

# Result of the Quarter | Early Childhood Education

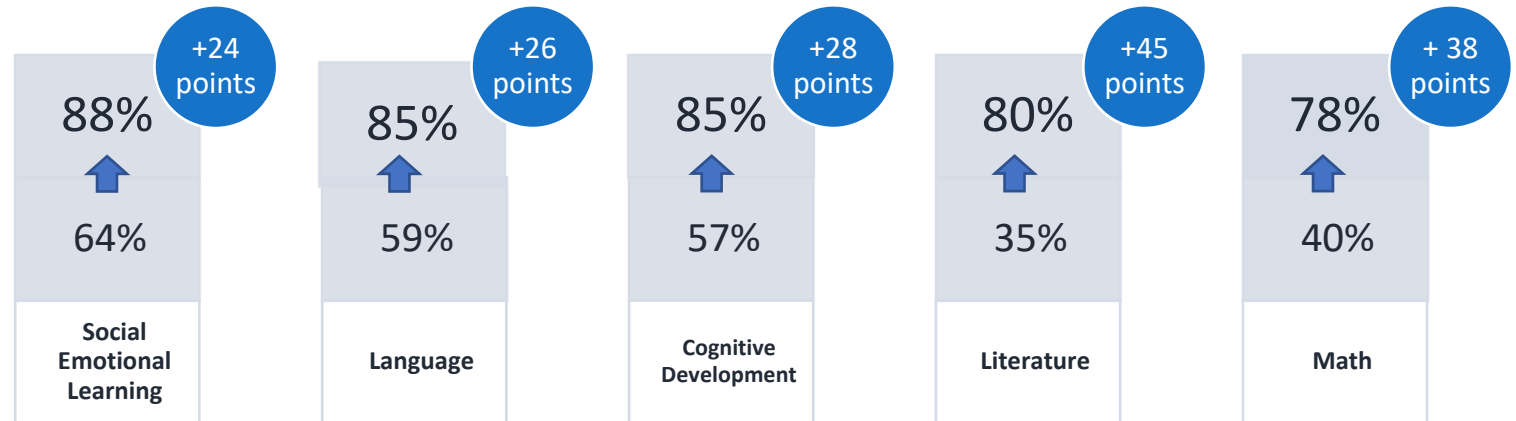
*In all five of Children's Home & Aid's early childhood education centers, African American boys ages 3-5, made significant improvement in meeting or exceeding expectations.*

## Addressing the achievement gap

Children's Home & Aid's early childhood education programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children in low-income families. Programs such as Head Start and Early Head Start offer educational, health, nutrition and social services to children ages 3-5. Children's Home & Aid is an Illinois leader in early childhood services, relying on the research that shows learning begins at birth with crucial brain development happening between 0 and 5 years of age.

## What we see-

A substantial increase in the percentage of African American boys ages 3-5 who are meeting or exceeding expectations from fall 2018 to spring 2019 at all 5 early childhood education centers.



## Why is this result important?

“The National Assessment of Educational Progress shows a clear persistent discrepancy in educational achievement among student groups, with African American, Latino and American Indian students outcomes at the lowest levels of achievement.”<sup>1</sup> “Educational outcomes for students of color are much more a function of their unequal access to key educational resources, including skilled teachers and quality curriculum. Those who are low-income students of color, do not receive the minimum education needed to become literate and join the labor market. This is increasingly problematic, as the knowledge economy we now face demands higher levels of education from all citizens. The nation can ill afford to maintain the structural inequalities in access to knowledge and resources that produce and profound barriers to educational opportunities. Our Future will be increasingly determined by our capacity and our will to educate all children well.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>“Improving African American Student Outcomes: Understanding Educational Achievement and Strategies to Close Opportunity Gaps,” by Charisse Cowan –Pitre, 2014, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol.38, No. 4

<sup>2</sup>“The Flat Earth and Education: How America’s Commitment to Equity Will Determine our Future,” by Linda Darling- Hammond, 2007, *Educational Researcher*, 36, 6