



2012 EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START

The Value of Early Childhood Education

The early years of a child's life sets the stage for a lifetime of learning. All healthy children are born with the capacity to learn. However, beginning at about three 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 Head Start & Head Start

Children involved in a Head Start program have been shown to perform better on health, cognitive, and language measures when compared to their three- to five-year-old counterparts who do not participate in a Head Start program. Similarly, children who are enrolled in an Early Head Start program have been shown to demonstrate a higher level of social-emotional development when compared to their birth to three-year-old counterparts not involved in an Early Head Start program.

Recognizing the need for quality education for young children, Children's Home + Aid became an Illinois leader in early childhood education services. The agency provides both Early Head Start and Head Start programming to a variety of high-need populations in several Chicagoland

locations including: the Mitzi Friedheim Englewood Child + Family Center, the Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center, and the Palatine Community Child Care Center. Children's Home + Aid's Early Childhood Care and Education approach is guided completely by sound research, best practices in the classroom, and practical experience in the communities the agency serves.

Selected Early Childhood Education Results: 2011-2012 School Year

Children participating in Children's Home + Early Childhood Care and Education programs have demonstrated a number of positive outcomes, including: **better preparedness for Kindergarten, improved language skills, and improved social/emotional developmental functioning.** Select outcomes from the 2011-2012 school year include:

➤ Mitzi Friedheim Englewood Child + Family Center:

- 95% of parents reported that their children were more prepared for Kindergarten.
- 86% of children demonstrated improved language functioning/improved learning about communicating.
- 84% of children demonstrated improved physical development.
- 86% of children demonstrated improved social/emotional developmental functioning/learning about themselves and others.
- 96% of children demonstrated improved cognitive development/learning about the world.

➤ Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center:

- 100% of parents reported that their children were more prepared for Kindergarten.
- 93% of children demonstrated improved language functioning/improved learning about communicating.
- 83% of children demonstrated improved physical development.
- 89% of children demonstrated improved social/emotional developmental functioning/learning about themselves and others.
- 94% of children demonstrated improved cognitive development/learning about the world.

➤ **Palatine Community Child Care Center:**

- 100% of parents reported that their children were more prepared for Kindergarten.
- 83% of children demonstrated improved language functioning/improved learning about communicating.
- 71% of children demonstrated improved physical development.
- 77% of children demonstrated improved social/emotional developmental functioning/learning about themselves and others.
- 85% of children demonstrated improved cognitive development/learning about the world.

Early Childhood Education Demographics

Children's Home + Aid's Early Childhood Education programs are committed to building a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning in children from all backgrounds and walks of life. Select demographic information for children served in fiscal year 2012 includes:

➤ **Early Head Start:**

- 275 children were served
- 206 children lived in households that were 175% below the poverty line
- 15 children lived in families experiencing homelessness
- 8 children resided in foster care
- 16% of children lived in non-English speaking homes
- 95% of children had up to date on immunizations and physicals (including oral screening) at end of the program year
- 96% average monthly enrollment of funded slots
- Parent involvement activities were provided to parents including workshops and activities focused on literacy, father involvement, asthma management, nutrition and eating well on a budget, financial planning, job readiness, and child growth and development
- In May of 2012 Children's Home received a letter from HHS indicating that the program had no findings as a result of an annual monitoring visit conducted in October 2011.
- In February of 2012, HHS did a follow-up review on issues identified during a May 2011 unannounced visit on the ARRA funded Early Head Start program. Notification was received in September of 2012 that two issues (from nine originally identified) remained on a deficiency status. A Quality Improvement Plan was developed, approved and implemented. Results from a March 2013 review are pending.

➤ **Head Start:**

- 255 children were served
- 84% of children had up to date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date
- 6 children resided in foster care
- 40% of children lived in non-English speaking homes

Fiscal Year 2012 Program Revenue

- The total revenue for Children's Home + Aid's two Early Head Start programs and one Head Start program in the greater Chicago area was \$7,607,753.
- \$3,635,218 was funded by Head Start and \$3,972,535 was funded by non-Head Start sources including private contributions, the United Way, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the USDA Food Program.
- Program expenses totaled \$6,854,451.
- Personnel costs accounted for 59% of program expenses.
- Non-personnel expenses included child care partner costs, occupancy, supplies (e.g. food costs) and other operating costs.

Monique: A Success Story

Monique and her six month old daughter began receiving services from the Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child + Family Center last year. Initially, Monique did not want to take part in the Center's literacy programming, stating that it would be useless for her to try reading to her daughter because she was too young. Following this conversation, the Center's Literacy Coach began working with Monique one-on-one to help her understand how crucial early literacy was to a child's growth and development. Through these discussions it was discovered that Monique was unable to read, but had been embarrassed to say so. From this point forward, each day when Monique arrived at the Freidheim Center with her daughter, the Coach began using the Center's early childhood education books to help her learn how to read. After several weeks, Monique was proudly able to read an entire child's book to her happy baby girl. Today, Monique is taking courses to complete her GED and is still committed to reading at least one book to her daughter daily."

