

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

The Center
Early Childhood Programs
&
Head Start

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

The Center Early Childhood Programs & Head Start: 2015-16 Annual Report

Mission

Our mission is to serve and respect children and families by providing research-based early childhood services that promote the development of knowledge, life skills and self-esteem.

About The Center

The Center operates seven integrated preschool classrooms with children from all programs and backgrounds represented. All children learn respect for self and others, and are prepared with skills and resources for success in both school and life.

HEAD START is the largest and best-known federal early childhood program. Head Start provides comprehensive education, physical and mental health, nutritional, and family development services with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention for eligible children ages three to five years. Eighty-nine percent of the 73 families served in Head Start in Lake County have income at or below 130% of the federal poverty line, and about 18% were identified with special needs. Head Start helps children enter Kindergarten ready for success in school, while also building strong relationships between families and schools.

COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM serves 75 three and four year old children and their families with identified academic and other risk factors. Children and families receive many of the same services that are provided for Head Start families, including health and developmental screenings, family supports, and opportunities for parent involvement.

TUITION-BASED PRESCHOOL serves children three and four year olds and their families on a sliding scale fee schedule. Families receive the same services as children enrolled in the Colorado Preschool Program.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ages three and four receive their services at The Center in an inclusive setting.

THE SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM serves children ages five to thirteen in an after school activity program on a sliding scale fee schedule. Buses transport children to and from other schools in the District.

Funding Received by The Center: FY2016

Federal:

Head Start \$542,276

State:

Colorado Preschool Program \$291,302

Private:

AV Hunter Trust \$30,000

Head Start FY2016 Budget

Personnel , including salaries & fringe benefits	\$483,456
Training & Technical Assistance , including teacher education & professional development	\$11,931
Other Expenses , including medical, utilities, supplies	\$46,889
Total Grant Amount	<u>\$542,276</u>

Head Start Facts

Total number of children and families served in Head Start, 2015-2016: **73**

Average monthly Head Start enrollment: **63%**

Results of most recent federal monitoring review: May 2016 (Environmental Health & Safety) – No area of noncompliance was found during the review.

Percentage of Head Start children receiving medical exams: **97%**

Percentage of Head Start children receiving dental exams: **88%**

Opportunities for Parent Engagement

The Center provides many opportunities for parent and family involvement, including:

- Family Fun Nights: At least 5 events throughout the year offering educational activities for parents and children to do together. Parents have the opportunity to assist with planning these events via the Parent Activity Committee.
- Parenting classes: Offered in partnership with Full Circle of Lake County
- Home Visits: Offered twice a year
- Parent/teacher conferences: Offered twice a year
- Policy Council: Part of our shared governance approach, parents can serve on the Policy Council and influence program policies and goals.
- Program committees: Including health services, family and community partnerships, and education.
- Take home practice packs: Allowing parents to participate in the curriculum directly with their child. Emphasize activities for learning, not worksheets.
- Special events: Catered to parents' needs and interests.

Parent Engagement Highlights

We had a great turnout at the 2015 Thanksgiving Lunch! 64% of Head Start enrolled families attended for Policy Council updates, information on Explore Your Community, and to enjoy a tasty lunch. Mail Month was also a big hit in February. Families were encouraged to make a mailbox for the classroom and send mail to their child as part of the take-home Practice Pack that month. Children received mail from family and friends all over Colorado and beyond! In addition, due to efforts from Policy Council, we were able to utilize a mini-grant to purchase greenhouses for each of the classrooms to jumpstart our preschoolers' knowledge of growing and eating healthy foods.

The Center School Readiness Goals

In 2015-2016, we continued the established School Readiness Goals for all children in our preschool program. We monitor our progress on these goals through child observations collected on a daily basis by our preschool teachers and entered into Teaching Strategies GOLD, our online assessment system.

Physical Development: All children will improve gross and fine motor skills. All children shall have an opportunity to increase knowledge of physical and health practices.

Literacy: All children will gain knowledge of literacy through a love of books, letter and sound recognition, emergent writing skills, and environmental print in their home language.

Math: All children will show an increased knowledge and understanding (in their home language) of how numbers, shapes, and patterns are useful problem solving tools for everyday life activities.

Social and Emotional Development: All children will have a better understanding of, and will demonstrate, positive social interactions with others, as well as developing self-regulation skills and increasing self-awareness and self-efficacy. All children will show an increased awareness of their own emotional and behavioral health needs.

Social Studies: Children will have a better understanding of themselves through an increased sense of, and knowledge about, their community, the natural environment and local history, while supporting their cultural backgrounds.

Approaches to Learning: All children will show an increase in their initiative and curiosity toward learning, they will improve their attentiveness and persistence when completing tasks, and will make gains in cooperation and positive interactions with peers.

Language Development: All children will improve their expressive and receptive language skills in addition to demonstrating competency in their home language; English Language Learners will increase engagement and increase understanding in English literacy activities.

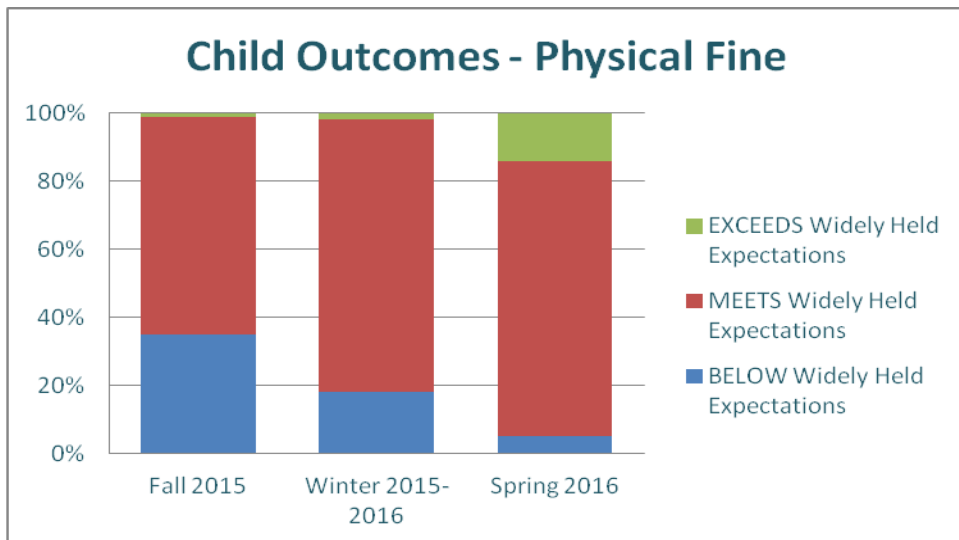
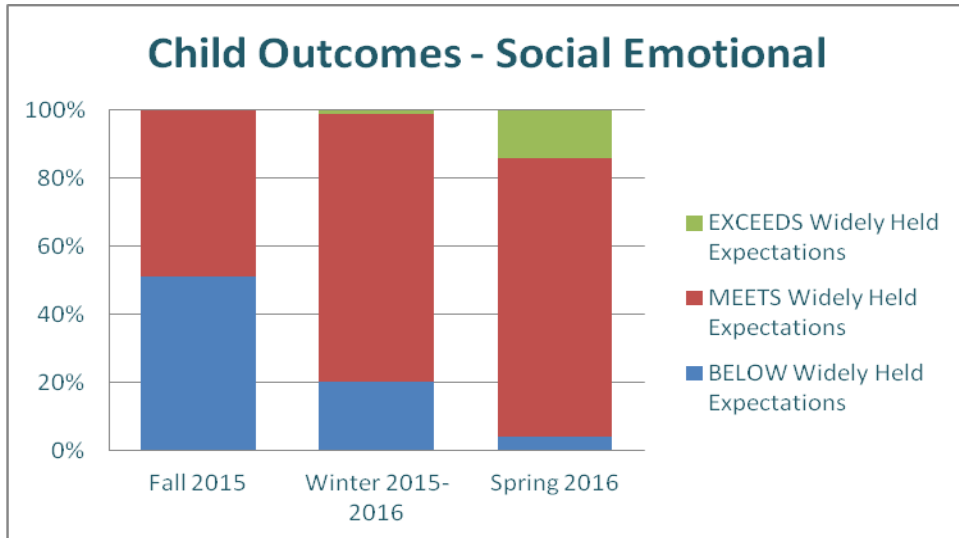
Arts: All children will have increased experiences of expressing their own ideas through creating sounds with voice and instruments, creating objects using a variety of media and materials, portraying events, characters, and stories through symbolic play, and being aware of how their bodies move.

Logic and Reasoning: All children will show an increased ability to recognize, understand, and analyze situations, to remember and retell information, to seek solutions to problems to use symbols and objects to represent other things and to be aware of their own thought processes.

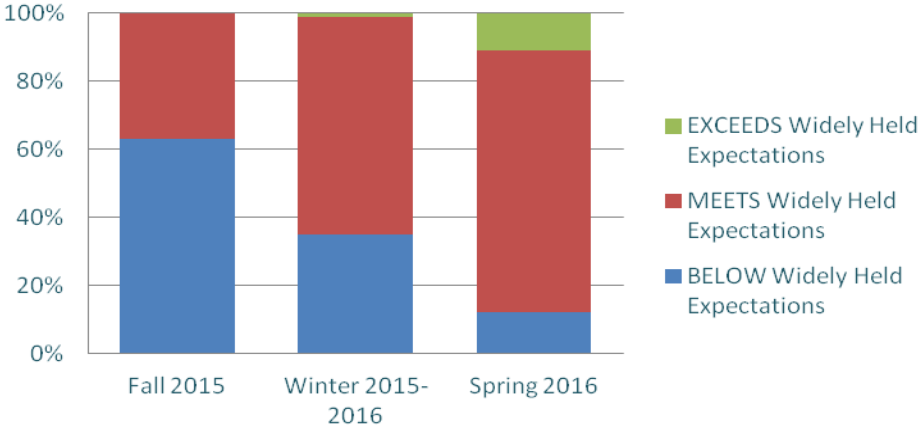
Science: Children will increase their understanding of the scientific process through asking questions, making predictions, explanations, and drawing conclusions as related to their natural and physical world.

Head Start Child Growth & Development: 2015-2016

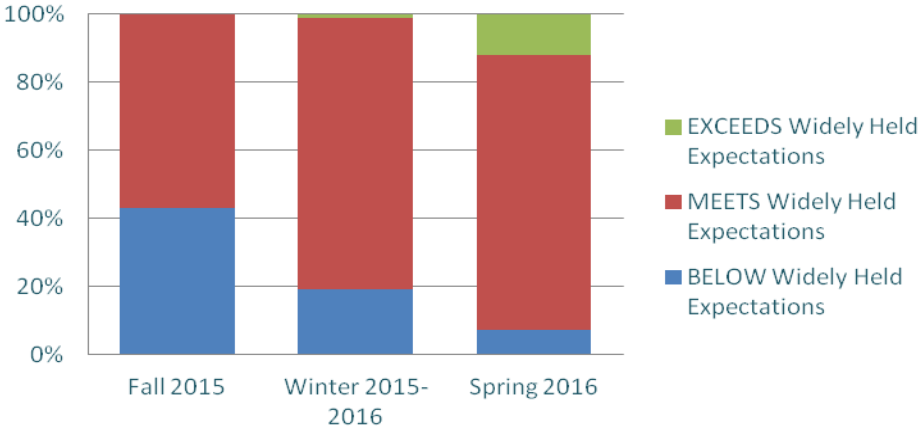
The following charts show the percentage of preschool children over the course of the 2015-2016 program year who are below, meet, or exceed widely held expectations in each area of development. According to Teaching Strategies Inc., widely held expectations (WHE) in early childhood have been determined by researchers which allow teachers to see what skills children demonstrate according to their age. The end of the year target is to have 15% or less of our children within the below WHE in each area of development. This goal was achieved in all areas except for math.



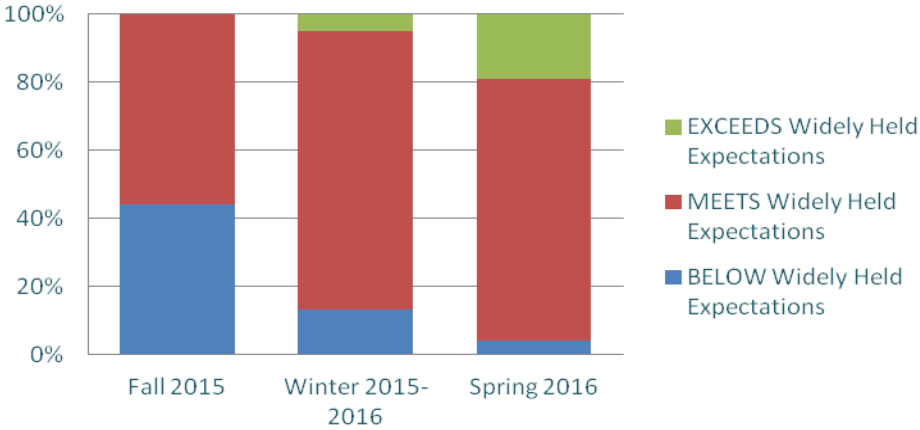
Child Outcomes - Language

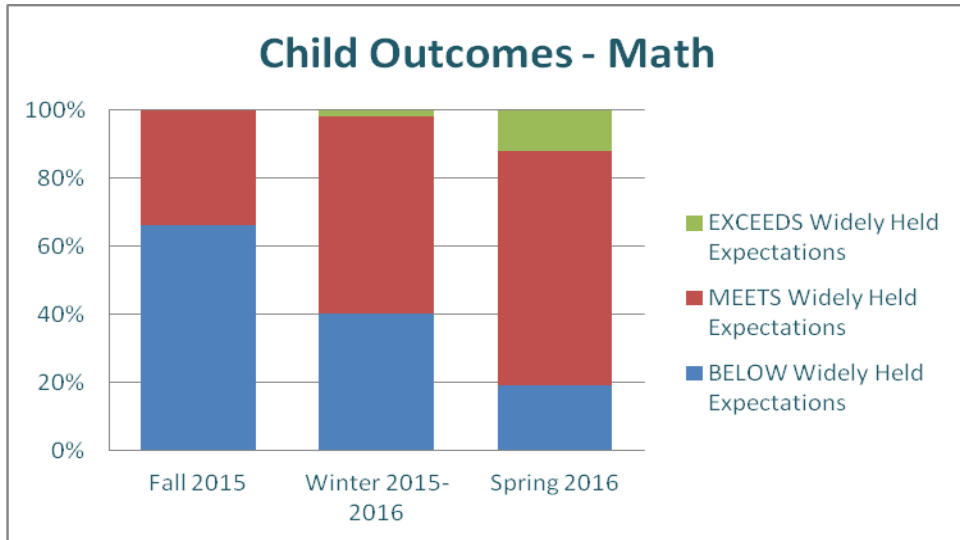


Child Outcomes - Cognitive



Child Outcomes - Literacy





Kindergarten Transition

The Director of Early Childhood Programs works closely with Kindergarten leadership to insure that skills taught in preschool help prepare children for school. In addition, several transition activities and events are offered each spring, including an Open House and Kindergarten Classroom Experience, to prepare children and parents alike for Kindergarten. All children at The Center entering Kindergarten receive a take-home bag of activities that will encourage reading and pre-Kindergarten skills during the summer. Parents also receive information on how to prepare their child for public school. Historically, data has shown that children who enter Kindergarten having attended The Center are well-prepared both academically and from a social-emotional perspective.