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August 25, 2025

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GREENE COUNTY CHILDREN GET HEAD START ON SUCCESS WITH NEW ASTOR SERVICES PROGRAM

***Free Early Learning Center and Home-Based Support
Give Families the Foundation Every Child Deserves***

Cairo, NY — Parents in Greene County will soon have a new option when it comes to access free, high-quality early childhood education. Astor Services is launching a new Head Start and Early Head Start program in Cairo this Fall, bringing much-needed support to families facing limited preschool and child development resources.

Based in a dedicated early learning center in Cairo, the program will include two full classrooms for preschool-aged children, an infant room and a toddler room, as well as a home-based services component for new parents, infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Funded through a federal Head Start grant, the program is Astor's latest effort to expand access to early care in underserved areas.

"For working parents in rural counties, every option matters and this program gives Greene County families another door to walk through," said **Yvette Bairan**, CEO of Astor Services. "Whether it's classroom-based or home-based, we're here to meet families where they are and support their child's growth from day one."

What Makes the Program Unique

Astor Early Childhood Program - Cairo Head Start offers a dual model that goes beyond classroom walls.

The program will include 4 full day classrooms - two for preschoolers, one for toddlers, and another for infants in Cairo for children ages 3 to 5, covering everything from early math and literacy skills to healthy eating habits and learning how to make friends. But classroom learning is just part of the story. Two home visitors will also work one-on-one with families throughout Greene County—one specializing in babies and brand-new parents through Early Head Start, while the other supports families with preschoolers. These visits bring child development expertise right to families' doorsteps, along with practical parenting tips and connections to health services. Regular community workshops and family events round out the offerings, giving parents chances to connect with other caregivers facing similar joys and challenges.

Community Partnerships and Local Hiring

Astor is currently hiring staff - especially for the infant and toddler programs - to support the new site and is looking to build strong relationships with local schools, health clinics, and community organizations.

"Success doesn't happen in isolation," said **Kimberly Tsoubris**, Assistant Executive Director of Early Childhood Programs. "We're eager to partner with Greene County leaders, pediatricians, educators, and others to make sure every eligible child and family knows this resource exists."

Astor's team will be conducting outreach in the coming weeks to introduce the program to families, referral sources, and prospective staff.

A Growing Need—and a Welcome Option

With childcare shortages and affordability challenges continuing across the state, Astor's new program helps relieve pressure on local families who too often face long waitlists or limited options.

"This isn't about being the only provider—it's about being another choice families can count on," said **Tsoubris**. "Like many rural areas, Greene County is a daycare desert with very few available slots for infants and toddlers. We're here to serve, to listen, and to help children thrive."

About Astor Services

Astor Services promotes the well-being of children, adolescents, and families through behavioral and educational programs in the Hudson Valley and the Bronx. With more than 70 years of experience, Astor is committed to ensuring all children have access to the support they need to learn, grow, and succeed.