



**THE CHILD  
CENTER OF NY**  
Strengthening Family. Building Community.

**2015** Head Start  
Annual Report

# Who We Are

The Child Center of NY began in 1953 as a children's counseling center in Queens. Today, we are a powerful community presence in the borough and throughout NYC, reaching more than 21,700 young people and their families each year. Our mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. We guide children from birth to adulthood with evidence-based, innovative programs that engage them with school and help them become secure, capable, and confident.

Our Early Head Start and Head Start programs are an integral part of this mission. In the communities we serve, children are up against incredible challenges from birth. Parents often work long hours, do not speak or read English, and struggle with extreme poverty and difficulties related to immigration. Our dedicated and qualified staff—most of whom are from these same communities and speak the same languages as the families we serve—understand these challenges. Drawing on their extensive training, experience, and firsthand knowledge, our educators work to ensure that the young children in our care are developmentally on track—academically, socially, and emotionally—and ready to learn at the level of their peers.

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Suzy uses her natural curiosity to observe an insect. Our Head Start centers emphasize hands-on, play-based learning that teaches academic concepts in ways that make sense to young children and get them excited about school.





Most of the families in our Head Start programs do not own books. Poverty is an issue for the majority of them, and many parents aren't able to read English. Our centers keep classrooms stocked with reading materials, in English and in families' home languages, so that we can include parents and caregivers in literacy events.



# The Whole Child and Entire Family

The Child Center of NY has long recognized that just as we need to ensure children begin school academically ready to learn, we also need to ensure that they begin life socially and emotionally ready to thrive. When children walk through our doors, we look at them holistically—at their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional health—and help them achieve their full potential in each of these interrelated areas. Here are just a few ways we accomplish this goal.

- **Safe and Sound** Our Safe and Sound enhancement screens all families of Head Start children for signs of depression, trauma, domestic violence, and abuse. We provide counseling for parents and children found to be at risk and help parents learn sensitive, responsive caregiving.
- **Child and Family Nutrition Program** Given today's childhood obesity rates, it is more vital than ever to instill healthy attitudes toward eating and exercise from the beginning. Our Child and Family Nutrition Program achieves this goal on a variety of fronts: guiding children in preparing and trying healthy foods in the classroom; a focus on movement activities; participation in food shares from upstate New York organic farms through an initiative called "Farm to Preschool"; and training parents to support healthy habits at home.
- **Health Case Management** Families work with a nurse practitioner who ensures children receive basic health care, monitors children's development, and guides families in the treatment of ongoing medical conditions. In FY 2015, 105 Early Head Start students—more than 92% of enrolled children—received medical and dental exams; 313 Head Start students—100% of enrolled children—received medical and dental exams.
- **Emotionally Responsive Teaching** Our staff evaluate the emotional state of children as they come to school each day and, when they are showing signs of emotional distress, create safe opportunities for the children to express and process emotions that might otherwise interfere with their learning. Additionally, our on-site licensed social workers and social work interns serve as resources for teachers when they need help problem-solving children's behavioral issues.

We also recognize that children do not grow in isolation and offer support to parents and whole families.

At Early Head Start, we offer the Bright Beginnings and Personal Best parenting groups, developed by Ackerman Institute for the Family. Other workshops included Literacy, Parent Support Group, Healthy Eating, Zumba, Parent/Child Make and Take Workshops, and Father Events, and the availability of a parent lending library.

In our Head Start programs, we offer the highly regarded Parent Corps, a 14-week parenting program developed by New York University, in families' home languages. Other parent workshops include Literacy, Keeping Children Safe, Developing Self-Esteem, Understanding Curriculum, Developmental Milestones and Healthy Eating. Our Woodside center offered a monthly parent support group with a social worker from Theracare, a health care and education organization that provides developmental, educational, and evaluation services. Woodside families participated in a Family Game Night, where families were invited to share quality time together playing various board games. A Parent Lending Library was organized at our Corona Head Start/EarlyLearn Program, and at our Escalera Head Start, we helped facilitate a community garden and numerous events, such as a spring jamboree, that brought families together and encouraged the building of a supportive network.

At all of our early childhood education centers, each child is assigned a family service worker whom families can count on for guidance and support. These professionals are trained to recognize risk factors for abuse, trauma, and other issues and can refer families to other services in the community or within The Child Center so that parents can learn to confront challenges in a safe and constructive way—now and in the future.





# Commitment to Excellence

## Outcomes: Woodside Head Start

**100%**

of four-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for literacy development



**21.4%**

**100%**

of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for math development



**12.5%**

**96%**

of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development



**22.0%**

## Audit Results

The national Office of Head Start periodically reviews all grantees and evaluates their performance in such areas as health and safety, fiscal integrity, school readiness, and teacher-child interactions.

**In FY 2015, The Child Center of NY's Early Head Start and Head Start programs earned a perfect audit.** The programs were found compliant in all areas, and no corrective action was required.

The Child Center's annual independent audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2015 was issued by Nawrocki Smith Certified Public Accountants on January 11, 2016.



ALISON: Alison came to our Early Head Start program with no expressive language skills. As staff worked with Alison on verbalization, they also worked with her mom on supporting Alison's development. It became clear that Alison's mom was enduring incredible hardships and would need support of her own. She received mental health services through The Child Center and became part of the EHS parent committee, which helped her understand the importance of her role in Alison's education. By the time Alison graduated from EHS, she was meeting age-appropriate expectations. She enjoys expressing herself through art and playing—and talking—with her peers.



# The Next Step:

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten

At The Child Center of NY, we work to ensure that by the time they leave our Head Start programs, children are prepared to thrive in kindergarten and their parents are confident and equipped to support them on their educational journey.

Our teachers use the Creative Curriculum's Teaching Strategies GOLD to assess children's progress in all developmental domains and for planning appropriate learning activities. Creative Curriculum GOLD is aligned with the New York State Common Core Standards for pre-K and New York State Early Learning Guidelines. Children were assessed three times during fiscal year 2015, and we used the results to inform planning for individual children and groups of children. Staff development topics included literacy, observations of children, and intentional planning.

All of our Head Start centers have forged strong relationships with local elementary schools, and key staff from those schools spoke with parents about preparing for kindergarten. In the spring, transition activities helped support the children and their families with the upcoming transition by organizing such activities as visiting area schools, having Head Start graduates talk to the preschoolers about kindergarten, studying the transformation from caterpillars to butterflies, and participating in planting activities as metaphors for their own metamorphosis.

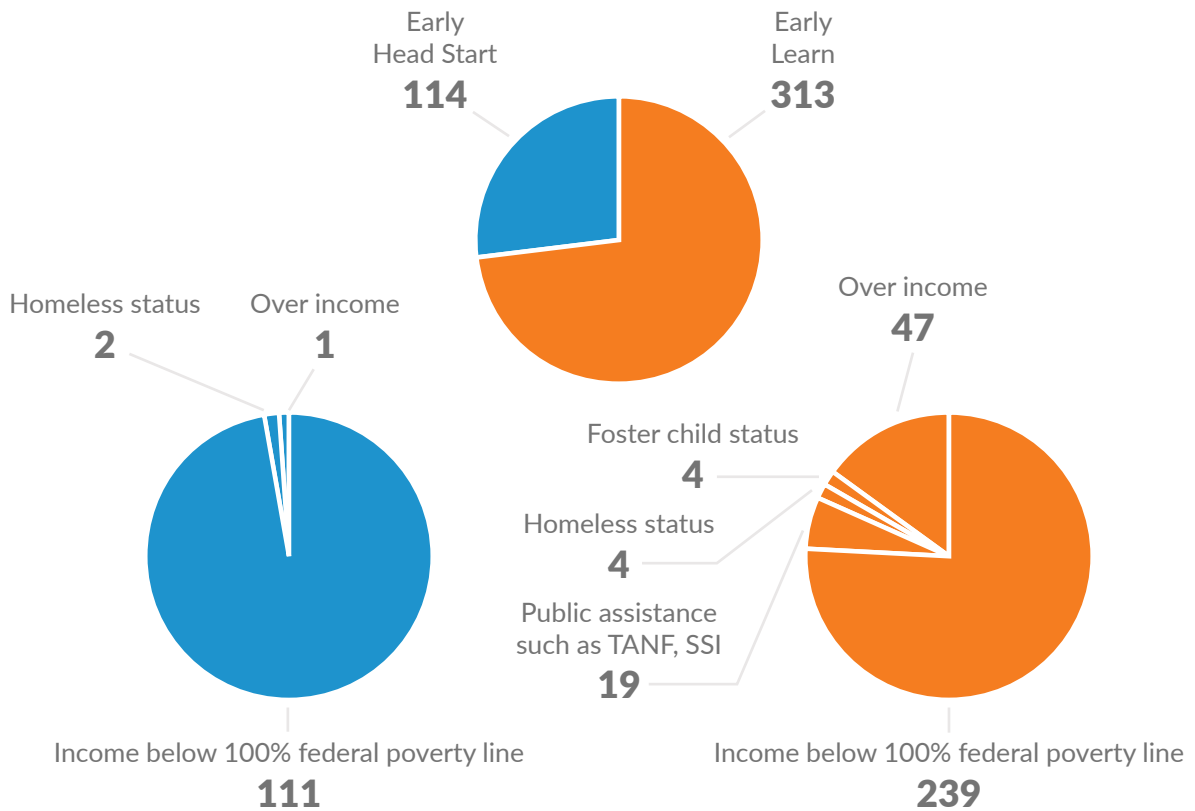
Kindergarten readiness is a theme that flows throughout our programming throughout the year. We ensure students are academically ready by teaching academic concepts in ways that make sense to young children and get them excited about their education. And by employing emotionally responsive teaching, introducing conflict resolution techniques, and allowing for strong relationships between teachers and children (and among the children themselves), we help ensure they are emotionally ready for kindergarten as well. We also help parents get ready for this new stage by teaching them how to advocate for their children and encouraging the parents to form a circle of support themselves.

In this way, we help children and families begin their formal education with confidence and a positive feeling about school that will benefit them in kindergarten and beyond.

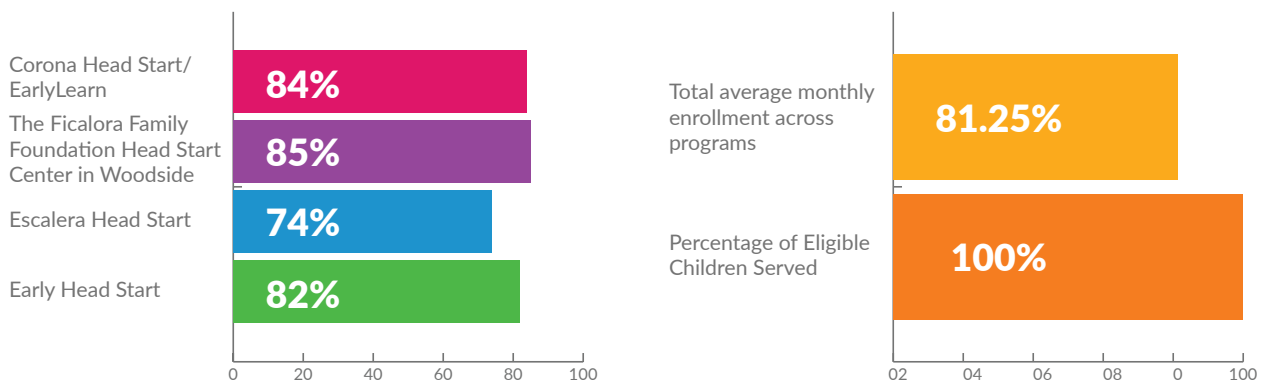


# Who We Serve

## Total Number of Children and Families Served



## Average Monthly Enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment)



# Financials

## FY 2015 Budget and Expenditures

For the years ending June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016

	Head Start			Early Head Start		
	FY 2015 Budget	FY 2015 Expenses	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2015 Budget	FY 2015 Expenses	FY 2016 Budget
Personnel	1,282,198	1,300,485	1,338,322	607,793	556,880	599,514
Fringe Benefits	341,792	369,285	458,625	241,897	156,795	252,344
Facilities	326,846	182,960	239,707	100,000	106,043	147,905
Travel	1,004	2,290	306	50,400	40,102	50,400
Equipment	8,078	5,617	5,871	-	-	-
Supplies	43,889	39,467	18,890	10,500	16,165	2,000
Other	65,244	168,624	3,872	47,970	53,433	66,511
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>2,069,051</b>	<b>2,068,728</b>	<b>2,065,593</b>	<b>1,058,560</b>	<b>929,418</b>	<b>1,118,674</b>
Administrative Expenses	277,663	295,833	295,046	63,514	46,070	111,867
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>2,346,714</b>	<b>2,364,561</b>	<b>2,360,639</b>	<b>1,122,074</b>	<b>975,488</b>	<b>1,230,541</b>

## Public vs. Private Funding

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Total Federal Funding	2,554,558	983,225
Total Non Federal Match Expenses	418,418	238,904
Total Financial Support	2,972,976	1,222,129

# Where You Can Find Us

## **Traci Donnelly, M.S.**

CEO and Executive Director, The Child Center of NY

## **Linda Rodriguez, M.A. Ed.**

Vice President, Early Childhood and Prevention

The Child Center offers two nationally accredited Early Head Start programs for low-income children prenatal to age 3, and we offer three Head Start programs for children ages 3 to 5. All of our centers provide a safe, stimulating environment that encourages cognitive, social, and emotional development. Programs are full-day and year-round to meet the needs of working families.

## **Early Head Start Center**

140-15B Sanford Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11355  
347-506-0832

## **Home-Based Early Head Start Services**

34-10 108 Street  
Corona, NY 11368

## **Corona Head Start/EarlyLearn Program**

34-10 108th Street  
Corona, NY 11368  
347-287-0175

## **Escalera Head Start**

169 West 87th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
212-799-2440

## **The Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start Center**

60-02 Roosevelt Avenue  
Woodside, NY 11377  
718-943-2800



## THE CHILD CENTER OF NY

Strengthening Family. Building Community.



The Child Center of NY offers a holistic, family-centric approach to helping underserved youth.

Our mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. We hold ourselves accountable for our results, using methods that are proven to make a difference.

Our programs are located in the communities we serve, with staff who speak 22 languages and understand the challenges our clients face.

We know that with the right skills, education, counseling, and development programs, children can reach their full potential.