeam Family Services to Enroll 120 Toddlers and Babies March 1  
Free Service Prepares Young Children for Kindergarten – Beyond**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – Sunbeam Family Services is working to enroll 120 babies and toddlers by March 1 in its free early childhood education centers to prepare them for kindergarten – and beyond. Children from birth to five, including those with disabilities and pregnant women who live in the greater Oklahoma City metro area, are eligible for enrollment in one of 20 locations.

“Sunbeam is a leader in early care and education,” said Paula Gates, chief program officer for early childhood services at Sunbeam. “Children who are not prepared to start school at age five are at risk of never catching up, leaving an achievement gap that can persist throughout their entire lives. That’s why this free service is so important to young children, their families and our community.”

To help children and families thrive, Sunbeam provides opportunities for families who might normally have difficulty accessing high quality early learning and care programs. By providing free full-day, full-year services, including Pierce Early Education Center, families are able to invest in their children during this crucial period of development. The nonprofit’s Early Head Start home-based program is also available for children ages birth to three.

“As the Early Head Start provider for central Oklahoma, we offer a low teacher-child ratio where children are able to receive more personalized attention from highly-educated staff,” said Gates. “That classroom model was designed to help maintain a positive learning environment.”

Families are essential to the success of the child. Through Sunbeam’s Early Childhood Services, each family has a dedicated family advocate who actively helps solve problems, locate resources within the community and achieve child and family goals. Families are also invited to volunteer with classrooms and are encouraged to apply for employment opportunities. This holistic approach addresses the needs of the whole family, including the personal and professional goals of the parent.

Sunbeam is committed to helping children develop strong social skills, including self-confidence, and emerge better prepared for kindergarten. By nurturing early learning, Sunbeam, their community partners and their families work together to close the achievement gap for our children.

To be part of this life-changing opportunity, apply at sunbeamfamilyservices.org/enroll, email enroll@sunbeamfamilyservices.org or call (405) 528-7721.

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About Sunbeam Family Services

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits and is one of the original United Way of Central Oklahoma Community partners. Sunbeam’s mission is to provide help, hope and the opportunity to succeed to people of all ages in central Oklahoma through Early Childhood, Counseling, Foster Care and Senior Services. To learn more, call 405-528-7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.