



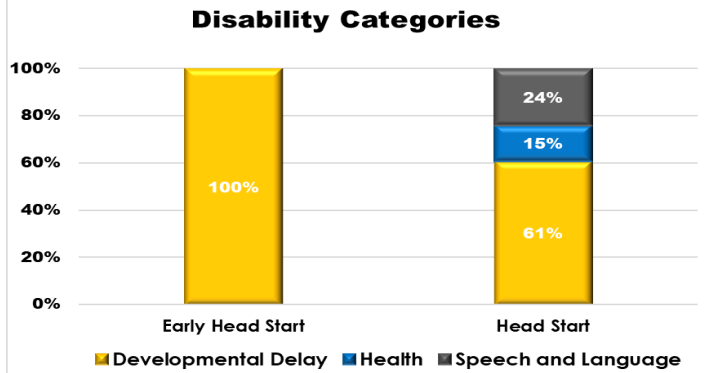
Head Start and Early Head Start State Early Childhood Education Program 2022/2023 Program Year-End Report



Services to Children with Disabilities

Inclusion and Disabilities

Inclusion has always been the foundation of the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Children of all abilities are enrolled regardless of delay or disability. This year we served **65** children with disabilities; **9** children in Early Head Start with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and **57** children in Head Start with an Individual Education Program (IEP). Early identification of delays along with early intervention are extremely important to improve children's success and school readiness.



Speech Therapy & Occupational Therapy

Speech Therapy builds children's language development through playful conversations using pictures, storybooks, and games. During the program year, **742** children in Head Start received a speech screening, and **313** of those children required a speech evaluation for further assessment. From the evaluations, **262** children were determined eligible and received speech services.

Occupational Therapy (OT) strengthens children's fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, visual motor, and sensory processing. The therapists evaluated **172** toddlers and preschoolers, of which, **163** children were eligible for and received therapy services in our centers.

Inside This Report:

Enrollment and Attendance	2
Practice Based Coaching	2
Staff Professional Development	2
Parent, Family, and Community Engagement	3
Father and Father Figures	3
Education Services	4
Kindergarten Transition	5
Classroom Assessment Scoring System	5
Health Services	6
Nutrition Services	6
Mental Health Services	7
Spotlights: Parent and Community Partners	8

Program Funding

The annual Head Start and Early Head Start program budget represents the following funding:

\$15,020,515.00 Federal Share (operating budget)

\$3,655,795.00 Non Federal Share/In-kind

The Head Start and Early Head Start program remains in compliance with no findings in program financial audits.




Quality Rated Centers Maintained

All **12** of our Head Start and Early Head Start Child Development Centers are five-star rated!

We continue to maintain the highest star rating in Step Up to Quality, the State of Ohio's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement system!



Enrollment & Attendance

726 Head Start (Ages 3 - 5)	127 State Early Childhood Education Program (Age 4)	95 Early Head Start (6 Weeks - Age 3)	20 Early Head Start Pregnant Women	122 Foster Care or Homeless (Head Start & Early Head Start)
74% Head Start Average Daily Attendance	78% State Early Childhood Education Program Average Daily Attendance	72% Early Head Start Average Daily Attendance		

Practice Based Coaching

Coaching: Supporting Teachers and Children

The Head Start and Early Head Start Practice Based Coaching program is a cyclical process for supporting the use of effective teaching practices that lead to positive outcomes for children and families. Coaching supports teaching staff as they improve teaching practices and provides tools to apply in classrooms. Through coaching, staff set goals, implement action plans, and reflect on teaching practices. During this school year, **25** Head Start and Early Head Start teaching staff participated in coaching.

Staff reflections regarding their coaching experience:

- ◆ “I loved having the one-on-one support. Very positive experience and it was totally what I needed to work on from my perspective! Coaches are the greatest thing we have!”
- ◆ My coach “has always been very helpful and eager to let me be creative with my goals. She gives immediate feedback and provides being with skills I can use for later. I feel very fortunate to be working with an agency that provides this kind of help. I can’t wait to work with coaching again”.
- ◆ “I absolutely love the coaching program! I am so glad I signed up for it last year and this year. I have grown in my teaching so much. I feel like I can actually get help from my coach and she isn’t there to judge. I am open with her and we have a great relationship with one another. I can’t say enough positive and wonderful things about coaching!”



Staff Professional Development

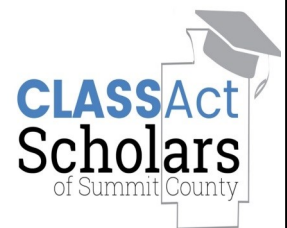
Head Start CLASS® Act Scholars



Head Start Teacher **Dana Garman** and Head Start Teacher Assistant **Nadijah Jones** were two of eleven early childhood educators selected to participate in the **Summit Education Initiative (SEI)** fifth cohort for the CLASS Act Scholars of Summit County program. The program aims to "Elevate—Celebrate—Support" early childhood teachers using the CLASS® model through coaching, peer-to-peer learning, mentoring, and professional development (Source: SEI). To date, **12** Head Start teaching staff have graduated from the CLASS Act Scholars program.

Congratulations to Dana, Nadijah, and all graduates in the fifth cohort of the CLASS Act Scholars of Summit County program!

Photos courtesy of Summit Education Initiative

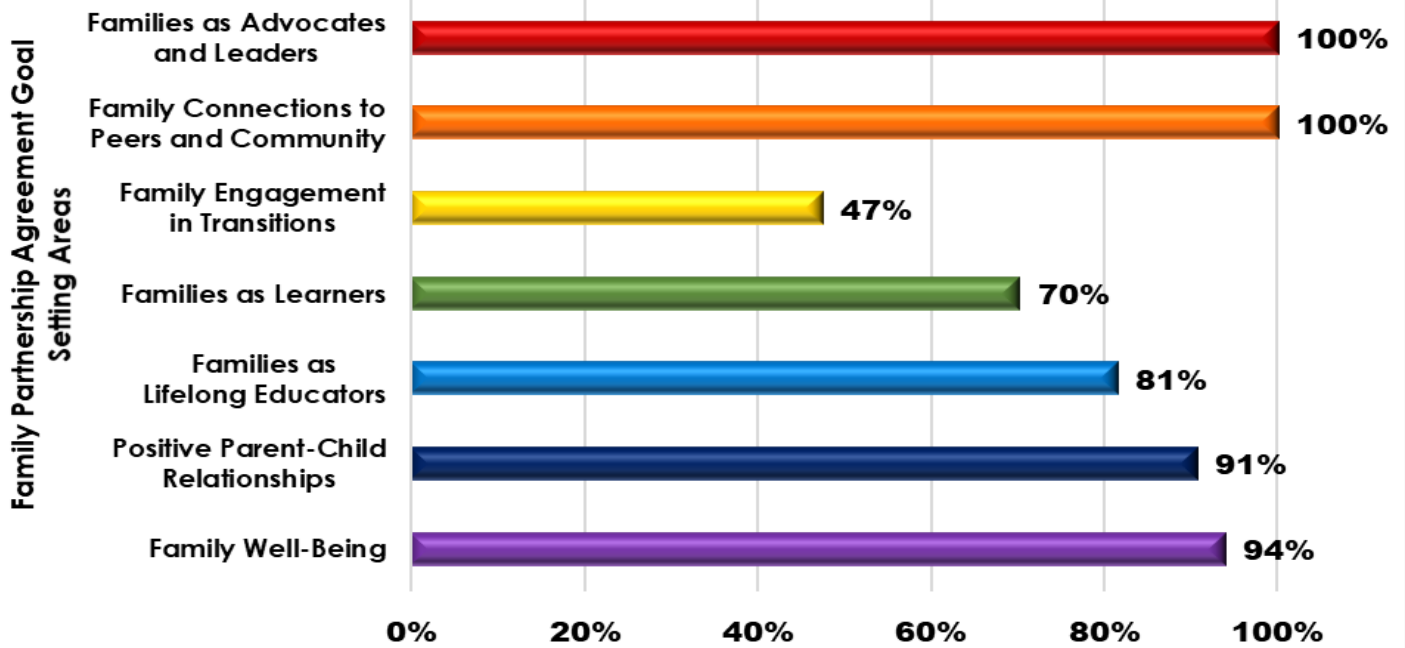


Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Family Goals Outcomes

Head Start incorporates family engagement as a strength-based process to partner with families and build positive goal-oriented relationships. The Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework (PFCE) identifies seven family outcomes which research has shown to promote positive child outcomes. Our Family Support Specialists collaborate with parents to help identify and develop at least one goal within the seven areas of the PFCE Framework. This year **693** families set **435** goals, of which **86%** were achieved during the program year: kudos to our Head Start parents! Outcomes for each of the seven PFCE Framework areas are graphed below.

Family Partnership Goals Achieved



Fathers and Father Figures

Male Involvement Is Vital For Early Learning

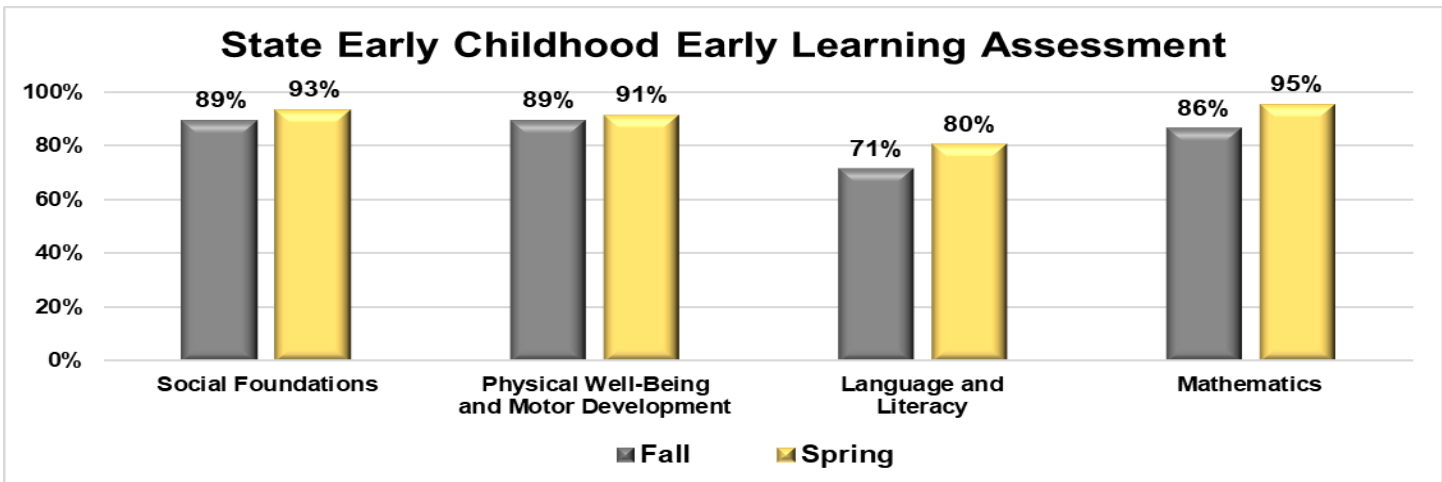
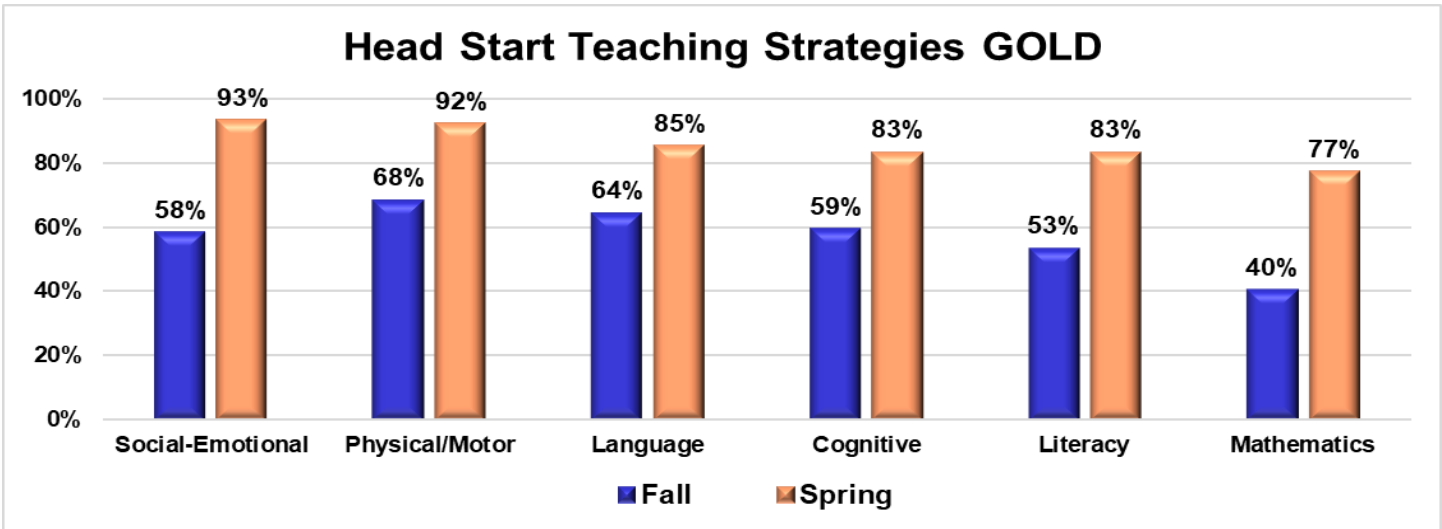
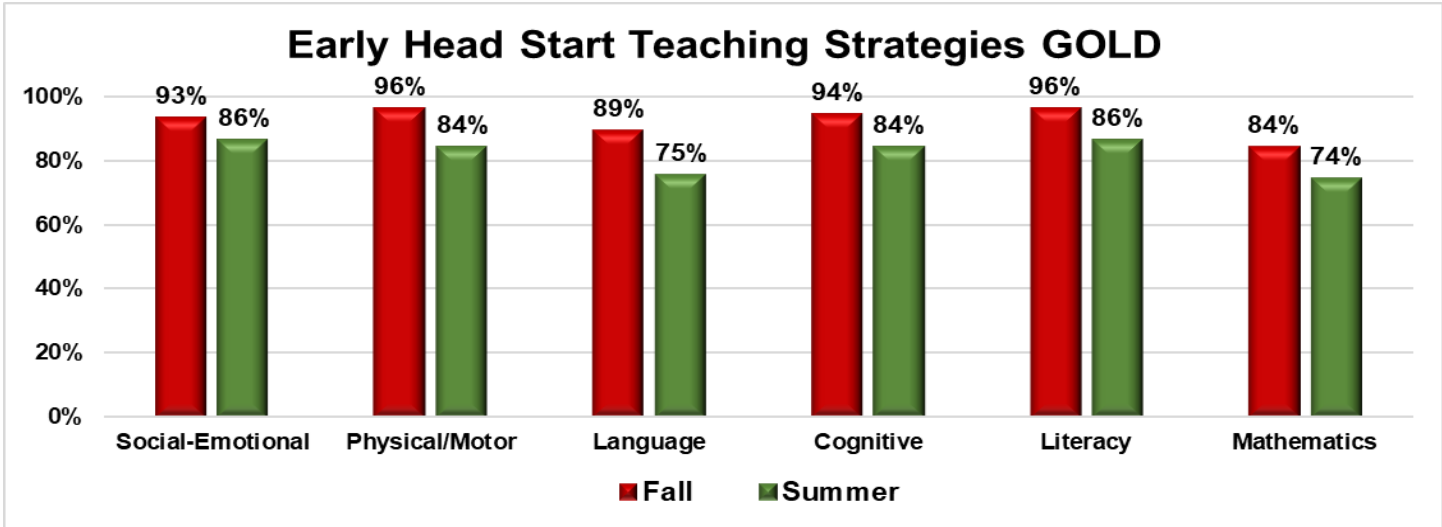
Father and father figure engagement is a vital and integrated aspect of parent, family, and community work. Head Start and Early Start staff engage and partner with fathers and father figures as advocates, lifelong educators, and first teachers to children. Fathers and father figures serve key roles in the healthy development of children and families. Fathers receive support to develop their skills and interests and achieve goals for themselves and their families. By promoting positive outcomes fathers and father figures have much to offer to their Head Start community. The numbers below represent male involvement this program year.

- ◆ **146** fathers/father figures participated in early learning development experiences (Parent/Teacher Meetings, Home-School Connection and Classroom Activities).
- ◆ **36** fathers/father figures engaged in the program Family Goal Setting.
- ◆ **35** fathers/father figures engaged in learning through our Parenting Education Workshops.
- ◆ **31** fathers/father figures engaged in the program Family Assessment.
- ◆ **5** fathers/father figures participated in Program Governance (e.g. Policy Council or Center Policy Committees).



Education Services

The Teaching Strategies GOLD Online Assessment and Early Learning Assessment tools utilized in Head Start and Early Head Start programs measures children’s learning development during the program year. The graphs below show the percentage of children meeting or exceeding developmental levels for their age range in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. As developmentally appropriate, the data may fluctuate according to a child’s overall time enrolled in the program.



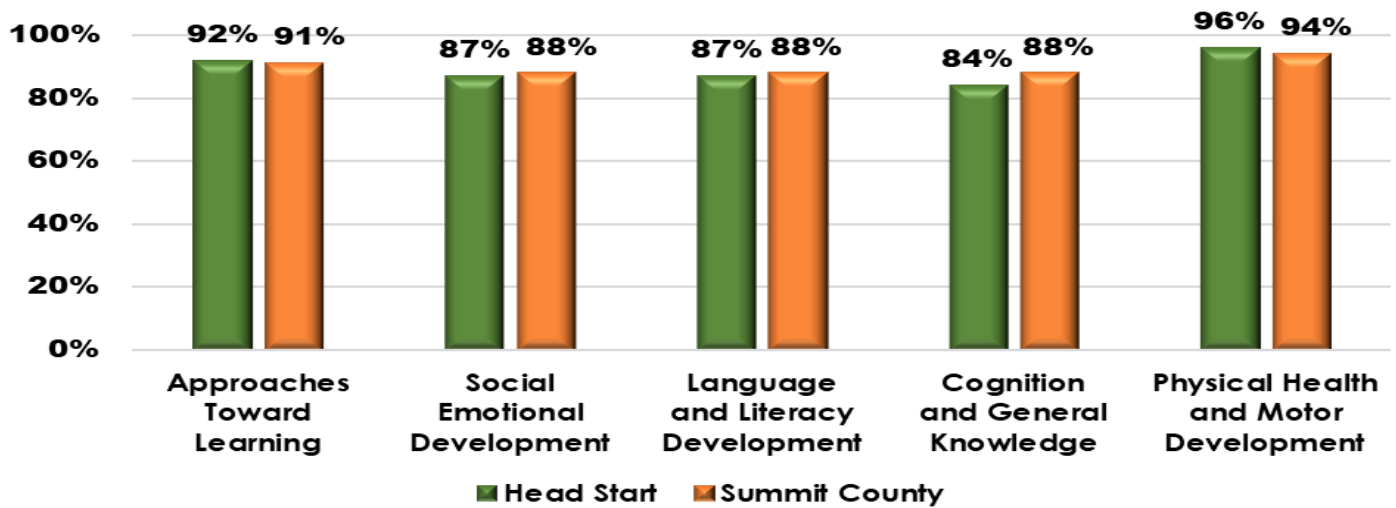
Kindergarten Transition

Transition Skills Summary Snapshot for Kindergarten-Bound Children

This year Head Start continued to partner with Summit Education Initiative to complete the *Transition Skills Summary (TSS)* assessment for children transitioning to kindergarten. The TSS assessment is a snapshot of a child’s readiness for kindergarten based on 47 skills at the end of their time in a preschool program. The TSS is aligned with the Early Learning and Development Standards used in early learning programs throughout Ohio. This year **406** Head Start Kindergarten-Bound children were counted in the 2,180 Summit County children who participated in the countywide assessment. The graph below shows the outcomes of the five domains assessed and displays Head Start children will be entering Kindergarten “On Track¹” to begin a successful kindergarten school year.

¹“On Track” means children demonstrate having 90% or more of the skills in each domain.

Transition Skills Summary Snapshot Report Kindergarten-Bound Children



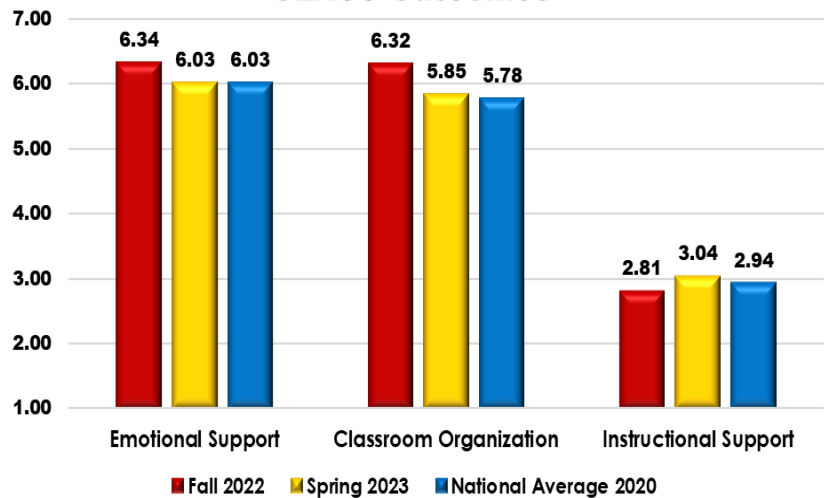
Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

CLASS Scores

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS[®]) focuses on quality teacher-child interactions using observational assessment in three areas on a seven point scale.

- ◆ **Emotional Support:** the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through their everyday interactions.
- ◆ **Classroom Organization:** routines and procedures related to the organization and management of children's behavior, time, and attention.
- ◆ **Instructional Support:** the ways in which teachers implement the educational curriculum to effectively promote children's cognitive and language development.

CLASS Outcomes

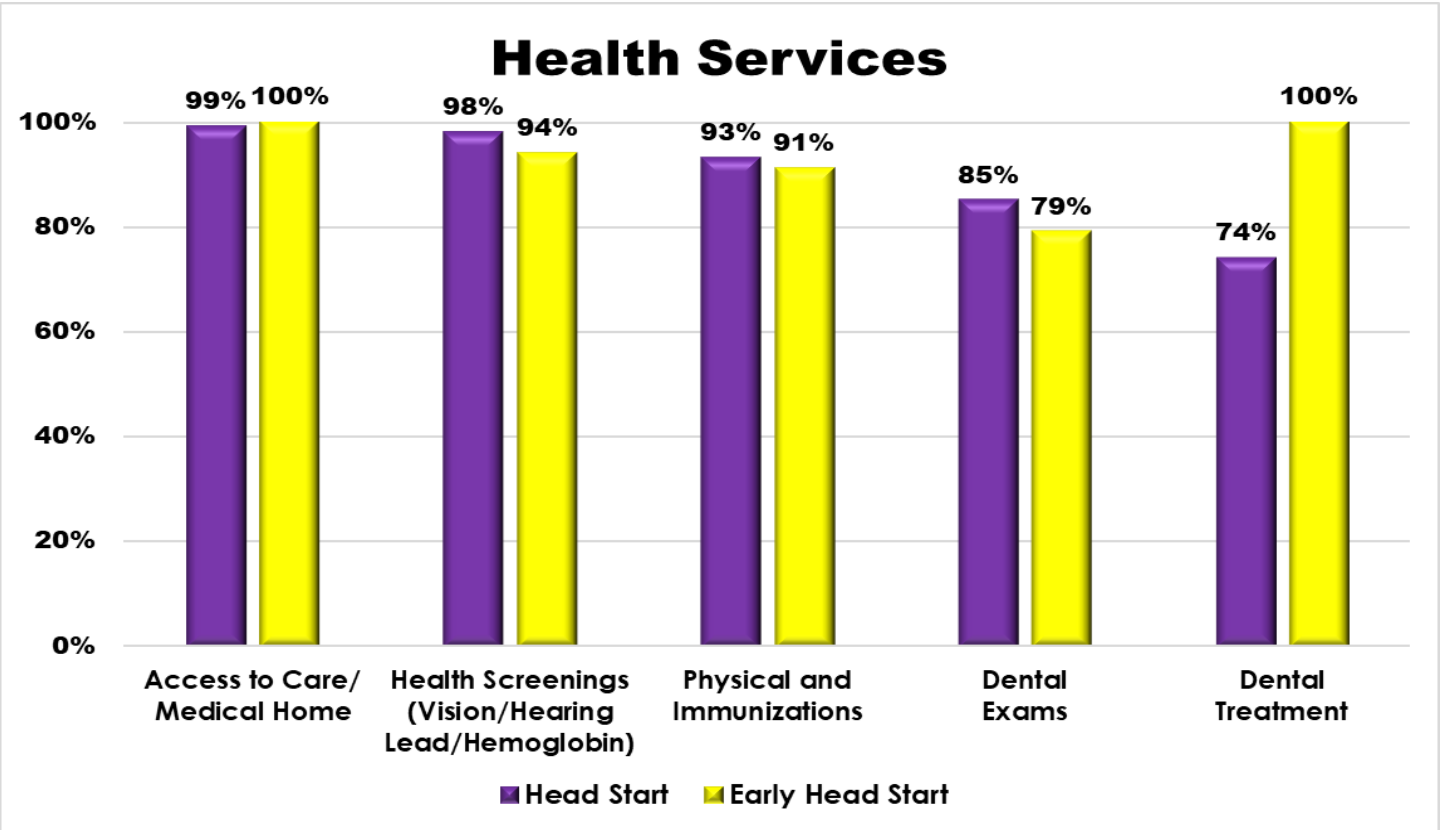


The graph (above) shows our Head Start classroom scores in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 as compared to the 2020 Head Start National Average.

Health Services

Head Start and Early Head Start Health Data

School readiness begins with Health. The Head Start/Early Head Start program supports families in staying up to date with medical appointments, immunizations, and learning healthy habits. We partner with families and community agencies (e.g. doctors and dentists) to help families access healthcare. We want to recognize all of the hard work and time our Head Start and Early Head Start families put in to promoting their child's health: keep up the great work parents! The graph below illustrates the percentage of children who received health services during the program year.



Nutrition Services

Growth Assessments

The Head Start program communicates with parents on their child's nutritional health needs, including special dietary requirements, food allergies, and community nutrition issues (e.g. food insecurities) as identified through the community assessment. Child growth assessments are completed at enrollment on Head Start children ages three through five. Body Mass Index (BMI) is not applicable for children under age two. Children who fall into the categories of underweight, overweight, or obese are monitored during the program year. Nutrition education and monthly nutrition packets are provided to all families and include various nutrition information such as recipes and healthy eating tips. The numbers below represent the growth assessments from this program year for 853 Head Start children based on the BMI chart.

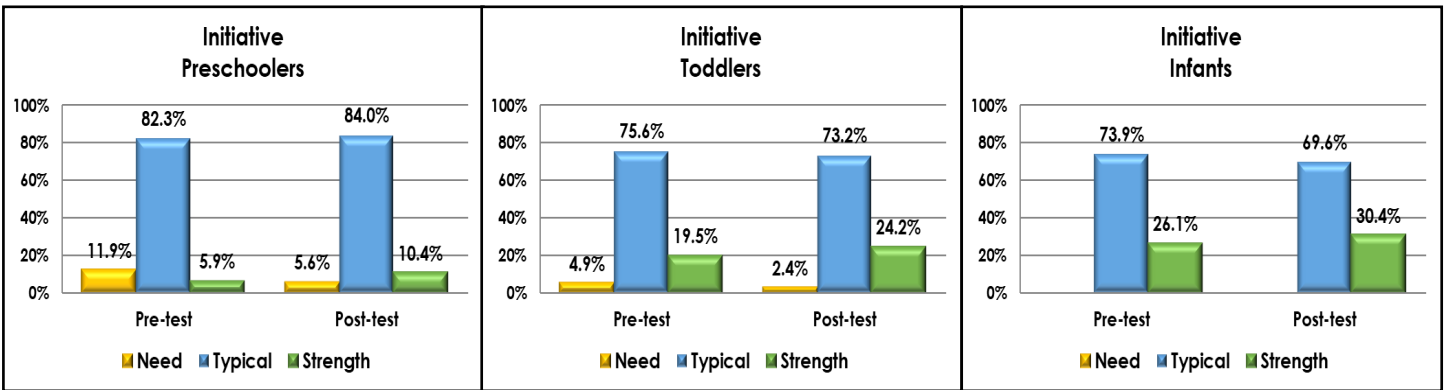
- 30 Underweight** (BMI less than 5th percentile for child's age and gender)
- 548 Normal** (BMI at 5th percentile and below 85th percentile for child's age and gender)
- 140 Overweight** (BMI at 85th percentile and below 95th percentile for child's age and gender)
- 135 Obese** (BMI greater than 95th percentile for child's age and gender)



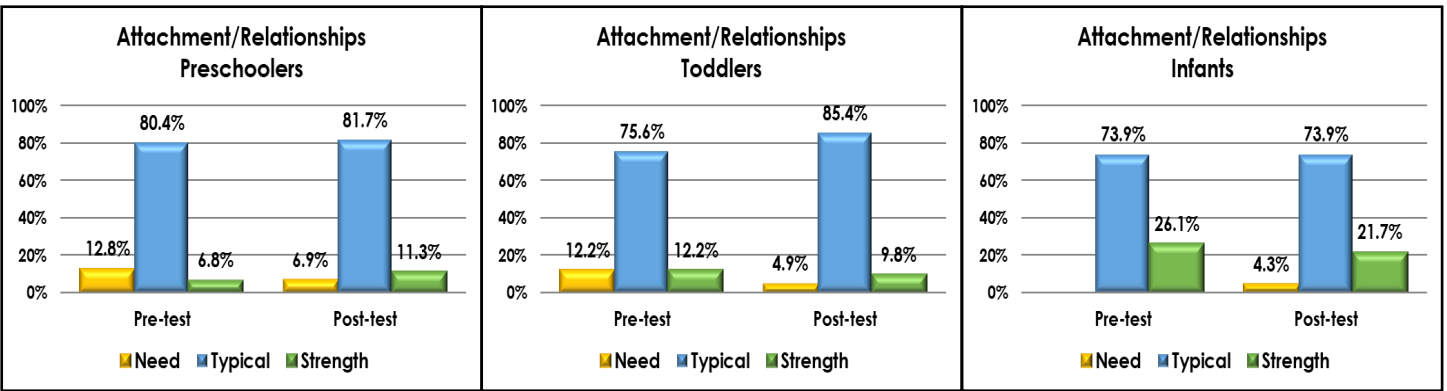
Mental Health Services

Head Start and Early Head Start Social Emotional Snapshot

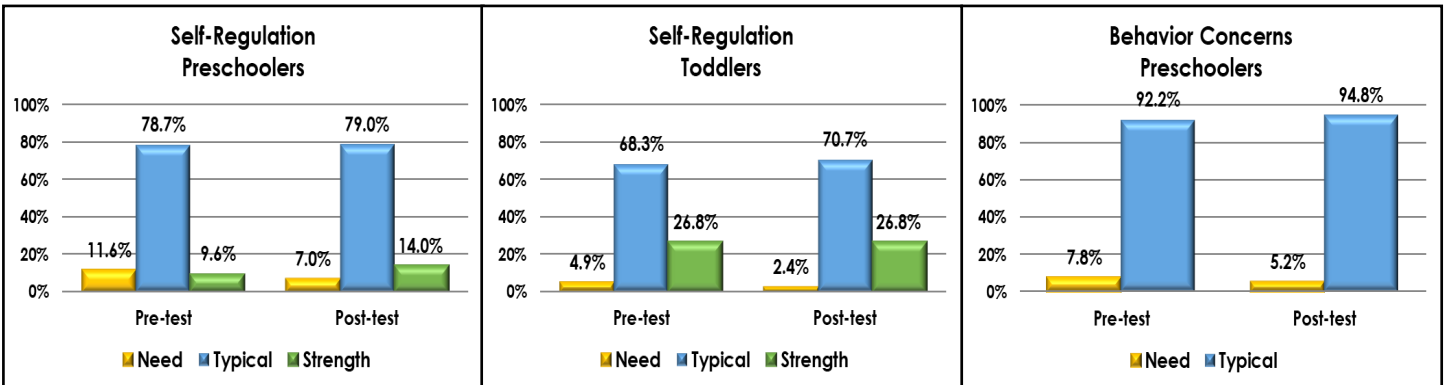
Teachers complete the *Devereux Early Child Assessment* (DECA) twice during the school year to get an overall indication of children’s social and emotional development and resilience. DECA scores fall into three score ranges: **Strength** (exceeds developmental target), **Typical** (on developmental target), and **Need** (needs strategies for resiliency development). Infants are assessed in the areas of Initiative and Attachment/Relationship. Toddlers and Preschoolers are assessed in the areas of Initiative, Attachment/Relationships, and Self-Regulation. In addition, Preschoolers are assessed in the area of Behavioral Concerns. This information helps teachers reinforce skills, teach new skills, and address behaviors that may prevent learning. The data below represents the Pre-test and Post-test assessment ratings for **767** preschoolers, **41** toddlers, and **23** infants enrolled in the Head Start/Early Head Start program this program year.



Initiative: ability to use independent thought and action to meet his or her needs



Attachment/Relationships: ability to promote and maintain mutual, positive connections with other children and significant adults



Self-Regulation: ability to express emotions and manage behavior in healthy ways

Behavioral Concerns: actions that interfere with the child’s learning or development

Spotlight: Parent and Community Partners

Promoting Positive Parent - Child Relationships

Positive Parenting Group

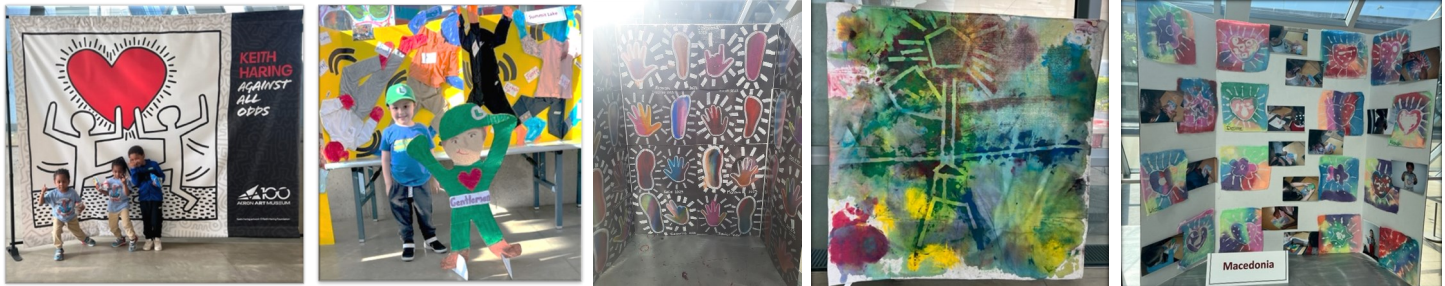


Beginning in February, 14 Head Start/Early Head Start families signed up for our first Positive Parenting Group. Parents engaged in seven weekly discussion groups to enhance their parenting knowledge, skills, and confidence. Parents utilized the online Triple P–Positive Parenting Program® and completed modules weekly. Parents came ready with questions for our discussion topics which focused on encouraging positive discipline, responding to challenging behaviors, and teaching new skills. Pictured are parents **Misty Cundiff** (far left) and **Javon Garrison** (left) who completed the program.

Akron Art Museum

Head Start Night At The Museum

The Head Start/Early Head Start program continues our annual collaboration with the Akron Art Museum to present the Night at the Museum event. In March, teaching staff from our centers at David Bacon, Macedonia, Oak Creek, Portage Path, Robinson, and Summit Lake attended training at the Akron Art Museum to learn about this years featured artist, **Keith Haring**. On May 11th, more than **280** of our parents, children, and staff attended the annual Night at the Museum event to view the children’s artwork showcasing their interpretation of Keith Haring works. Kudos to our children and staff for their creativity and amazing artwork!



Magical Theatre Company

Mother Goose

This spring the Magical Theatre Company brought Mother Goose to our Head Start centers. Children eagerly interacted in the performance of classic rhymes and songs. Rhyming helps children develop language and phonemic awareness for reading.



Akron Symphony Orchestra

Concert for Kids

The Akron Symphony Orchestra presented an ensemble of musical selections for Head Start. The children were introduced to multiple orchestral instruments and musical concepts through an engaging show-and-play session. Children enjoyed listening to storytelling with the music.

