



Prekindergarten Services Annual Report 2011-2012

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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 Head Start program 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 the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. 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.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social 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 administration of local Head Start programs.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Early Childhood Development and Health

Head Start's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff. The objective of Child Health and Development Services 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. 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 Partnerships

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.

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 Prekindergarten Services or private providers.



Annual Performance Indicators

2011 - 2012

Head Start	
Funded Enrollment	643
Funded Enrollment ARRA Expansion	53
Total Number of Children/Families served	758
Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%
Children who received dental exams	97%
Children who received medical exams	99%
Children up-to-date on immunizations	100%
Children with Individual Education Plans (IEP)	14%
Volunteer & Meeting Hours	15,485
Meals Served	226,775

Early Head Start	
Funded enrollment	80
Funded Enrollment ARRA Expansion	48
Total Number of Children/Families served	159
Average Monthly Enrollment (% funded enrollment)	100%
Children who received dental exams	99%
Children who received medical exams	99%
Children up-to-date on immunizations	98%
Children with Individual Education Plan or Individual Family Service Plan	13%
Volunteer & Meeting hours	1,285
Meals Served	24,373

Who We Are & Who We Serve

Highly Qualified Staff

- 100 % of prekindergarten teachers hold Florida State Teacher Certificates in Early Childhood Education
- 100% of prekindergarten teachers hold a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree
- 95% Teacher Retention
- 92% of prekindergarten instructional assistants have a Child Development Associate (CDA), AA, or BA degree. The remaining 8% are enrolled in programs to complete a CDA, AA, or BA.
- 100% of Early Head Start Caregivers have a CDA, AA, or BA degree.

The Families We Serve

- 38% Hispanic
- 12% African American
- .06% Multi Racial/Ethnicity
- 23% English Language Learners
- 14% Children with Disabilities
- 14% Families on Public Assistance
- 38% Unemployed
- 16% Homeless
- .04% Incarcerated family member
- 72% of families receive WIC
- 39% of parents have less education than high school diploma
- 53% single family homes

Parent Survey Results 2012

- Response Rate: 74%
- 97% of parents reported that their children are excited about learning.
- 94% of parents reported that their child likes to go to school.
- 99% of families were satisfied with the support and interactions of the staff.
- 97% of parents reported that their children made social and emotional progress.
- 90% of parents reported placing additional importance on education.
- 87% of parents participated in at least one parent involvement meeting.
- 92% of parents reported making progress towards their family's goals, as well as future goals.
- 87% of parents seek health care more regularly since enrollment.
- 92% of parents plan and prepare more nutritious meals since enrollment.
- 85% of parents know how to seek community resources since enrollment.

Family Involvement

POLICY COUNCIL

One of the unique characteristics of Head Start/Early Head Start is that parents are partners in leading the program. 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, committees are created to work on special projects, review and 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 INVOLVEMENT 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. 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.

FAMILY RESOURCE NIGHTS

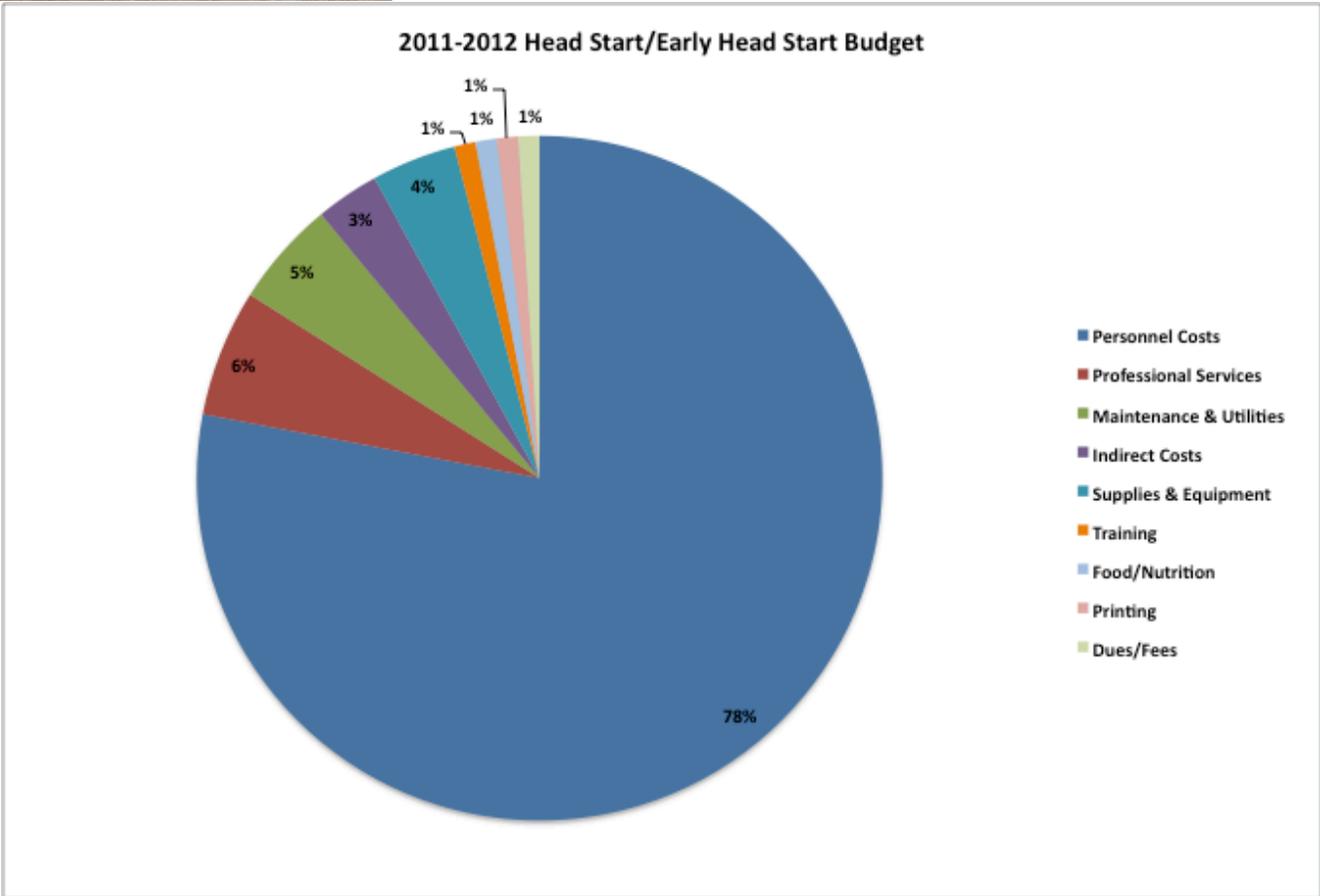
Twice a year Prekindergarten Services invites families to attend a Family Resource Night. Activities include parent education training, community resource presentations and booths, dinner, childcare and a sing along. This event offers parents an opportunity to connect with community-based agencies, learn parenting techniques, and enjoy a family night out!





Prekindergarten Services Funding

Head Start/Early Head Start Grant	\$4,512,152
Early Head Start Expansion (ARRA)	\$1,766,123
Total Head Start Funding	\$6,278,275
Total Non-Federal Share of Matching Funds	\$1,569,569
Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)	\$1,417,884



Fiscal Reporting – Single Audit Findings

None Reported

Federal Monitoring Review Findings

A triennial Federal Monitoring Review was conducted in December 2010. The program was acknowledged for being in full compliance in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Disabilities, Family & Community Services, Transportation, Education & Early Childhood Development, Fiscal Management, and Program Design & Management.

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 2012-2013 program year, this outreach program will occur in all 39 Head Start classrooms. This special dental initiative will help 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.

Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO)

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.

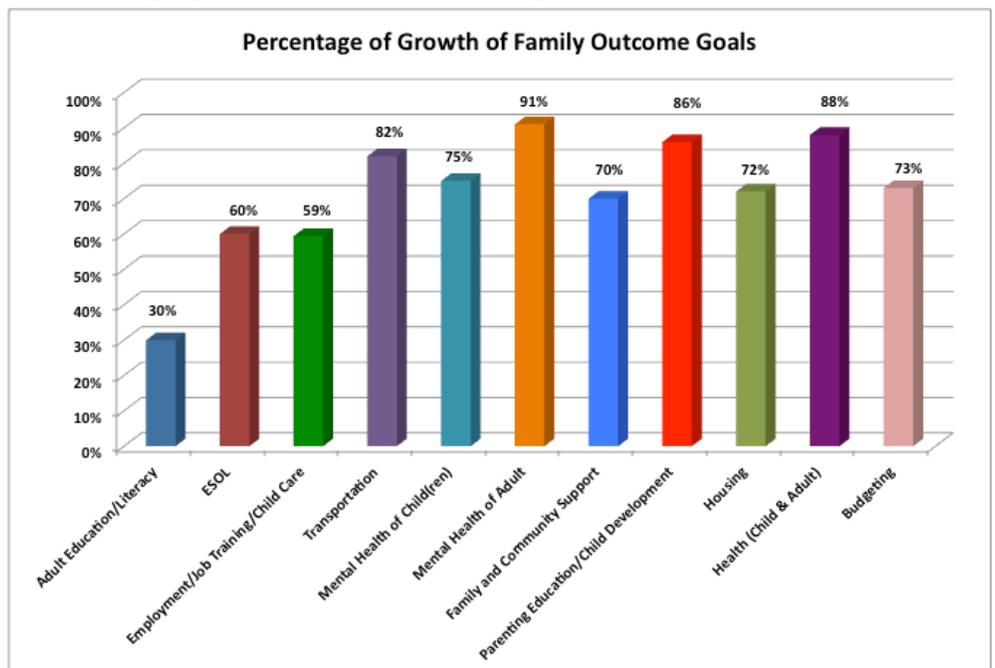
In the fall of 2011, the Pasco County Early Head Start was approached by the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management partner on the Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO) initiative. This initiative requires trained Early Head Start staff members to complete the Octoacoustic Emissions (OAE) hearing screenings on all enrolled newborns and toddlers. Overall, 79 children were screened with three children receiving extensive audiological follow-up with specialists.

Family Outcomes Initiative

A tenet of Head Start and Early Head Start programs is the human development services element. At the heart of these programs lies the establishment of partnerships with families that focus on and promote school readiness for children. Head Start programs have a method to quantify accomplishments with children (health and education), however similar methods have not been established for determining family outcomes. A Family Partnership Agreement process is required by Head Start Performance Standards.

The Pasco County Head Start/Early Head Start program has created a method

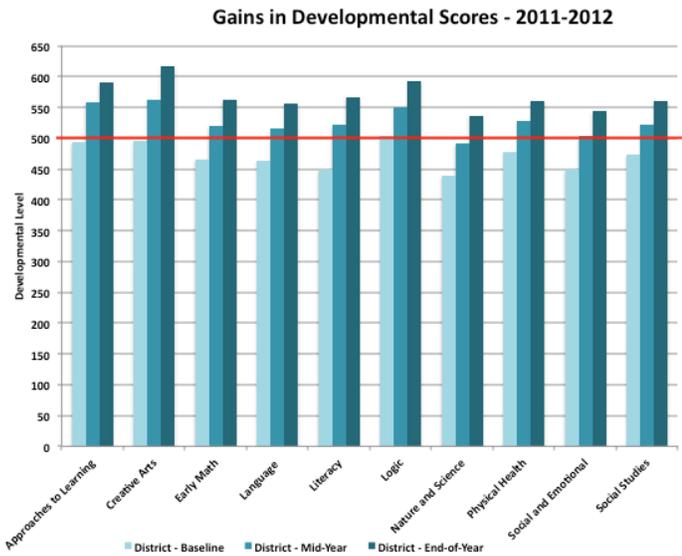
for families to work in partnership with their Social Services team to identify goal-setting needs, as well as a quantitative method for measuring the overall growth on the specific goal over the program year. Goal areas with the largest percentage of growth were: Mental Health of the Adult (91%); Health – Child and Adult (88%); Parenting Education/Child Development (86%); Transportation (82%); Mental Health of the Child(ren) (75%); and Budgeting (73%).



School Readiness Outcomes

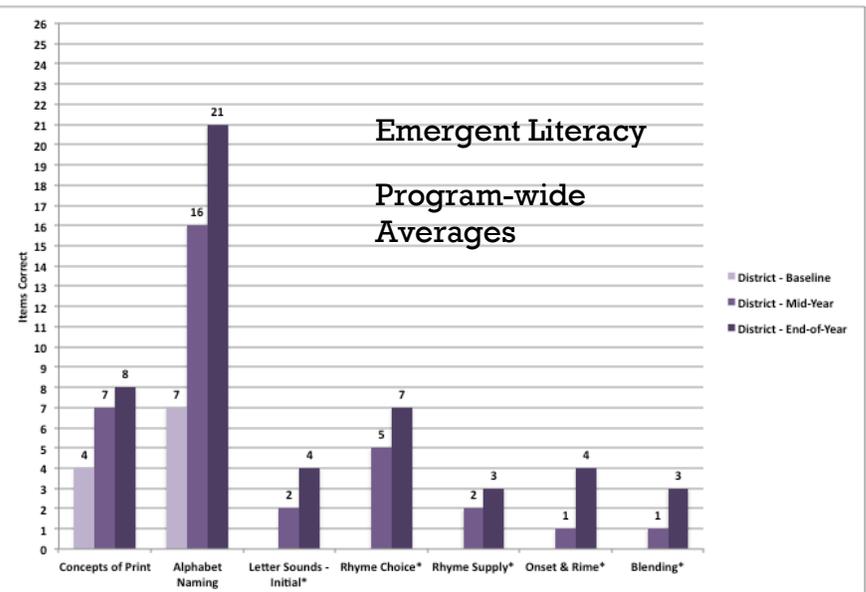
Child Development

The Galileo Assessment System is utilized to measure children's growth in each readiness domain. The assessment system provides a comprehensive view of children's growth in the specific scales that are aligned with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework Domains. In the fall of each academic year, a four-year-old can be expected to earn a developmental score of 500 on each scale. Average growth of children over the year is 50 developmental level points. Children enrolled in our Head Start program met or exceeded this anticipated growth in all readiness domains.



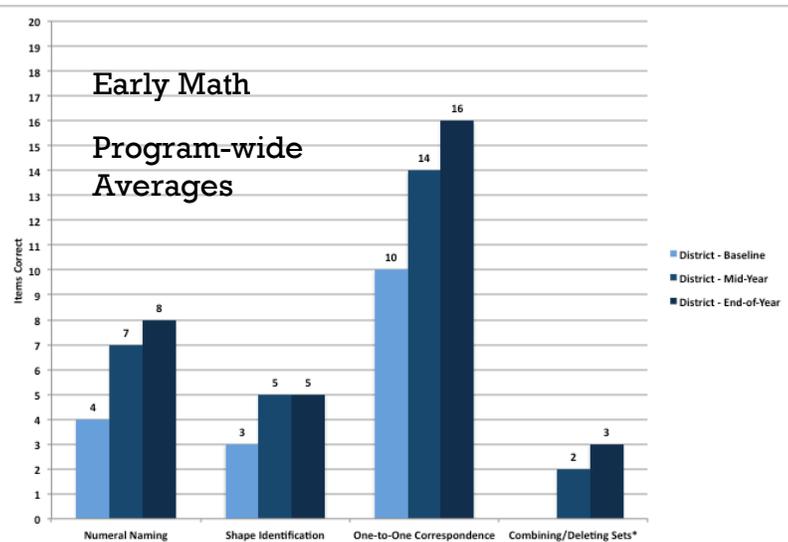
Emergent Literacy

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.



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 observations and assessments.





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