



Early Learning Centers

Annual Report 2010-2011

During the 2010-2011 program year, Warren County Community Services operated four Early Learning Centers, located in Lebanon, South Lebanon, Franklin, and Carlisle. A high quality kindergarten readiness program was provided for a total of 321 low income pre-schoolers through the federally funded Head Start program.

In addition, 130 infants, toddlers and pregnant women received Early Head Start services either through our home visiting program or in our two infant-toddler classrooms.

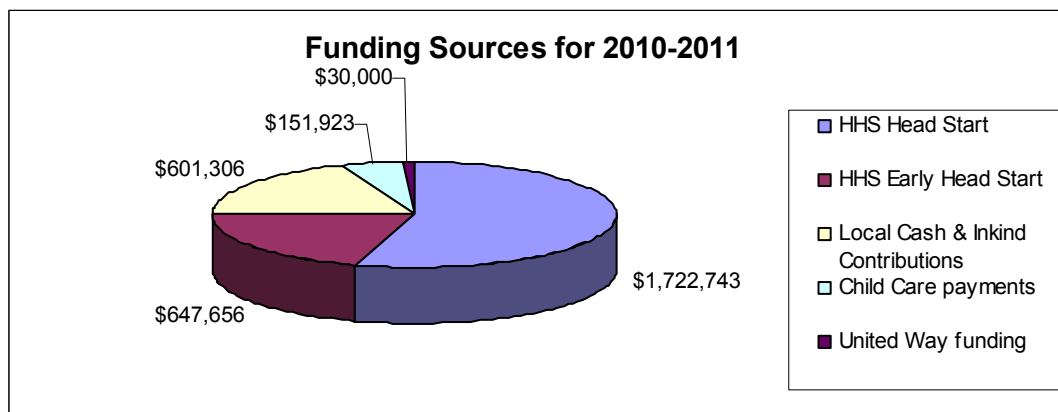
The new South Lebanon Early Learning Center opened in September 2010.



The WCCS Early Learning Centers received a grant of \$1,722,743 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide Head Start services to 248 children, and \$647,656 to provide Early Head Start services to 76 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in 2010-2011. Local volunteers and donors provided \$601,306 in in-kind and cash contributions toward the non-federal match for the federal grants. United Way provided \$30,000 to support full day child care for Head Start children.

2010-2011 Program Statistics

- ☺ Head Start funded enrollment was 248 children
- ☺ A total of 321 children were served in Head Start
- ☺ Average monthly Head Start enrollment was 247 or 99.6%
- ☺ 297 children (93%) were from families with income at or below poverty
- ☺ 44 children (14%) were identified with disabilities
- ☺ 318 children (99%) completed medical exams
- ☺ 268 children (83%) received all required health screenings
- ☺ 292 children (91%) were up to date on all immunizations
- ☺ 276 children (86%) received a dental exam
- ☺ 36 children (11%) were referred for mental health services
- ☺ 186 families received social services
- ☺ 528 volunteers contributed services to the program, including 408 parents who participated as volunteers
- ☺ 115 children and 15 pregnant mothers were enrolled in Early Head Start



Child Outcome Measures

At WCCS Early Learning Centers, children's learning and development is documented throughout the school year, using a tracking system that is aligned with Ohio's Early Learning Content standards, as well as the eight domains required by Head Start. Teachers observe and document children's accomplishments in the areas of English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Health and Development. This information is used to plan individualized learning activities to support each child's learning and development. The outcomes are reported three times a year, and this information is entered into a program-wide

spread sheet to show the children's progress in each area. The children's outcomes at the end of the school year had improved from last year in all areas.

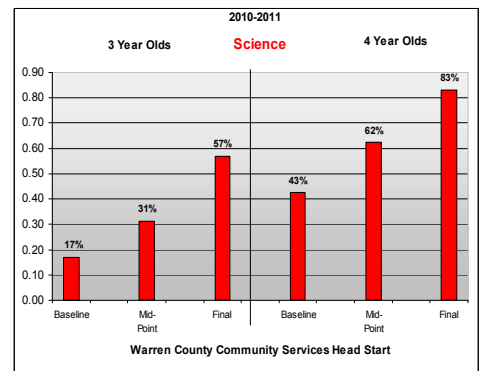
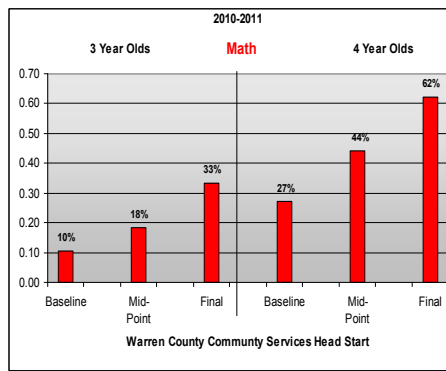
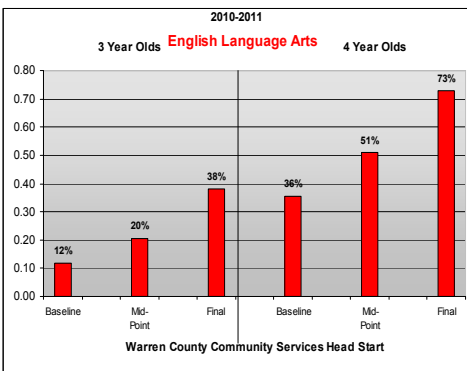
In 2010-11, three year olds entered the program with only 12% of the English Language skills in the Early Learning Content Standards, and four year olds transitioned to kindergarten with 73% of these skills. Three year olds began the year with only 10% of the Math Content Standards, while four year olds left the

program with 62% of these math skills. The three year olds came to our program with 17% of the Science skills in the Early Learning Content

Standards, and four year olds entered kindergarten having mastered 83% of the science skills.

We continue to make efforts to improve our child outcomes, so that children will enter kindergarten with the best possible preparation for success. It is clear, however, that participation in the Early Learning Centers program significantly improves children's kindergarten readiness.

"Participation in the Early Learning Centers program significantly improves children's kindergarten readiness."



New South Lebanon Early Learning Center

The South Lebanon Early Learning Center opened its doors on September 27, 2010. This spacious 14,000 square-foot facility includes six classrooms and a large multipurpose room for family and community activities. The center serves 81 Head Start children in part-day and full day options, as well as offering child care for private-pay families. The Early Head Start classroom provides full-day child care services for 8 income eligible infants and toddlers. The classrooms are equipped with cameras, allowing parents to view their children's activities from their home or work computers with a protected password. The South Lebanon Early Learning center is now NAEYC accredited, and clearly shows the value placed on early education in this community.



Outcomes of Incredible Years Dina Classroom Curriculum

A county-wide Community Assessment in 2006 identified two areas as high priorities for the county to address: child mental health and prevention of child and youth violence. In response to these recommendations, WCCS Early Learning Centers has developed a mental health intervention model in partnership with Solutions Community Counseling and Recovery Centers of Warren County. Teachers implemented the Incredible Years Dina School curriculum twice a week in the Head Start classrooms. Dina the dinosaur visits the children to teach social-emotional skills such as problem solving and talking about feelings. The Incredible Years curriculum is a best practice, research-based violence prevention program that teaches conflict management strategies, successful group behaviors, and empathy skills.

The goal is to help children learn to solve problems, manage their anger, understand and communicate their feelings, and learn how to make friends. The teachers also use the "Songs of Resilience" to reinforce these skills.

To document the effectiveness of the curriculum, teachers conducted the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) which is designed

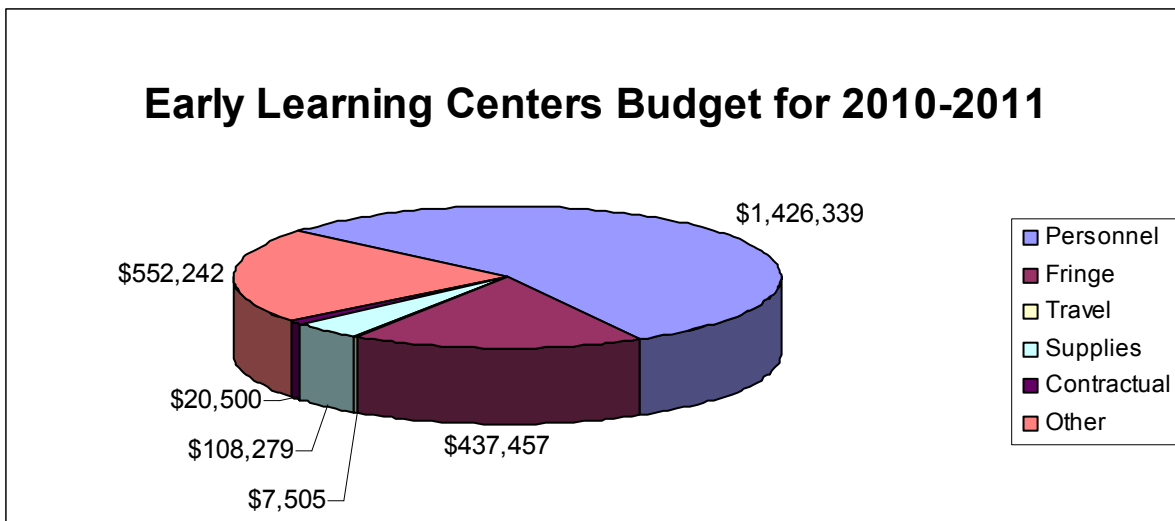
	Fall	Spring
Number of children assessed	237	222
Percent with areas of strength	51%	88%
Percent with behavior concern	8%	11%

to identify children who are low on the protective factors of initiative, attachment, and self control, so that targeted classroom strategies could be implemented to strengthen these skills, and also to screen for children who were exhibiting behavioral concerns so that children could be referred for any needed treatment.

Teachers gave the DECA assessment in the fall and again in the spring to determine if there were changes in the children's development of protective factors and behavior concerns. The results show that the percent of children with areas of strength increased significantly. Each year we see a small increase in the percent of children with identified behavior concerns. This may be due to the enrollment of children with behavior concerns later in the year. Our mental health consultant also notes that some children with serious mental health or social-emotional problems may be more likely to act out later in the year when they feel safer in the



Wally and Dina help the children learn how to make friends, solve problems, manage anger, and communicate their feelings.



2010-2011 Program Statistics

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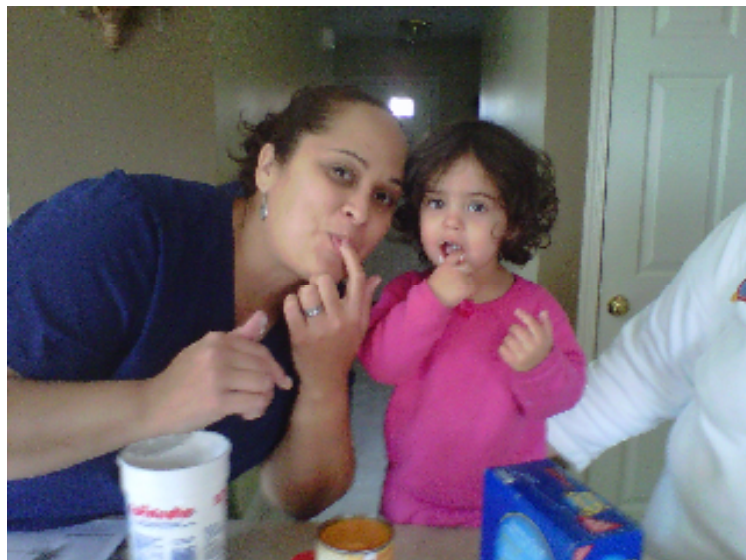
MISSION STATEMENT

Warren County Community Services Early Learning Centers is a program dedicated to helping families make a lasting, positive difference in their children's education and in their lives.

In partnership with parents and community, our dedicated, caring and experienced staff creates a loving and safe environment where children and families can grow in self-confidence, by accepting differences, nurturing strengths and encouraging mutual respect."

Early Head Start

WCCS began operating the Early Head Start program for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in April 2010. We are offering a center-based option and a home-based option. Our full day classrooms at the Lebanon and South Lebanon Early Learning Centers provide nurturing care and developmental enrichment for infants and toddlers when parents are working or attending school full time. Five specially trained Home Visitors provide weekly home visits to 60 children and pregnant mothers, bringing learning activities for the children, and supportive services for the parents. The goal of the Early Head Start program is to foster the children's healthy development of social, physical and cognitive skills, and to support the parent's role as the first and most important teacher in their child's life. Research shows that 85% of critical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, so this is an irreplaceable window of opportunity to ensure that children have the best possible opportunity for success throughout their lives.



Early Head Start Home Visitors bring learning activities and a wealth of resources into the homes each week to support parents with child development and family goals.