Department: Education	Approval Date: 5/9/2017	Policy Number: 4040
Regulation Number: 1302.21(b)(2) 1302.70(b)(1-2)	Regulation Topic: Education and Child Development	Policy Title: Early Head Start Continuity of Care and Head Start Multi-Age Grouping

Policy:

Early Head Start Continuity of Care

In a center-based Early Head Start classroom, each teacher must be assigned consistent, primary responsibility for no more than four children to promote continuity of care for individual children. A direct service provider must minimize teacher changes throughout a child's enrollment. Options for minimizing teacher changes include:

- Teachers moving with children from infant classrooms up to toddler classrooms (looping),
- Teachers and children in a similar age range starting together and staying together in one classroom during all the Early Head Start years (environmental continuity),
- One teacher who is the primary caregiver moving with half of the children up to an older classroom (primary caregiver tracking), or
- Teachers caring for infants and toddlers together in a multi-age setting (multi-age grouping).
- The same home-based educator will stay with the child and family throughout their enrollment in Early Head Start.

Head Start Multi-Age Grouping

Head Start children in center-based settings will be served in multi-age classrooms with 3- to 5-year-olds combined.

The same home-based educator will stay with the preschool child and family throughout their enrollment in Head Start.

Adherence to the above regulations and this policy is subject to random monitoring by MARC Head Start staff.

Effective Date: July 1, 2017