

2015-16 Neighborhood House Head Start & Early Head Start Annual Report

The Neighborhood House Head Start program serves children 3-5 years old and their families and Early Head Start serves children birth to 3 years old and their families in west Multnomah County.

Program Philosophy:

Neighborhood House's Head Start program is designed to meet the needs and provide Kindergarten readiness skills to all eligible children, including those with special needs and disabilities. Our philosophy is that children learn best through play, when fully involved and self-directed in their learning. This supports our belief that children are unique individuals who learn at different rates and in their own ways. By focusing on all aspects of learning and development, children will be prepared for a life time of learning. Our preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum framework to support education in the classrooms. The curriculum is individualized and based on observations, on-going assessments, outcomes and information gained from discussions between parents and the teaching staff. The activities and materials used in our classrooms are designed to meet the needs of children and all developmental levels. Our program provides ongoing training and professional development opportunities for teaching staff and home visitors so they can stay current on the newest research and practices in the field of early childhood and parent partnerships.



We recognize that each child has a unique cultural background that has been nurtured by his/her family. We believe that the diverse backgrounds of families involved in the program enrich the classroom environment and enhance the learning experiences for everyone. Both teachers and families work together to plan and facilitate the educational goals for the child. Parents are active participants in all aspects of the program.

Head Start and Early Head Start Services



Education:

Early Head Start is a home based program, in which home visitors come to the home weekly and work with the parents using the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum. Bi-monthly group socializations provide children opportunities to practice their social skills with peers.

Head Start uses Creative Curriculum, a play based curriculum, in which children develop the necessary skills in the four developmental domains: cognitive, language and literacy, physical, and social to successfully enter kindergarten. The learning environment in our classrooms is set up in centers where children learn through interactions with their peers and the teaching staff. The Head Start program uses Teaching Strategies GOLD to observe and assess children's developmental progress throughout the year.

Disabilities and Mental Health: Our program is inclusive of all children and partners with David Douglas MECP and Northwest Regional ESD to provide individualized family service plans (IFSP's) for children with diagnosed disabilities. Program partnerships with Morrison Child & Family Services and Multnomah County provide mental health consultation and classroom coaching. Our classrooms implement the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and Conscious Discipline to guide children's social/emotional development and create supportive environments for all children.

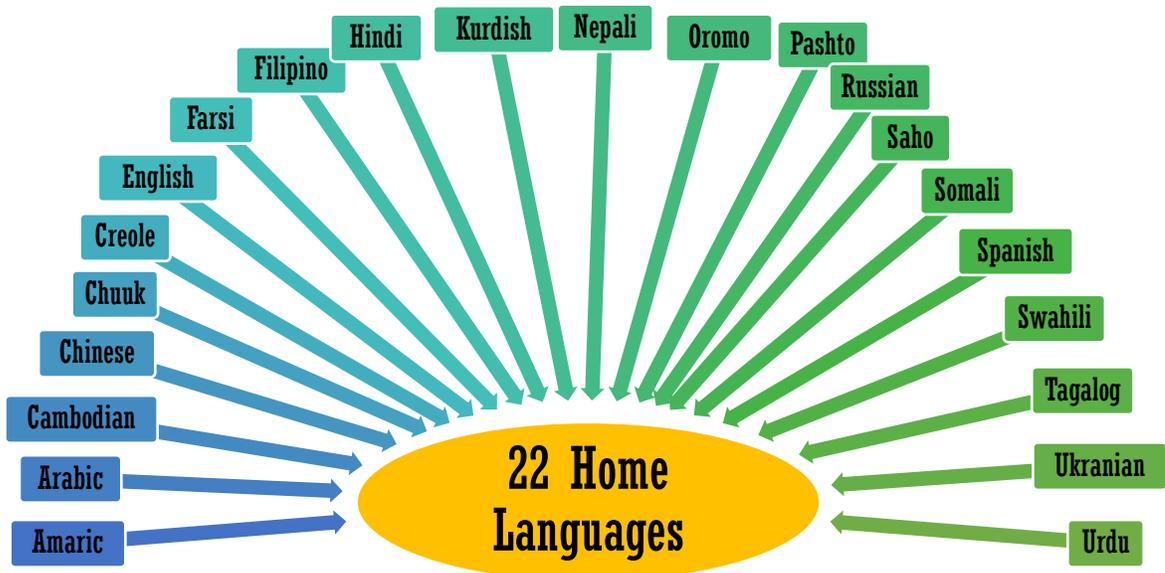
Health: Health is an important component of the Head Start program and our program partners with parents and health professionals to ensure children's health needs are met, including medical and dental visits, nutrition and safety education, and vision and hearing screenings.

Social Services: Family support specialists and home visitors provide families with the necessary resources and referrals to aid with basic family needs and help families meet their goals. The program partners with various community organizations for family services, such as Neighborhood House, Multnomah County Library, Oregon Community Warehouse, Department of Human Services, Home Forward, Southwest Community Clinic, WIC, and IRCO.

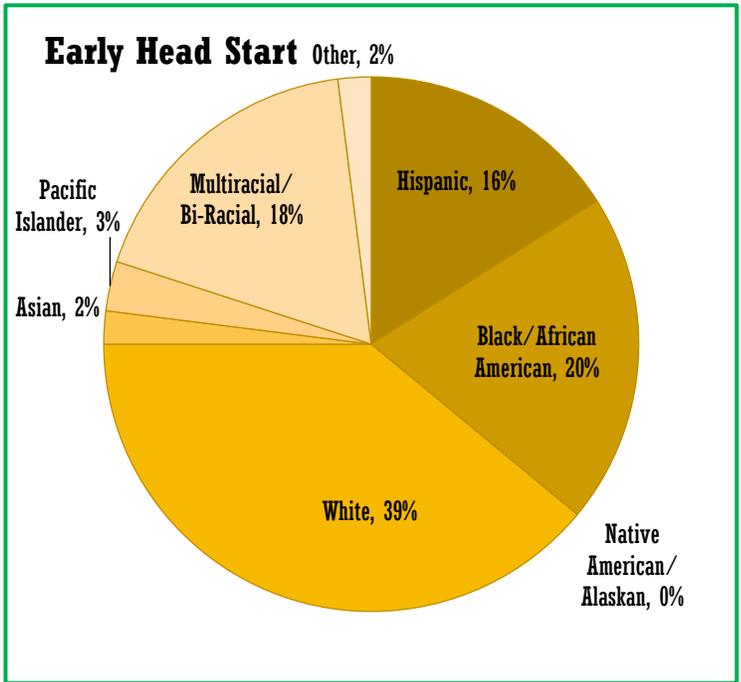
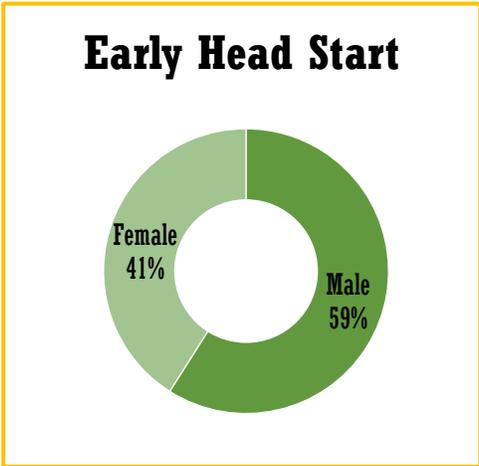
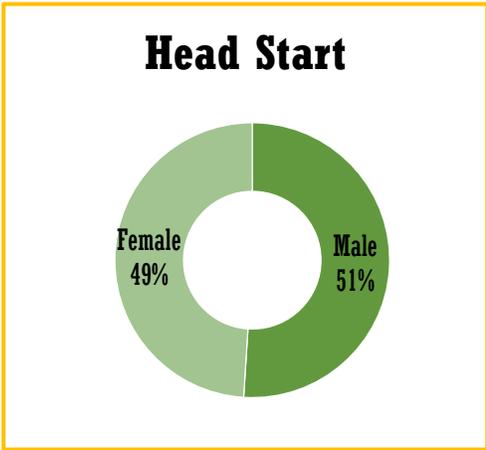
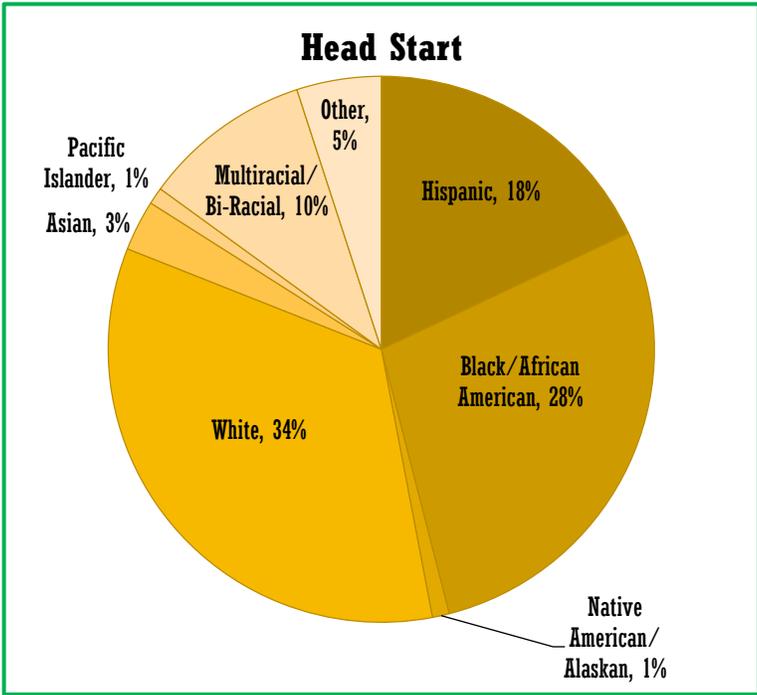


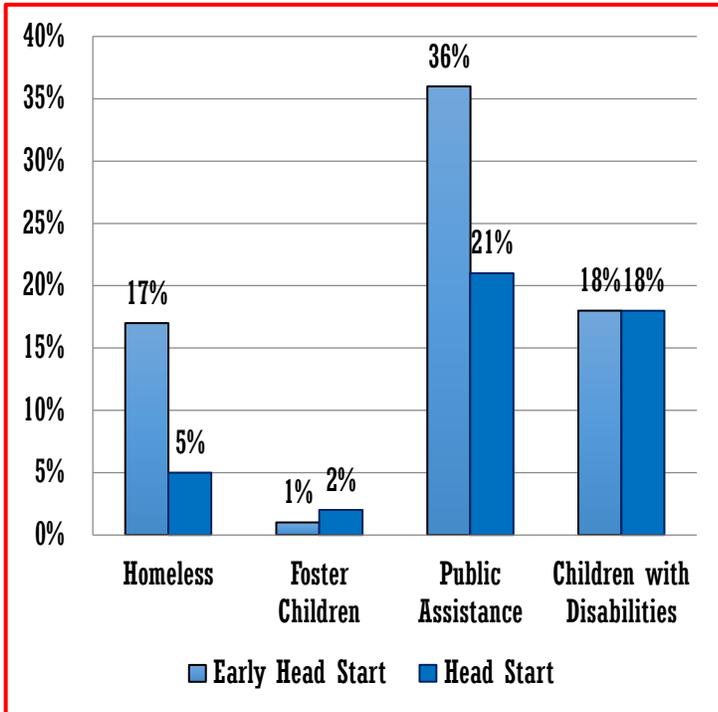
Program Enrollment

- Head Start – 191 children enrolled (funded for 156 slots)
- Early Head Start – 66 children enrolled (funded for 35 slots)
- Average Monthly Enrollment – 100%
- Average Monthly Attendance for Head Start – 81%



Enrollment Demographics





Parent Involvement

Volunteering: During the 2015-2016 program year 86 parents volunteered for a total of over 700 volunteer hours. Parents volunteered in a variety of ways, including classroom volunteering, attending parent committee meetings, serving on policy council, and attending additional parent involvement activities.

Parent Committees: Monthly parent committee meetings give parents an opportunity to be included in discussions about improving and interacting with the program and listen to educational guest speakers on topics such as budgeting, literacy, safety, and schedules and routines.

Policy Council: Policy council is involved in program development, implementation, and

evaluation. Parent committee representatives are responsible for communicating between the parent committee and Policy Council. Policy council meetings are held monthly. Policy Council members attended OHSA and Parent Leadership Conferences.

Early Head Start group socials: 40 group socials were offered to families. Group socials took place at the Early Head Start site, Tryon Creek State Park, and Holly Farm Park.

What Children & Parents Say About Head Start:

“He loves it, he wakes up in the morning asking is it time to go to school, even on the weekends”

“She loves her teachers!”

“Both my kids love going to school”

“My kids LOVE the food, their teachers, and all the toys. They can’t wait to go to school everyday. Great menu, great learning environment, we love Head Start”

“He loves going to school and playing and learning with friends. He loves his teacher.”



Male involvement activities: During the 2015-216 program year male figures and children participated in three male involvement activities to a local bowling alley and the Stephens Creek Crossing Head Start site.



What Children & Parents Say About Head Start:

“He loves going to school and misses it when he is sick at home”

“He loves it! School is one of his favorite parts of the week”

“What he wakes up for in the morning! Loves his friends, teachers, and experiences throughout the last two years.”

“He loves school, talks about school all the time, loves the teaching staff, talks about the garden and learning to write and reading”

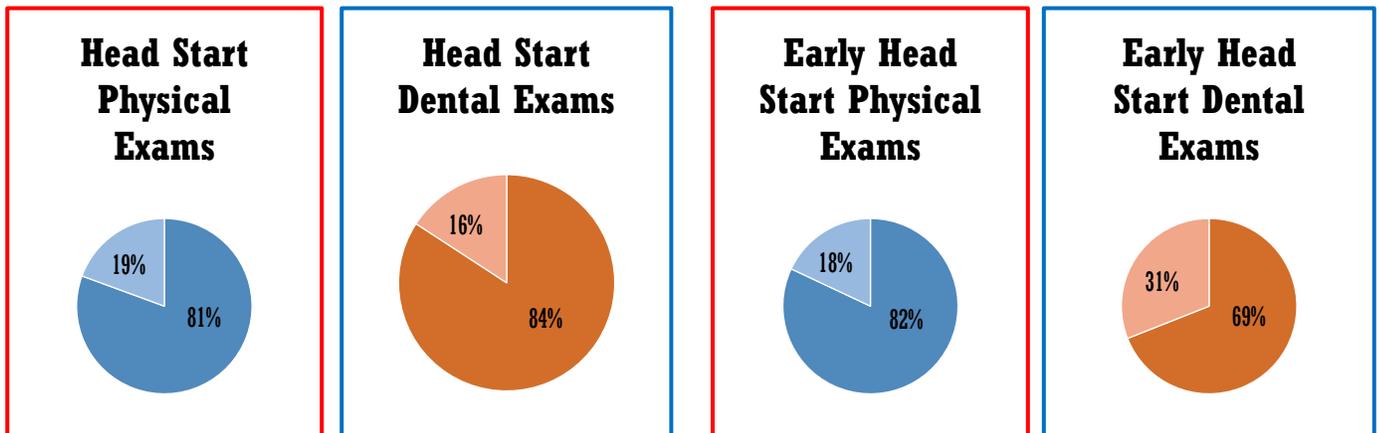
“She loves it!”

Parent Apprenticeship Program: 2015-2016 was the second year of the Head Start Parent Apprenticeship Program. Three current or previous Head Start parents participated in the program by working in the classroom as a teacher assistant in training while also working on their online CDA. All three parents passed their portfolio review and classroom observations. At the time of the report two Parent Apprentices have passed their CDA exam and the remaining Parent Apprentice is scheduling their exam date.

Other opportunities for parent involvement:

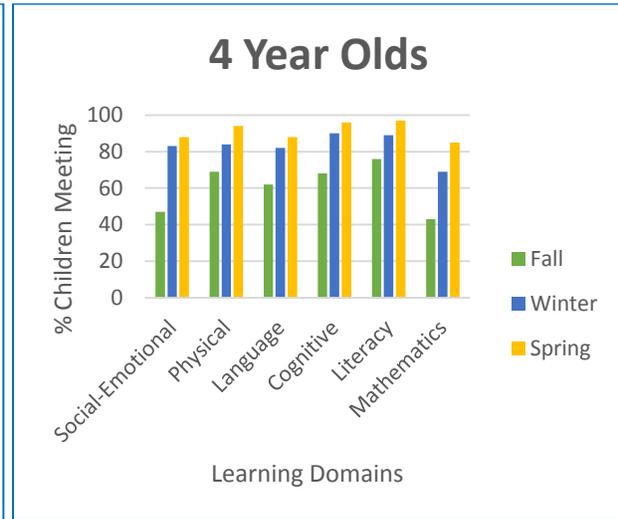
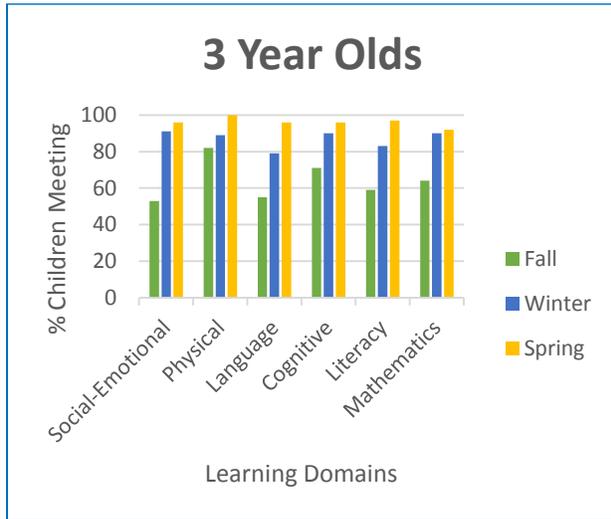
- Incredible Years – the evidence-based parenting program is offered to families as part of a program partnership with Morrison Child and Family Services
- Program Newsletter – parents are encouraged to submit recipes, questions, and each newsletter has a “Parent Spotlight” in which a parent is interviewed
- Parent suggestion boxes allow parents to submit feedback
- The parent bulletin board provides parents with a platform for communicated with each other and exchanging goods and services
- Childcare – qualified parents are hired to provide childcare for Parent Committee and Policy Council meetings

Completed Medical and Dental Exams



School Readiness

Head Start staff work with children, families, and local elementary schools to prepare children for kindergarten. Our school readiness goals were developed with staff and parent input and align with the developmental domains in Teaching Strategies GOLD. Teaching staff observe children throughout the year and formally assess children's progress three times a year.



Transition to Kindergarten

The Head Start program participates in the register for kindergarten campaign by handing out fliers to parents, posting kindergarten events, helping families register for kindergarten, and participating in IFSP to IEP transition meetings. Teachers prepare children for the transition from Head Start to kindergarten through a variety of activities, including talking about going to kindergarten, reading stories about kindergarten and the first day of school, and visiting kindergarten classrooms.

Budget

2015-2016 Head Start Budget	
Salaries	\$699,025
Fringe	\$199,125
Travel	\$16,700
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$18,300
Contractual	\$142,053
Property Services	\$57,000
Other – Purchases	\$60,710
Total Direct Cost	\$1,192,913
Total Indirect Cost	\$174,635
Total	\$1,367,547

Neighborhood House Early Head Start is funded entirely by a grant from the Portland Children's Levy.

Neighborhood House Head Start is funded entirely by the Oregon Department of Education.

The most recent Head Start review conducted by the Oregon Department of Education occurred during the 2012-2013 program year.

The most recent financial audit was completed on June 30, 2015 by McDonald Jacobs Accountants and Consultants. The agency was found to be in compliance.