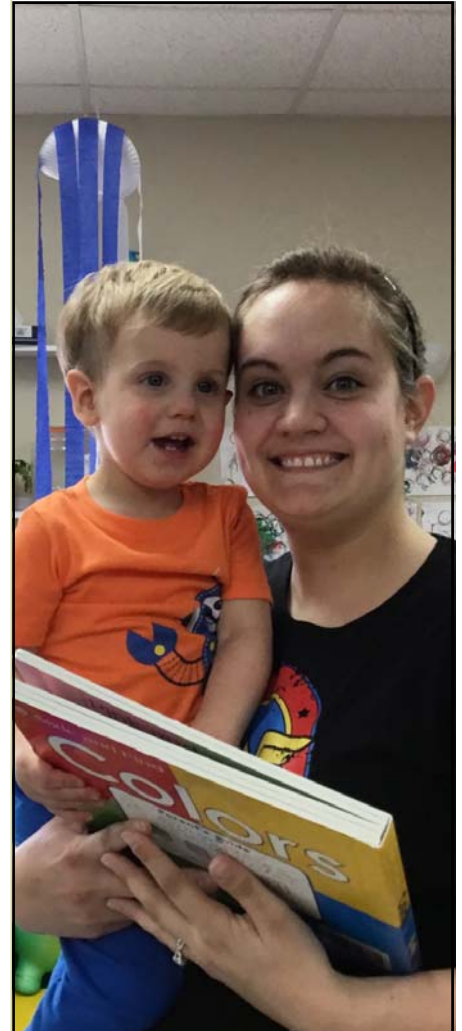




**Black River Area  
Development  
Corporation  
Child Development  
Programs**

**Annual  
Report  
2017-2018**



**BRAD Child Development Programs**

## OUR STORY

Black River Area Development Corporation (BRAD) is a community action agency and is the grantee for Head Start and Early Head Start services in Clay, Lawrence, Randolph and Cleveland Counties in Arkansas. Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs providing child and family development services for low-income families with children who are birth to five years in age. Current funded enrollment includes 188 Head Start children and families and 184 Early Head Start children and families.

BRAD Child Development Programs is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors whose members consist of representatives from the public, private and low-income sectors of the service area and by a Policy Council whose members consist of eleven parents of currently enrolled children and three community representatives.

*“Head Start/Early Head Start is the best place that my children could be in to learn and grow; the difference is amazing!” - Jean-Luc McCleskey*

### ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

Families who apply for enrollment in Head Start/Early Head Start provide information about household income and often current family circumstances that are considered for eligibility and enrollment. Families are prioritized for enrollment based on these factors.

During the 2017-2018 program year, families were enrolled in BRAD's Head Start and Early Head Start in these eligibility categories:

- 436 Income Eligible
- 22 Public Assistance
- 37 Foster Children
- 14 Homeless Children
- 10 Over Income
- 53 Between 100%-130% of poverty guidelines

Funded enrollment was maintained at 100% in Head Start and Early Head Start throughout the 2017-2018 program year.

### Mission•Vision•Core Values

**The mission of BRAD Child Development Programs is to close the achievement gap by focusing on positive child and family outcomes; resulting in a better future for children, families and communities.**

**The vision statement of the program is, “To be recognized as the best child development program in the nation.”**

**The program is based on the core values of excellence, respect, trust, partnership, life-long learning, integrity, care and compassion, teamwork, and professional growth. These values guide the approach to providing services to families that will enable them to accomplish goals and achieve many successes in life. We believe that if we strive for excellence in our work, the children and families we serve will reap the benefit of quality services that will have meaningfully impact their lives.**

## EDUCATION

BRAD Head Start/Early Head Start curriculum supports developmentally appropriate practices which promote child growth and school readiness. High quality learning takes place through play and positive interactions. The BRAD Head Start program uses the Ready to Shine Curriculum and Early Head Start uses Creative Curriculum System for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos. The curriculum supports the following five fundamental principles:

- Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play is essential to learning.
- The physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

In addition to academic focus, Head Start focuses on the social and emotional development of children to enhance academic success.

## ETHNICITY

10 Hispanic or Latino Origin • 512 Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino Origin

### RACE OF STUDENTS

- 1 Asian
- 18 Black or African American
- 2 Native Hawaiian or Pacific islander
- 491 White
- 3 Biracial/Multi-racial

### PRIMARY LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

- 499 English Speaking
- 1 Spanish Speaking
- 1 Middle Eastern/South Asian Language
- 2 Pacific Island Language
- 1 East Asian Language

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

- 11 Total Head Start Teachers
- 6 Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree
- 5 Teachers with an Associate's Degree
- 46 Early Head Start Teachers
- 13 Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree
- 11 Teachers with an Associates Degree
- 19 with Child Development Associate (CDA)
- 3 were enrolled in CDA

# SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Data from the 2018 update to the community assessment includes the following information about the service area:

- Total population in the service area continues to decrease. Total population decreased from 62,149 in 2000 to 58,545 in 2015 which is a decrease of 5.7%.
- Poverty rates have increased by 4.47% from 17.03% in 2000 to 21.5% in 2016.
- The racial make-up of the service area is 95.23% white, 2.18% black, .1% Asian, .56% Native American/Alaskan Native, .55% other races and 1.39% multiple races. This data shows increasing diversity in the service area. There is also a new population of Marshal Islanders who have migrated to our area for work at PECO. The Northeast Arkansas Migrant Program has identified 61 preschool-aged children in Randolph County.
- Numbers of children in foster services have increased from 185 in 2015 to 233 in 2017. This is an increase of 26%. In addition, approximately 6% of all households in the service area are headed by grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Numbers of families experiencing homelessness has increased. During the 2017-2018 program year, Head Start/ Early Head Start services were provided to 23 homeless families. All public schools in the service area report that so far in the 2018-2019 school year, 161 children in grades K-6 have been designated as homeless.
- In the total service area, there are approximately 2,135 children ages 0-3. Of this total, 667 are eligible for EHS services. There are approximately 1,422 children who are ages 3-5. Of this total, 444 are eligible for HS services.

Prevalent needs of children and families in the service area that have been identified and will be addressed in program planning for supports and services include:

- High rates of overweight and obese children and adults.
- The service area is designated as medically underserved.
- Improvement in access to mental health services for children and families.
- High rates of substance abuse in the service area, particularly increasing rates of opioid abuse.
- More and better paying job opportunities. 24.5% of surveyed parents reported this as a need for their family.
- Higher levels of education. 41.5% of surveyed parents reported this as a need for their family.
- 446 children ages 0-5 were diagnosed with disabilities. This is approximately 12% of the total population.

There are many strengths in our communities to address the above identified needs. BRAD Child Development Programs has developed strong effective relationships with public schools, local colleges, health providers, disabilities services providers, mental health providers, Workforce Services, social services providers, housing agencies, city and county governments and many more entities in our communities. With a common focus to address identified needs within the service area, we will work together to develop and strengthen resources to support children and families for success in school and life.

## Federal Review

From March 5-March 9, 2018, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a review for the Black River Area Development Corporation Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Based on the information gathered, no area of non-compliance was found during the course of the review. Accordingly, no corrective action was required.

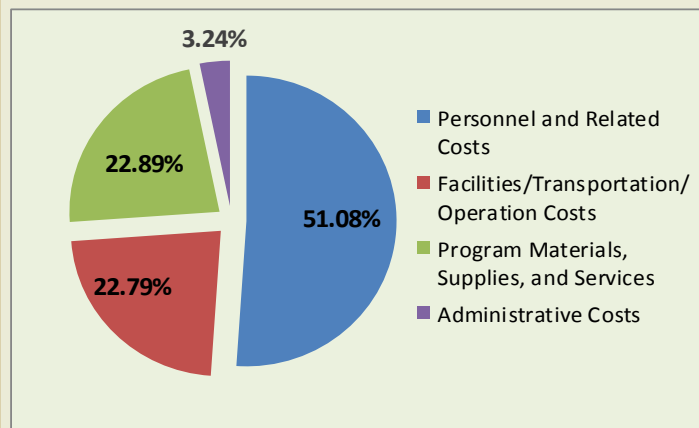
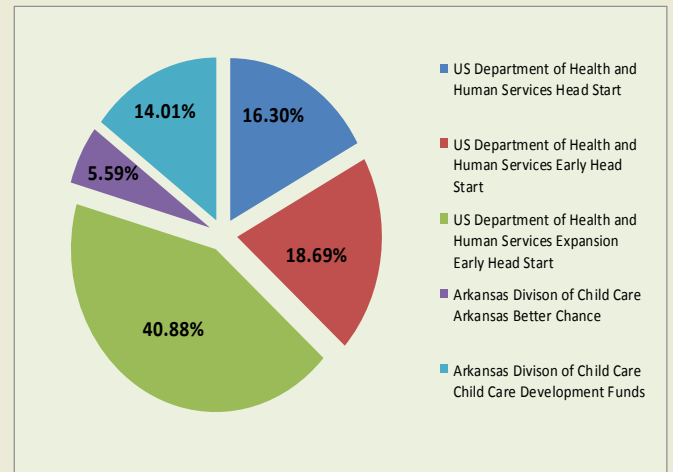
## Financial Audit

Welch, Couch & Company, PA audited Black River Area Development Corporation for the year ending April 30, 2018. It was reported that the BRAD Agency complied in all material respects with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the major federal programs. There were no audit findings.

# 2017-2018 Budget

## FUNDING SOURCES

US Department of Agriculture.....	\$363,585.00
US Dept. of Health and Human Services HEAD START .....	\$1,309,532.00
US Dept. of Health and Human Services EARLY HEAD START.....	\$1,501,292.00
Arkansas Division of Child Care ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE.....	\$449,306.00
Arkansas Division of Child Care CHILD CARE FUNDS.....	\$1,124,983.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,032,607.00</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Personnel and Related Costs.....	\$4,038,760.00
Facilities/Transportation/Operation Costs.....	\$1,802,210.00
Program Materials, Supplies, and Services.....	\$1,810,243.00
Administrative Costs.....	\$256,282.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,907,495.00</b>

## Projected Budgets for 2017-2018

### US Department of Health and Human Services Head Start

Personnel and Related Cost .....	\$975,603.00
Facilities/Transportation/Operation Cost .....	\$174,473.00
Program Materials, Supplies and Services.....	\$61,500.00
Administrative Costs .....	\$125,182.00
Training and Technical Assistance .....	\$ 19,549.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,356,307.00</b>

### US Department of Health and Human Services Early Head Start

Personnel and Related Cost .....	\$1,192,983.00
Facilities/Transportation/Operation Cost .....	\$155,830.00
Program Materials, Supplies and Services.....	\$67,133.00
Administrative Costs .....	\$110,292.00
Training and Technical Assistance .....	\$ 35,174.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,561,412.00</b>

### US Department of Health and Human Services Early Head Start Expansion

Personnel and Related Cost .....	\$713,446.00
Facilities/Transportation/Operation Cost .....	\$129,039.00
Program Materials, Supplies and Services.....	\$51,000.00
Administrative Costs .....	\$124,419.00
Training and Technical Assistance .....	\$ 42,370.00
Contractual Cost .....	\$715,961.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,776,235.00</b>

# SCHOOL READINESS

## ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN

Assessment of student learning is monitored and evaluated through the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD. TSG provides teachers software to organize information collected on children's learning into domains of development, objectives and dimensions of learning, and indicators of skill level. Each learning objective is arranged into a developmental progression that allows teachers to pinpoint a child's skill level for each objective. This data is then utilized to design lesson plans that are developmentally appropriate.

A commitment to the whole child is demonstrated by the support for social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. From family literacy to exploring math, science, and nature, Head Start inspires the love of learning in children.

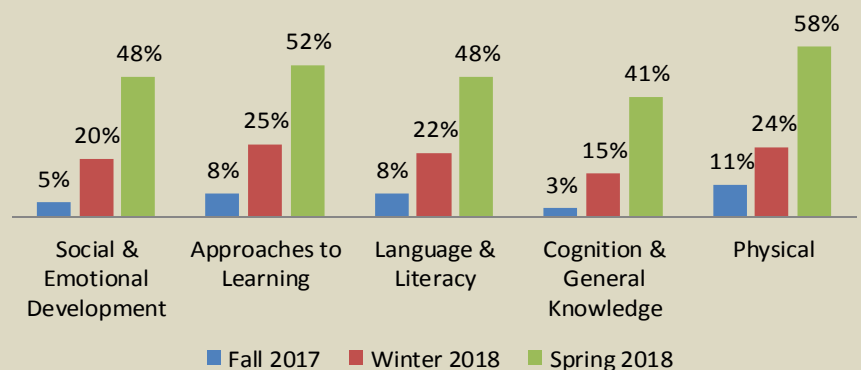


## WIDELY HELD EXPECTATIONS

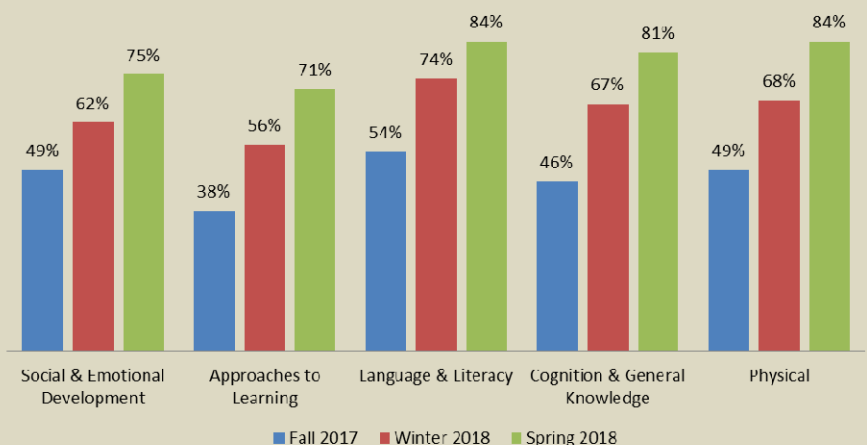
The Widely Held Expectations Report compares information about the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of an individual child, class, or other group with widely held development expectations for children of the same age or same class/grade. Children in BRAD Child Development Programs were compared to a nationally normed sample. The accompanying charts reflect how many children met or exceeded child development expectations for their age group. Teaching Strategies Gold is the source of this data.

## Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

### Head Start



### Early Head Start



## HEALTH SERVICES 2017-2018

Healthy children are children who are ready to learn. Head Start / Early Head Start families are connected with a medical home and a dental home in order to provide the family a continuous accessible source of care to support the child's healthy development and well-being. BRAD Head Start/Early Head Start staff support families to ensure that children are up-to-date on immunizations, have a current physical, and have a current dental exam.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

- 518 Established a medical home and received a physical exam
- 513 Children were identified as up-to-date on all immunizations.
- 21 Children were referred by the program for mental health services outside of Head Start.
- Of the 21 children referred by the program for mental health services, 6 of those children received services.

### DENTAL SERVICES

- 519 Children established a dental home and received an initial dental exam.
- 8 Children were diagnosed as needing additional dental treatment.

### NUTRITION SERVICES

BRAD provides nutrition services that are culturally and developmentally appropriate and meet the needs of and accommodates the feeding requirements of each child, including children with special dietary needs and children with disabilities. Each child receives meals and snack that provide one-half to two-thirds of the child's daily nutritional needs depending on the hours they attend. As required, BRAD uses funds from USDA as the primary source of payment for meal services. Head Start and Early Head Start funds are used to cover allowable costs not covered by USDA. All menus are planned by a registered dietician.

## DISABILITIES SERVICES

- 114 Children had an IEP indicating that they qualified to receive special education services.
- 32 Children entered the program with an IEP.
- 51 children of the were referred to and qualified for special education services during the school year.
- Non-categorical/developmental delay was the most frequently identified special education need.



## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Successful parent engagement is part of the foundation of child development services. Because BRAD Child Development Programs recognize parents as the first and most important educator of their child, the program seeks to develop partnerships with parents that will lead to the accomplishments of goals for both the child and family.

### Volunteers

- 480 persons volunteered services to Head Start/Early Head Start
- 435 of those were current or former Head Start Parents

### Children served in 2017-2018

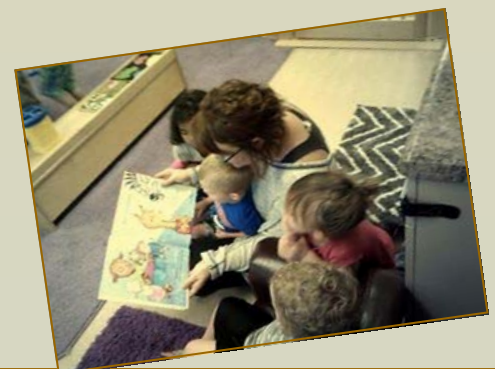
- 474 Total families were served in 2017-2018
- 237 Total Children Served in Head Start
- 296 Total Children Served in Early Head Start
- 101 < One Year Old
- 105 One Year Olds
- 122 Two Year Olds
- 109 Three Year Olds
- 98 Four Year Olds
- 13 Head Start children were in the program less than 45 days
- 13 Early Head Start children were in the program less than 45 days

## Parent Education

- 19 had an advanced degree
- 168 had an associate degree, vocational school, or some college
- 251 had a high school diploma or GED
- 36 had less than a high school diploma

### Families

- In 2017-2018 BRAD Child Development Programs served 474 families.
- 192 were two-parent families
- In 78 of those families, both parents were employed
- 100 families had one parent employed
- 14 families did not have either parent working
- 282 were single parent families
- In 191 of those families, the parent was employed
- In 91 of those families, the parent was not working
- In 25 families, 28 children experienced homelessness during the year
- 10 of those families acquired housing during the year





## Family Services and Opportunities

During the 2017-2018 program year, 100% of enrolled families participated in one or more of the following:

- Parent/Teacher conferences and home visits that provide opportunities for parent engagement in their child's education.
- Parent Committee and Policy Council meetings that provide the opportunity for involvement for engagement in decision-making.
- Opportunities to participate in curriculum assessment, menu planning, and health services advisory for input into health policies.
- Parent educational opportunities that included father engagement meetings, family learning parties, Marriage Garden Workshops, Adventures in Parenting, CPR training, Conscious Discipline training, Reading is Fundamental and other family literacy activities, family financial well-being, child and family health and safety, nutrition, family mental wellness and other topics of interest to families with young children.
- Parent and child at-home learning activities that are linked to the child's educational goals and provide learning opportunities for the child at home. During the 2017-2018 program year, parents volunteered 43,854 hours teaching their children at home using these activities.
- Individual Family Partnership Agreements that support and encourage families as they develop individualized goals to meet family needs to move the family forward to self-sufficiency.



## **Policy Council 2017-2018**

**Christina Boyd, Chairperson (James W. Graves CDC)**

**Lisa Barron (James W. Graves CDC)**

**Sierra Owen, Vice-Chairperson (Piggott Early CDC )**

**Harry Bageant (Piggott Early CDC)**

**Leslie Woodard (Walnut Ridge CDC)**

**Richard Dorris (Walnut Ridge CDC)**

**Sequoia Irvin (Walnut Ridge Early CDC)**

**Christy Welch (Walnut Ridge Early CDC)**

**Teresa Collett (Piggott CDC)**

**Jennifer Pointer (Piggott CDC)**

**Samantha Harrison (Virginia Atkison Early CDC)**

**Tatum Wood (Virginia Atkison Early CDC)**

**Cynthia Duke (Corning CDC)**

**Brittany Kepner (Corning CDC)**

**Kristan Russell (Oak Street Early CDC)**

**Brandy Mull (Black River CDC)**

**Kristie Dement (Black River CDC)**

**Laura Stanfield (Woodlawn)**

**Kayla Kelly (Woodlawn)**

**Katherine Pennington (Rison)**

**Teresa Barnett (Rison)**

**Katrina Causey (Lawrence Co. Community Representative)**

**Mary Wiedeman (Clay County Community Representative)**

**Tammie Lemmons (Randolph County Representative)**

**Vickie Mitchell (Non-voting member, Policy Council/BRAD Board Liaison)**

**BRAD Board of Directors  
2017-2018**

**Clay County**

**Alan Vaughn**

**Randall Godwin, Vice Chairperson**

**Angela Blankenship (*expertise in ECE*)**

**Jerry Chilcutt**

**Debra Finley**

**Lawrence County**

**Janice Shanks**

**Vickie Mitchell**

**(*fiscal expertise/policy council liaison*)**

**Mandy Durham (*expertise in ECE*)**

**Paige Van Brook (*current Head Start parent*)**

**Debi Hart**

**Randolph County**

**Jack McCord, Chairperson**

**Pat Johnson**

**Diana Dalton**

**Danny Ray Garrison**

**Ms. Omer Rogers**

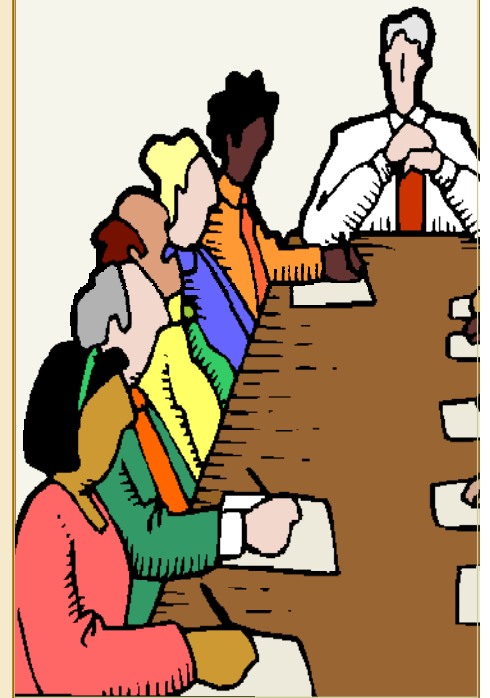
**Cleveland County**

**Stan Sadler**

**Missy Duke, Attorney (*legal expertise*)**

**BRAD Board of  
Directors**

**The BRAD Board of Directors is fiscally and legally responsible for the administration and oversight of all programs under the BRAD organization and for safeguarding federal and state funds. The board is actively involved in the oversight of the agency's programs, including but not limited to Head Start and Early Head Start.**



# CENTER LOCATIONS

## Walnut Ridge Child Development Center

*Pam Ray, Center Director*

901 State Street

Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

870-886-9284

[pray@bradcorp.org](mailto:pray@bradcorp.org)

## Corning Child Development Center

*Joy Hudson, Center Director*

419 W. Third Street

Corning, AR 72422

870-857-6572

[jhudson@bradcorp.org](mailto:jhudson@bradcorp.org)

## Walnut Ridge Early Child Development Center

*Karla Ohlson, Center Director*

702 State Street

Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

870-886-6088

[kohlson@bradcorp.org](mailto:kohlson@bradcorp.org)

## Virginia Atkison Early Child Development Center

*Toshya Lane, Center Director*

420 W. Third Street

Corning, AR 72422

870-857-5241

[tlane@bradcorp.org](mailto:tlane@bradcorp.org)

## Black River Child Development Center

*Carla Matthews, Center Director*

1407 Patrick Drive

Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-892-5112

[cmatthews@bradcorp.org](mailto:cmatthews@bradcorp.org)

## Piggott Child Development Center

*Tina White, Center Director*

1020 S. Taylor Avenue

Piggott, AR, AR 72454

870-598-5850

[twhite@bradcorp.org](mailto:twhite@bradcorp.org)

## Oak Street Early Child Development Center

*Stacie Woods, Center Director*

1006 Oak Street

Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-892-1417

[swoods@bradcorp.org](mailto:swoods@bradcorp.org)

## James W. Graves Child Development Center

*Heather Little, Center Director*

149 N. Stewart Street

Rector, AR 72461

870-595-3811

[hlittle@bradcorp.org](mailto:hlittle@bradcorp.org)

## Black River Early Child Development Expansion

*Gail Jones, Center Director*

2309 Old County

Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-248-0241

[gjones@bradcorp.org](mailto:gjones@bradcorp.org)

## **BRAD Child Development Programs**

1403 Hospital Drive

Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-892-4547

[www.bradkids.com](http://www.bradkids.com)

