



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

2017 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 nearly 30,000 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.

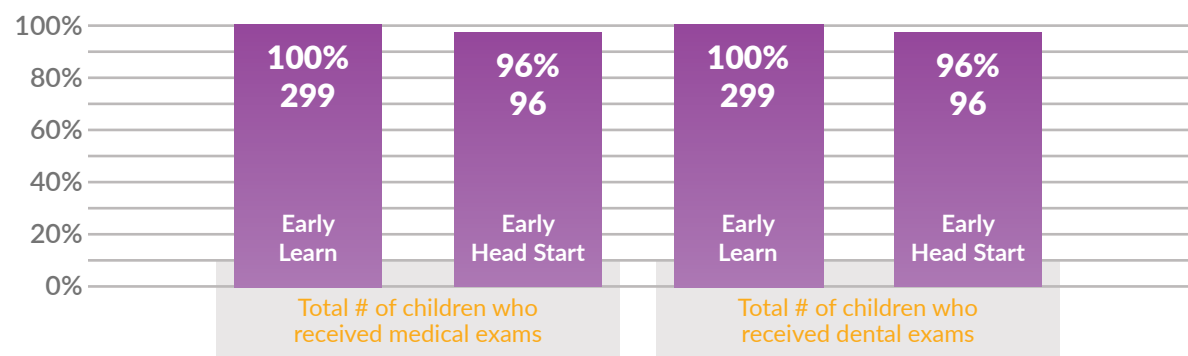


Daisy's teacher has given her the opportunity to engage her peers through reading. She is learning to build her confidence and social skills while co-learning with her classmates about the importance of "reduce, reuse, recycle." The book and related activity are promoting letter recognition, building and sorting skills, and fine motor skills.



Circle time is an effective way for preschoolers to establish a sense of community with their peers and enhance their social skills and attention span. At EarlyLearn Corona, each day begins with circle time, which helps to introduce the topics and plans for the day. In this photo of Ms. Silvana's class for 4-year-olds, the children are learning their phonics and letter recognition.

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.

Emotional Well-Being • 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. Additionally, we practice **Emotionally Responsive Teaching**, through which 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. 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.

Physical Health • 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. Through **Health Case Management**, all families have the opportunity to 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. Coming up in FY 2018: a partnership with Northwell Health that will significantly expand our physical health services.

Individual Strengths • An integral part of caring for children holistically is encouraging their strengths. That’s why our centers provide opportunities for children to explore music, scientific exploration, and the arts. In FY 2017, we were pleased to offer the acclaimed **Studio in a School Program**, in which students are taught by a professional artist, and teachers learn how to continue lessons on their own. Each artist chooses one art piece for consideration in the organization’s Littlest Learners exhibit at its gallery in Midtown Manhattan. Only about 15 percent of submissions are selected; one of them was by 4-year-old Mamun of our Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start.

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

In FY 2017, our EarlyLearn/Head Start centers offered a variety of parent activities that served to **strengthen families**, as well as **create bonds between families** so that they would have an existing **support network** before their children enter kindergarten and the public school system.

Family events included a number of father-involvement events, such as a Fathers Matter support group and Father-Child Play Date Night at our Corona site, in addition to our yearly participation in Dads Take Your Child to School Day at all three of our centers.

Support groups included English and immigration classes and workshops, a Healing through Craft Women’s Support Group at Corona, monthly parent support groups at Woodside, and the popular ParentCorps, a 14-week parenting program developed by New York University, available in families’ home languages and offered at our Corona and Woodside locations. We also help parents support their children’s academic and intellectual development by offering a parent lending library and Cool Culture Workshop.

In keeping with our holistic approach, we also offered workshops and activities to support families’ **physical health**, including a sexual health workshop, Zumba classes, Cornell University nutrition workshops at EarlyLearn Corona, and Healthy Body with Nurse Fran at our Head Start Center in Woodside. Nurse Fran is a registered nurse, on staff at all the Early Childhood sites, whose guidance has proven indispensable to families for many years.

At Early Head Start, Zumba was supplemented with yoga classes to **encourage healthy bodies** through exercise. To encourage healthy habits through food choice, we implemented a nutrition curriculum called Nibble with Willow. Endorsed by the USDA,

this curriculum introduces young children to fruits and vegetables through a bunny puppet named Willow, who loves her fruits and veggies and is at her happiest when she can engage the children she meets to learn all about them. The program is very tactile, using large magnifying glasses for children to explore raw fruits and vegetables, and children track their daily progress of the different fruits and vegetables by color.

Early Head Start also continued its **parent-child socialization group**; the **Bright Beginnings group**, where children and parents build a support network while participating in conversations on child development; and **Personal Best**, a group in which parents can find a safe space to explore how they were raised, and how this impacts the way they raise their own children. For a firsthand account of how Personal Best influenced one of our moms, please visit childcenterny.org/jessicas-story/.



Our Escalera Head Start families participated in Dads Take Your Child to School Day, a statewide initiative to engage male parents and caregivers in their children’s education. The children were clearly delighted to show the special men in their lives how much they’d been learning. One of those children was Maximiliano. Once the 3-year-old realized his dad was staying longer in the classroom, he sat down with him on the carpet and gave him a book for them to read together.

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:
Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start

At our Head Start center in Woodside, Queens:

100% ↑ 70%

of three-year-olds met or exceeded widely held expectations for math development in the spring, up from 30% in the fall

93% ↑ 40%

met or exceeded expectations for literacy development, up from 53%

97% ↑ 59%

met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development, up from 38%

The Child Center of NY's annual independent audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2017 was issued by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP on November 28, 2017. The auditor's report reflected an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and there were no instances of non-compliance or matters that were required to be reported under the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America for the year ended June 30, 2017. Our EarlyLearn and Early Head Start centers did not have any federal monitoring audits in FY 2017.



Aporshaw and Johan at our Ficalora Family Foundation Head Start in Woodside are using their fine motor skills and knowledge about their world to build things that move. Through problem-solving and cooperative play, they figure out together how to use bristle blocks to represent what they see in their community.



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.

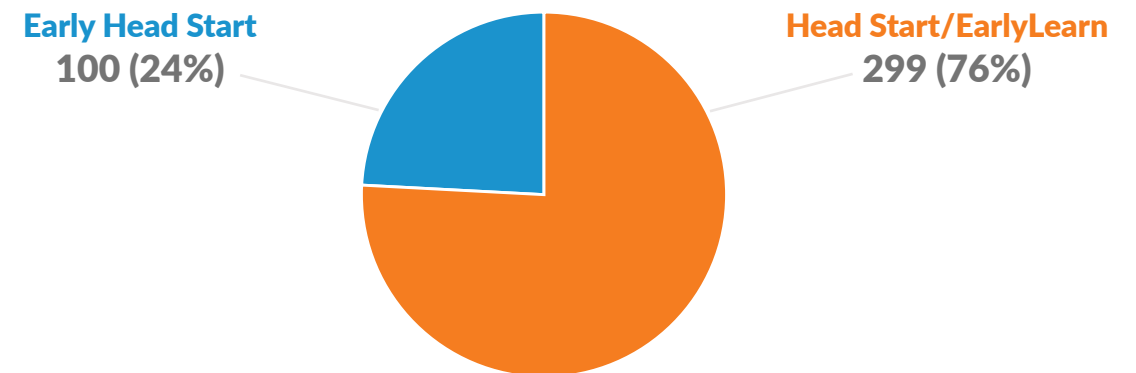
Sites have relationships with local elementary schools, and key staff from those schools spoke with parents about preparing for kindergarten. Various transition activities were planned in the spring to support the children and their families with their transition from pre-K to kindergarten. Activities 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.

New This Year

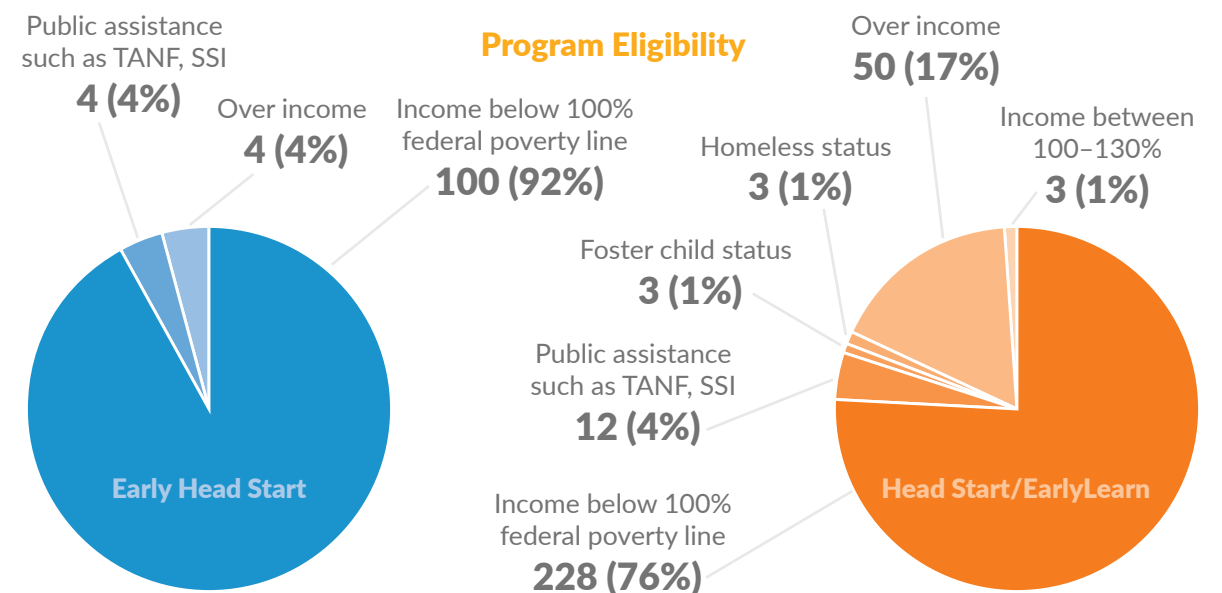
During the 2016–17 academic year, our Head Start centers implemented a strategy pioneered by the Center for Resilient Children called FLIP IT to address challenging behaviors. The four steps embodied in the FLIP IT mnemonic are **F** – Feelings, **L** – Limits, **I** – Inquiries, and **P** – Prompts. When consistently and correctly applied, FLIP IT encourages children to become emotionally aware problem-solvers who develop healthy coping skills that will benefit them as they begin kindergarten and throughout their lives.

Who We Serve

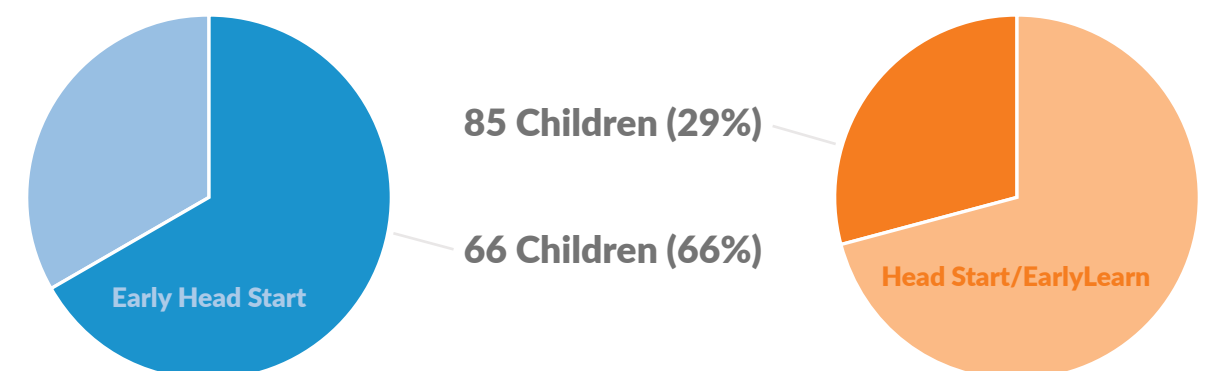
Total Number of Children and Families Served



Program Eligibility



Homeless Status as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act*



*While only a small number of enrolled families identify as being homeless, there are many more who do not realize that they are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which defines homelessness as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. We refer to these families as “doubled up,” with overcrowded living spaces and shared or limited access to the necessities of kitchen and bathroom usage.

Financials

FY 2017 Budget and Expenditures

For the years ending June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018

| | Head Start | | | Early Head Start | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | FY 2017 Budget | FY 2017 Expenses | FY 2018 Budget | FY 2017 Budget | FY 2017 Expenses | FY 2018 Budget |
| Personnel | 1,468,368 | 1,256,027 | 1,496,701 | 638,678 | 625,603 | 645,005 |
| Fringe Benefits | 402,343 | 225,743 | 496,796 | 208,514 | 192,147 | 219,303 |
| Facilities | 307,551 | 298,605 | 281,966 | 23,770 | 172,107 | 23,770 |
| Travel | 3,831 | 3,831 | 5,891 | 53,498 | 44,558 | 45,000 |
| Equipment | - | - | - | - | 1,571 | - |
| Supplies | 68,030 | 68,030 | 32,674 | 8,500 | 17,692 | 14,000 |
| Other | 137,447 | 84,760 | 88,828 | 38,936 | 62,970 | 34,307 |
| Health and Safety | 49,030 | 49,030 | 50,000 | - | - | - |
| Total Direct Costs | 2,436,599 | 1,986,025 | 2,452,856 | 971,896 | 1,116,648 | 981,385 |
| Administrative Expenses | 450,573 | 450,573 | 245,286 | 97,190 | 153,627 | 133,566 |
| In-Kind Expenses | 875,000 | 907,742 | 900,000 | 90,000 | 86,915 | 90,000 |
| Food Program | 160,000 | 159,092 | 160,000 | 40,000 | 39,248 | 40,000 |
| Head Start UPK (Non-Federal) | 62,800 | 62,800 | 83,890 | - | - | - |
| DOE HS UPK Enhancement | 206,834 | 206,834 | 224,473 | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | 4,191,806 | 3,773,067 | 4,066,505 | 1,199,086 | 1,396,438 | 1,244,951 |

FY 2017 Public vs. Private Funding

| | Head Start | Early Head Start |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Federal Funding | 2,595,691 | 1,011,144 |
| Total Non-Federal Match Expenses | 1,177,376 | 385,294 |
| Total Financial Support | 3,773,067 | 1,396,438 |

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 2017 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.



The Child Center of NY offers a holistic, family-centric approach to helping under-served 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 collectively 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 of any background can reach their full potential.