



Early Childhood Care + Education

The early years of a child's life set the stage for a lifetime of learning. All healthy children are born with the capacity to learn. However, beginning at about 3 years of age, children from high-risk environments (defined by poverty, young parental age, single parents, and low maternal education) begin to show significant deficits. If these deficits are not addressed, the majority of these at-risk children will face a lifetime of obstacles.



At-risk children who have access to quality early childhood education are more likely to perform better in school, have higher IQ's, graduate from high school, be employed, earn more, and commit fewer crimes than those who did not. **For every \$1 we invest in early childhood education, society saves \$7 in future costs.**

Early Childhood Care and Education Services

Children's Home + Aid is an Illinois leader in Early Childhood Services, providing:

- Evidence-based practice with an emphasis on professional development
- Services targeting high-need and high-risk populations
- A broad scope of programming incorporating child abuse prevention and family support

Early Childhood Care + Education is one of Children's Home + Aid's largest programs, constituting 17% of the total agency budget. Children's Home + Aid provides a comprehensive array of services including **Early Head Start, Head Start, Preschool for All, Home Based Care, and Child Resource & Referral programs.** The agency's **Early Childhood Centers** provide childcare, education, health services and meals to children aged six weeks to six years old from approximately 7:00am to 6:00pm each day. The Centers provide priority enrollment to children considered at-risk, including children of adolescent parents, victims of child abuse and/or neglect, and children from very low-income households. Approximately 98% of families served earn below \$25,000 per year, with over 30% earning less than \$15,000 annually.

Program Name and Location	Number of Children Served
Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child + Family Center 1701 W. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60636	385
Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center 725 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60194	156
Community Child Care Center of Palatine 721 S. Quentin Rd., Palatine, IL 60067	115
Jerri Hoffmann Child + Family Center 229 Lake Marian Rd., Carpentersville, IL 60110	140
Scott Early Learning Center 1119 East Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701	137



All of Children's Home + Aid's Early Childhood Centers are accredited by the Council on Accreditation, the premiere Social Services accreditation body. Four of the Centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the national leader in measuring excellence in early childhood education.

Addressing the Needs of the Entire Family

Quality early childhood education sets the foundation for a lifetime of educational success for early learners. However, at-risk children and their families require more than early education programming to help them thrive. Our Centers provides unique, essential and comprehensive programming for young children and their families to help them achieve excellent health outcomes and education results.

Raising A Reader: The Raising A Reader program is a research-based early literacy initiative that supports early brain development, parent-child bonding and Kindergarten readiness. Center staff members work with parents of various literacy levels to engage with their children in language sharing and reading activities. The program teaches parents interactive reading skills and encourages reading-related family activities.

Health and Nutrition Curriculum: Centers provides several health and nutrition focused services. Residents of the Englewood community do not have access to low cost preventative medical services. The Freidheim Center's Health Manager provides immunizations, and physical health screenings for children enrolled at the Center and provides nutrition and fitness education for parents.

Parent Engagement: Centers employs a variety of methods to engaged parents in the care and early education of their children. Our centers regularly host parent engagement events that can include Father Involvement meetings encourage fathers to actively participate in their children's growth; Parenting Techniques workshops address safety, common health problems in children, and parental self-sufficiency; Family Fun nights offer opportunities for families to come together and share fun, age-appropriate activities with children and Center staff.

Selected Early Childhood Education Results: 2014-2015 School Year

Children participating in Children's Home + Aid's Early Childhood Care and Education programs have demonstrated a number of positive outcomes, including: better preparedness for Kindergarten, better access to immunizations and health care, improved language skills, improved social/emotional developmental functioning, and improved cognitive functioning. In a 2015 survey of parents and caregivers of children in Early Childhood Care and Education programs, 96% reported that their children were more prepared for Kindergarten.

Other Educational Outcomes:

- 93% of children demonstrated improved language functioning and learning about communicating, a key step in language acquisition.
- 88% of children improved demonstrated improved gross motor development and learning about moving, key developmental steps.
- 96% of children demonstrated improved social/emotional developmental functioning and learning about themselves and others.
- 96% of children demonstrated improved cognitive development and learning about the world.

Health Outcomes:

- 90% of children were current & up-to-date with immunizations or have an intervention plan in place to ensure that all needed immunizations are received.
- 97% of children had an up-to-date physical at the time of review or will have appropriate follow-up to ensure that it is obtained.