



Early Childhood Programs Annual Report 2013-2014

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Our Vision:

To create a community which works together so all Pasco County students will reach their highest potential.

Our Mission:

To serve families so that all children can learn and grow in a healthy, nurturing environment.

Program Overview

HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START

The District School Board of Pasco County is a Head Start / Early Head Start grantee. Through this federally funded grant, high quality early childhood services promoting school readiness are offered to enrolled children and families from pre-birth through age 5.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The federal Office of Head Start provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop School Readiness in the areas of early reading, mathematics and social skills. In FY 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development. In 2003, the District School Board of Pasco County was awarded the Early Head Start grant.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, mental health and disabilities and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the governance of local Head Start programs.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Early Childhood Development and Health

The Office of Head Start's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff to support school readiness. The objective of our program is to ensure that, through collaboration among families, staff, and health professionals, all child health and developmental concerns are identified, and children and families are linked to an ongoing source of continuous, accessible care to meet their basic health needs.

The objective of education and early childhood development is to provide all children with a safe, nurturing, engaging, enjoyable, and secure learning environment, in order to help them gain the awareness, skills, and confidence necessary to succeed in their present environment, and to deal with later responsibilities in school and in life. Each child is treated as an individual in an inclusive community that values, respects, and responds to diversity within the program's communities. The varied experiences provided by the program support the continuum of children's growth and development, which includes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child.

Family and Community Engagement

Head Start offers parents opportunities and support for growth, so that they can identify their own strengths, needs and interests, and find their own solutions. The objective of Family Partnerships is to support parents as they identify and meet their own goals, nurture the development of their children in the context of their family and culture, and advocate for communities that are supportive of children and families of all cultures. The building of trusting, collaborative relationships between parents and staff allows them to share with and to learn from one another. Our program follows Head Start's *Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework* as a model of meeting the needs of our families to support self-resiliency and -sufficiency.

Head Start serves families within the context of the community, and recognizes that many other agencies and groups work with the same families. The objective of Community Partnerships is to ensure that grantee and delegate agencies collaborate with partners in their communities, in order to provide the highest level of services to children and families, to foster the development of a continuum of family centered services, and to advocate for a community that shares responsibility for the healthy development of children and families of all cultures.

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK)

VPK is a state funded early learning program designed to prepare children for success in kindergarten. Prekindergarten Services offers VPK during the school year to Head Start children as part of a blended funding model, which includes 540 hours of instruction. Eligible Pasco County children who do not participate in any school year VPK program have an opportunity to attend Summer VPK offered through Early Childhood Programs or private providers.



Annual Performance Indicators

2013 - 2014

Head Start	
Funded Enrollment	643
Total Number of Children/Families served	702
Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%
Children who received dental exams	96%
Children who received medical exams	99%
Children up-to-date on immunizations	98%
Children with Individual Education Plans (IEP)	15%
Volunteer & Meeting Hours	11,336
Meals Served	320,119

Early Head Start	
Funded enrollment	108
Total Number of Children/Families served	123
Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%
Children who received dental exams	93%
Children who received medical exams	96%
Children up-to-date on immunizations	96%
Children with Individual Education Plan or Individual Family Service Plan	15%
Volunteer & Meeting hours	459
Meals Served	35,549

Who We Are & Who We Serve

Highly Qualified Staff

- 100% of Head Start teachers hold Florida State Teacher Certificates in Early Childhood Education
- 100% of Head Start teachers hold a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree
- 83% Teacher Retention
- 97% of Head Start instructional assistants have a Child Development Associate (CDA) equivalency, AA, or BA degree. The remaining 3% are enrolled in programs to complete a CDA, AA, or BA.
- 100% of Early Head Start Caregivers have a CDA equivalency, AA, or BA degree.

The Families We Serve

- 36% Hispanic
- 17% African American
- .06% Multi Racial/Ethnicity
- 23% English Language Learners
- 15% Children with Disabilities
- 21% Families on Public Assistance
- 41% Unemployed
- 4% Homeless
- .05% Incarcerated family member
- 62% of families receive WIC
- 34% of parents have less education than high school diploma
- 58% single family homes

Parent Survey Results 2014

- 99% of parents responded they were involved in developing educational goals for their child.
- 99% of parents reported that the classrooms/Early Head Start Socialization has an open/welcoming atmosphere.
- 98% of families felt the family engagement activities, speakers and handouts were valuable.
- 99% of parents reported that their children made social and emotional progress.
- 98% of parents reported that their children made progress in his/her language and literacy skills.
- 98% of parents stated that their questions and concerns about services and resources for their family were addressed by program staff.
- 97% of parents reported making progress towards their family's goals, as well as future goals.
- 99% of parents responded that, if needed, materials and interpreting in my home language were available for parent activities and home visits.

Family Engagement

POLICY COUNCIL

One of the unique characteristics of Head Start/Early Head Start is that parents are partners in leading the program governance. The Policy Council is designed to provide parents the opportunity to participate in the shared governance of our program. Annually parents elect other parents to participate on the Policy Council as their school site representative. In addition to monthly meetings, School Readiness Advisory Committees are created to work on special projects, and review/approve policies & procedures.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome and encourage families to volunteer in the classrooms and participate in school activities with their children. Volunteers are celebrated at our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Regularly scheduled parent meetings are conducted at each site throughout the program year. These meetings allow families an opportunity to attend presentations by educational and community guest speakers. These presentations focus on children's growth and development, as well as to provide educational experiences to transfer into the home setting. In addition, regional parent support training is also offered as a component to these parent meetings based on the interest level and need of the parent group. At these parent meetings Policy Council representatives are elected and share information regarding the work of Policy Council and the needs of their school. Finally, program staff created and facilitated regional educational parent support opportunities focused the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework including parent advocacy, parenting skills and Family Literacy Nights.

FAMILY RESOURCE NIGHTS

Twice a year Prekindergarten Services invites families to attend a Family Resource Night. Activities include parent education, community resource presentations and booths, healthy meals and a sing-along. This event offers parents an opportunity to connect with community-based agencies, learn parenting techniques, and enjoy a family night out listening and interacting with children's recording artist Mr. Tommy!





Early Childhood Programs Funding FY 2013-2014

Head Start/Early Head Start Grant	\$4,355,297
Early Head Start Grant	\$1,809,058
Total Program Funding	\$6,164,355

Total Non-Federal Share of Matching Funds	\$1,541,089
Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)	\$1,374,200

Fiscal Reporting – Single Audit Findings

- *None Reported*

Triennial Federal Monitoring Review Findings

- A triennial Federal Monitoring Review was conducted in March 2014.
- The program was acknowledged for being in full compliance within **ALL** areas.
- The areas examined within the Triennial Review were:
 - *Program Governance*
 - *Management Systems*
 - *Fiscal Integrity*
 - *Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance (ERSEA)*
 - *Child Health and Safety*
 - *Family and Community Engagement*
 - *Child Development and Education*

FY 2014-15 Head Star/Early Head Start Program Budget Expenditures - PLANNED

	Head Start/Early Head Start	% of Federal Grant Funds
Personnel	3,672,057	55.7%
Fringe Benefits	1,278,566	19.42%
Travel	200	0.00%
Equipment	92,800	1.14%
Supplies	223,298	3.39%
Contractual	424,500	6.45%
Other	516,146	7.84%
Indirect Charges	271,528	4.12%
Training & Technical Assistance	105,474	1.60%
Total Direct/Indirect	6,584,569	100%
Non-Federal Share	1,646,143	20%
Total Budget 2014-2015	8,230,712	

Special Initiatives

Art in Action! Process Art for Infants and Toddlers

In the fall of 2013, the Early Head Start program began providing after hours training opportunities for Caregivers and Home Services Workers. A topic that staff members particularly enjoyed and infused into daily process was *Process Art*.



For infants and toddlers, art is a VERB, not a noun. It is all about the action and the experience, not about having a 'finished' product. Squeezing all of the glue out of the bottle, putting sticker after sticker on a piece of paper, smearing paint with their fingers are (*and should be*) satisfying experiences in and of themselves for our children. It is our program's responsibility to provide children with a variety of art experiences every day to build a foundation for both appreciating and creating through art!



As a program, we are incredibly proud that our Early Head Start team was asked to present their *Process Art model* at the annual Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC) conference!! Keeping art alive in the lives of young children is key for providing the foundations for socio-emotional development and early writing skills!

English Survival Skills Course for Families

A tenet of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs is the ability to provide human development/social services support to parents/guardians. At the heart of this mission lies the establishment of partnerships with families that focus on and promote school readiness of both children and adults. Within recent years, Social Services and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) staff members found through home visit information there was a need within the community for opportunities for parents to enhance their English speaking skills. Head Start/Early Head Start program staff collaborated with the Marchman Technical Education Center's ESOL department to offer a course for our parents to become more integrated into society and feel more comfortable speaking with other English speaking individuals.

The pilot *English Survival Skills Course (ESSC)* was conducted for 1 ½ hours each Friday for 6 weeks at Mittye P. Locke Elementary School. Curricular booklets with CD for home use, child care, refreshments, door prizes and a certificate of completion were provided for the 20 participants. At the conclusion of the 6 week course, a cultural celebration was held to celebrate the parents' accomplishments. Topics addressed within the course were:

- Basic Living Skills
- Health and Wellness
- Finance
- In the Workplace
- Education
- Citizenship and Civic Responsibility



During this celebration, parents provided testimonials about how the class helped the parents become more engaged with their children and the educational process. Due to the success of this partnership, the ESSC was also extended thought the 2013-14 program year to parents at Pine View, Richey and Veterans Elementary Schools. Future course offerings are currently being planned for the 2014-15 program year.

Special Initiatives

Dental Outreach

In the fall of 2011, the Pasco County Health Department began a dental outreach initiative with the District School Board of Pasco County. The Health Department provided a fluoride varnish program to children enrolled in 18 Head Start classrooms in the Dade City/Lacoochee area. In the 2013-2014 program year, this outreach program occurred in all 36 Head Start classrooms. This special dental initiative helped protect our children's teeth until their first molars appear at age 6 or 7. At this age, dentists are then able to provide dental sealants as a protective measure to promote healthy dental and physical health practices.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Centers

The Pasco County Head Start/Early Head Start children have the opportunity to receive preventative, referral and treatment procedures through a partnership with the *Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Centers (RMC)*. Each RMC is a 40-foot long vehicle which includes two patient examination rooms, a laboratory and reception and medical records areas. RMC has a monthly schedule to visits Pasco County schools. This schedule is shared with all Head Start/Early Head Start families.

RMC and local clinical service providers work together to apply their administrative, clinical and operational expertise and community resources to identify gaps in care, then deliver services tailored to the needs of their community. Together, they deliver services that go beyond treatment; they reduce reliance on emergency rooms, heighten awareness of healthy lifestyles and help eligible families obtain government-assisted health insurance.

Hearing Outreach:

Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO) & Sertoma

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 5% of newborns in our country do not receive or pass a newborn hearing screening. For babies who do not pass the screening, further assessment is needed to determine whether the baby has hearing loss. Unfortunately, as many as half of these infants who need further screening or evaluation program are lost to follow-up as documented by state Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs.

Since the fall of 2011, the Pasco County Early Head Start has partnered with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management on the *Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO)* initiative. This initiative requires trained Early Head Start staff members to complete the Octoacoustic Emissions (OAE) hearing screenings on all enrolled newborns and toddlers. Overall in 2013-14, nearly 120 children were screened with the OAE tool.

SERTOMA:



For many years, the Head Start program has partnered with Sertoma to provide hearing screenings for 3- and 4-year-old children. Sertoma's mission is to improve the quality of life today for those at risk or impacted by hearing loss through education and support. Sertoma volunteers work with the program's Health Team at each of the 23 Head Start sites. We appreciate our continued collaboration with Sertoma in ensuring the highest level of screening possible for our children!



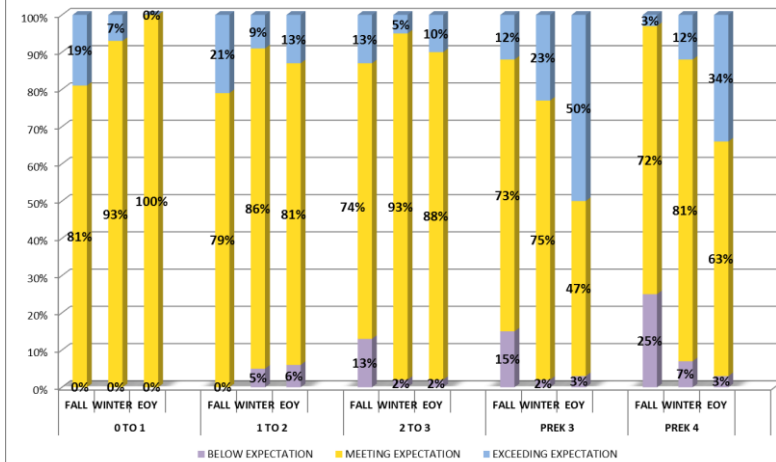
School Readiness Outcomes

School Readiness Goals and Child Development

Head Start defines school readiness as *children possessing the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning in life*. Performance Standard 1307.2 and the Head Start Act of 2007 state that school readiness goals should articulate our program's expectations of children's status and progress of child development and early learning that will improve children's readiness for kindergarten.

In the summer of 2012, the program adopted Teaching Strategies™ Creative Curriculum and assessment system *GOLD*. These curricular/assessment tools are used to collect and aggregate school readiness data four-times a year.

Social and Emotional - Goal 1 - Interact/develop positive relationships with peers

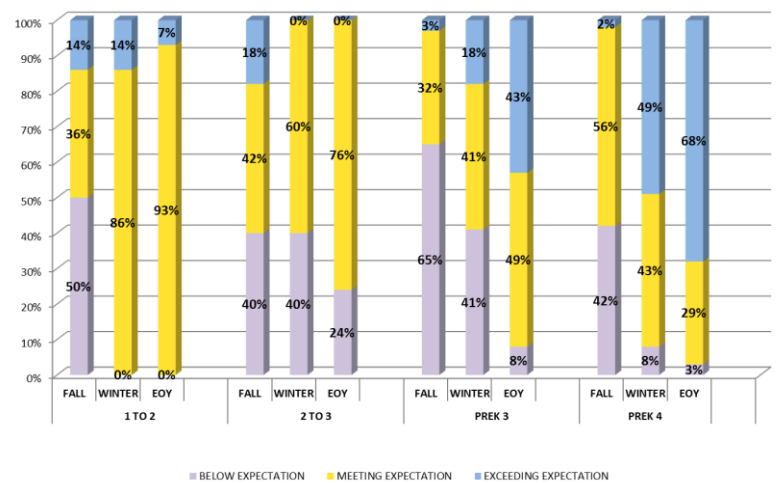


Emergent Literacy

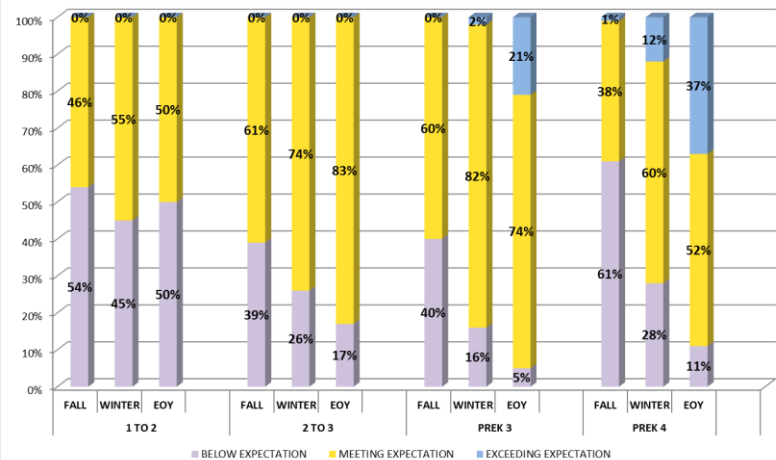
Emergent literacy skills are developed through many opportunities for children to interact with print in a natural, developmentally appropriate learning environment. Young learners acquire literacy concepts and skills through active engagement, constructing their understanding of how written language works. Specific skills are embedded into daily activities using music, read aloud, big books, songs, charts, chants, games and environmental print. Skills in young literacy learners begin to emerge as their experiences are enriched. The onset and growth of these skills are captured through periodic and ongoing observations assessments.

Prioritized SR Goal 6 (FYO IV.F.3.d) focuses on the child showing alphabetic knowledge by naming most letters.

Language and Literacy - Goal 6 - Alphabetic Knowledge Letter Names



Mathematics - Goal 2A - Uses number concepts and operations to count sets of 10 - 15 objects



Early Mathematics

Math experiences include a variety of opportunities for young learners that actively engage them in their physical and social world to explore and utilize ideas and concepts. With an emphasis on problem solving, mathematics concepts are purposefully introduced and embedded into daily activities. Opportunities for exploration include measurement, pattern building, sequencing, numeracy, sorting & classifying, comparing, estimating, predicting, and spatial relationships. Growth in these areas is captured through periodic and ongoing

Prioritized SR Goal 2 (FYO V.A.a.2) focuses on the child showing an understanding of how to count and construct sets.



District School Board of Pasco County

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