



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

2016 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 26,000 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 ensure the children in our care are developmentally on track — academically, socially, and emotionally — and ready to learn at the level of their peers.



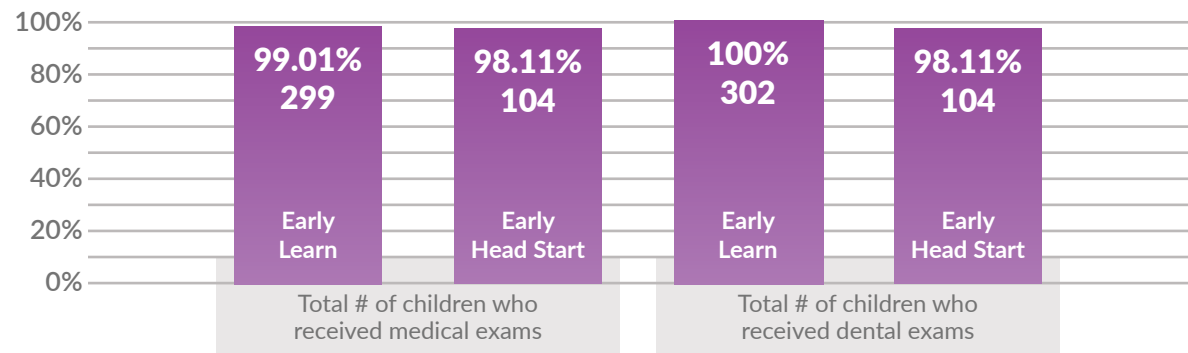
Students of our Escalera Head Start participated in a take-home seed-planting activity at a community garden, providing the children a unique opportunity to learn about where our food comes from, scientific concepts, and healthy eating. It is an activity in which parents, children, and teachers enjoyed engaging together and exemplifies the hands-on learning that guides all our Head Start centers.



Nelly and her father (above) create the template for butterfly wings. Our centers prioritize father engagement events, which promote bonding and social-emotional development. At our Corona Head Start, the number of dads who participated in father engagement events increased from 54 to 79.



The Whole Child and Entire Family



The Child Center of NY has long recognized that just as we need to ensure that 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.
- **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.
- **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.

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

In FY 2016, our centers offered the following family events, activities, and workshops:

- **Big Apple Crunch Day**
- **Bright Beginnings**
- CPR/First Aid Training**
- Developmental Milestones Workshop**
- Empowerment Mother Support Group**
- Family Planning**
- Family Zumba**
- Farm Trips**
- Farmer’s Market Tours**
- Immigration Workshops**
- Literacy Project**
- **ParentCorps**
- Parent Support Group**
- **Personal Best**
- Potty Training/Bottle Weaning**
- Pregnancy Loss**
- **Jumpstart’s Read for the Record**
- **Single Stop Presentation**
- Take Your Child to School Day**

Our students enjoy participating in national and city-wide initiatives such as this NYC celebration of healthy eating that aims to set the world record for “The Most Participants to Bite into an Apple in One Day.”

Our Early Head Start program offers this parent-child group where children and parents build a support network while participating in conversations on child development. The group helps to develop secure, healthy, attached relationships between parents and their children.

One of our most popular offerings, this 14-week parenting program developed by New York University is available in families’ home languages at our Corona and Woodside locations.

Parents can find a safe space to explore how they were raised, and how this impacts the way they raise their own children.

This national campaign brings young children together with valued grown-ups in their lives to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world.

The Child Center’s Single Stop program provides free counseling on entitlements, health insurance, financial guidance, social services, and legal services. On-site health insurance and SNAP (“food stamp”) enrollment available.

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

Spotlight on: Corona Head Start

85% **↑ 29%**
of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for language development in the spring, up from 29% in the fall.

88% **↑ 27%**
of three-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development, up from 27% in the fall.

100% **↑ 65%**
of four-year-olds met or exceeded expectations for cognitive development, up from 65% in the fall.

Audit Results

In FY 2016, The Child Center of NY's EarlyLearn programs underwent two audits: one was in the area of Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance; and the other was in Health and Safety. Both audits determined that the programs were in full compliance after minor corrections.

Early Head Start was audited once and received a perfect audit with no corrective action required.

The Child Center's annual independent audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2016, was issued by PKF O'Connor Davies Certified Public Accountants on November 30, 2016.



Iker and his mother meet with Early Head Start nurse consultant Fran Brenner to discuss health issues, including developmental concerns that arose after staff administered the Ages and Stages 3 Developmental Screening Tool. The Child Center understands that the well-being of the entire family is crucial to a child's development and provides services not only to children, but also to caregivers, including Iker's mother, who receives mental health services at The Child Center.



When Athena (left, pictured with her mother) enrolled in our Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start, she didn't socialize or speak in group settings, which was affecting the bright child academically. Athena's mother revealed in a parenting workshop that the family was experiencing physical and verbal abuse. A family worker helped address the situation at home,

and Athena began play therapy with the center's social worker. By spring in the year before kindergarten, Athena was meeting expectations for social-emotional development and exceeding expectations for cognitive development. She began kindergarten with confidence and a positive attitude about school.

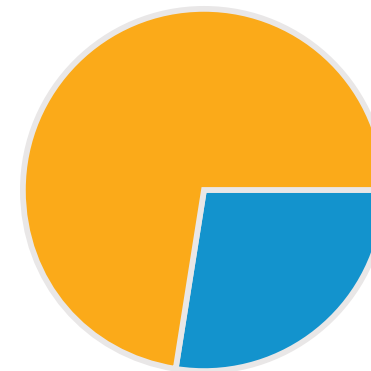
The Next Step: Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Programs use the Teaching Strategies GOLD to assess children's progress in all developmental domains and for planning appropriate learning activities. Teaching Strategies 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 the year, and staff used the results to inform their planning for groups of children, as well as individual children.

Staff development topics included Literacy, Observations of Children, and Intentional Planning.

Sites have relationships with local elementary schools, and key staff from those schools spoke with parents about preparing for kindergarten. Various transition activities were planned in the spring to support the children and their families with their transition from pre-K to kindergarten. Activities included visiting area schools, having Head Start graduates talk to the preschoolers about kindergarten, studying the transformation from caterpillars to butterflies, and experiencing planting activities as metaphors for this transition.

Who We Serve



Total number of children and families served

- EarlyLearn: 302
- Early Head Start: 113



Total number of eligible children served EarlyLearn

- Income below 100% federal poverty line: 231/ 76.49%
- Public assistance such as TANF, SSI: 14/4.64%
- Foster child status: 3/.99%
- Homeless status: 3/.99%
- Over income: 21/6.95%



Total number of eligible children served Early Head Start

- Income below 100% federal poverty line: 107/ 94.69%
- Public assistance such as TANF, SSI: 0
- Foster child status: 0
- Homeless status: 0
- Over income: 6/ 5.31%

All children served were eligible based on selection criteria.

Financials

FY 2016 Budget and Expenditures

For the years ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017

	Head Start			Early Head Start		
	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2016 Expenses	FY 2017 Budget	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2016 Expenses	FY 2017 Budget
Personnel	1,514,319	1,363,410	1,459,352	599,514	620,527	638,678
Fringe Benefits	476,258	406,440	530,626	252,344	164,543	208,514
Facilities	288,893	272,352	321,129	147,905	155,758	23,770
Travel	3,322	3,253	1,862	50,400	40,611	26,004
Equipment	-	-	11,468	-	2,226	-
Supplies	84,486	59,988	42,041	2,000	14,394	11,000
Other	131,586	91,042	80,091	66,511	77,737	73,436
Direct Costs	2,498,865	2,196,485	2,446,569	1,118,674	1,075,796	981,402
Administrative Expenses	-	-	-	111,867	129,714	98,140
Total Amount	2,498,865	2,196,485	2,446,569	1,230,541	1,205,510	1,079,542

Public vs. Private Funding

	Head Start	Early Head Start
Total Federal Funding	2,350,209	983,136
Total Non Federal Match Expenses	1,060,511	359,178
Total Financial Support	3,410,719	1,342,314

Where You Can Find Us

Traci Donnelly, M.S.

Chief Executive Officer

Linda Rodriguez, M.A. Ed.

Vice President, Early Childhood and Prevention

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

Summary of Recent Community Needs Assessments

Updated Community Needs Assessments were conducted in March 2016 for our community districts: CD3 and CD2 in Queens and CD7 in Manhattan. Our programs continue to serve low-income families who struggle with poverty, unemployment, immigration, community violence, overcrowded housing, and inadequate access to social services. Affordable, adequate housing is the primary need for families in all districts, with an increase of children living in shelters. All districts have seen an increase in available child care services for UPK with the expansion of NYC Pre-K for All. The needs of children and families remain unchanged from the prior year. A full Community Needs Assessment will be completed in 2018.



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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 nearly two dozen 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.