

The Positive Impact of Comprehensive Early Learning Programs on Children's Health

Head Start and Early Head Start

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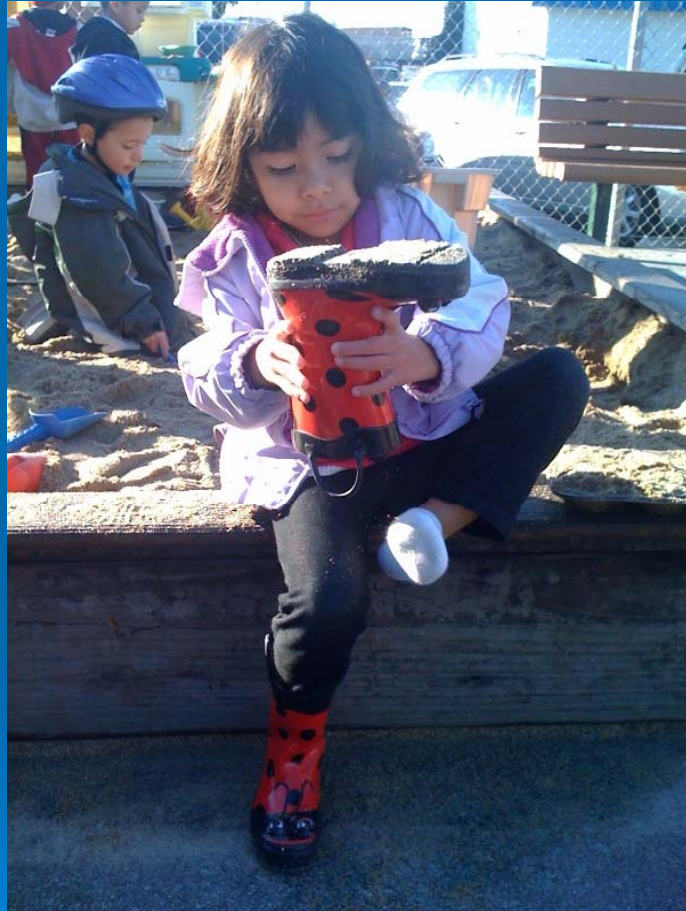


Head Start Program Objectives

- Enhance children's growth and development
- Strengthen families as the primary nurturers of their children
- Provide children with educational, health and nutritional services
- Link children and families to needed community services
- Ensure well-managed programs that involve parents in decision-making



Who we serve:



Service Delivery Models

- Center-based
- Home-Based
- Combination
- Child Care partnerships
- Family Child Care
- Pregnant Women



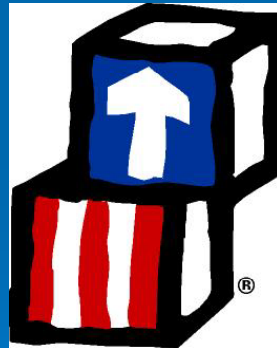
Head Start Performance Standards - Health

- Assure each child has a Medical and Dental Home
- Track that all children are up-to-date on the EPSDT (CHDP) schedule of well child care, including dental care and immunizations.
- Follow up on any further diagnostic testing or treatment of an identified health concern.

Head Start Performance Standards – Health

- Screen and observe children in order to identify developmental, emotional or sensory concerns.
- Identify each child's nutritional needs and assist families with nutrition.
- Provide meals that meet at least 1/3 of a child's daily nutritional needs (part-day programs)

How do we meet these Performance Standards?



Accountability: Why we work so hard

Head Start Monitoring Review

Program Information Report (PIR)

Self-Assessment



Impact

Healthy habits that last a lifetime.



Stories from Santa Cruz Head Start



SHAPES Survey – Reported practices and environments related to healthy eating and gross motor activity



Comparing Newly Enrolled Head Start Children and Children With Prior Year Head Start Experience

“Motor skills showed the largest difference – the percentage of children scoring in the top two developmental levels increased by 19 percentage points. Includes: gross motor (e.g. “Climbs on a jungle gym”), fine motor skills (e.g. “holds crayon with fingers instead of fist”), and balance.”

California Head Start Child Outcomes Bulletin 2010

California Head Start Association

Results, Methodology, Collaborations, and Impact of HeadStart

California Head Start Programs Improve Child Development

Participation in Head Start was associated with increases in the number of children in the top developmental levels. This finding comes from the first year results of the Department of Education's California Head Start Child Outcomes Study. Such increases in child development are comparable to that found in other quality preschool programs and is the first evidence that shows California Head Start's positive impact on child development.

The quality preschool programs provide significant developmental advancement for children and a significant benefit to society as a whole are well established in the academic literature. The key word, of course, is "quality." While many regulations are in place to ensure that Head Start and other government-subsidized preschool programs maintain high-quality standards, there are currently few, if any, operational metrics agreed upon to track quality or program impact.

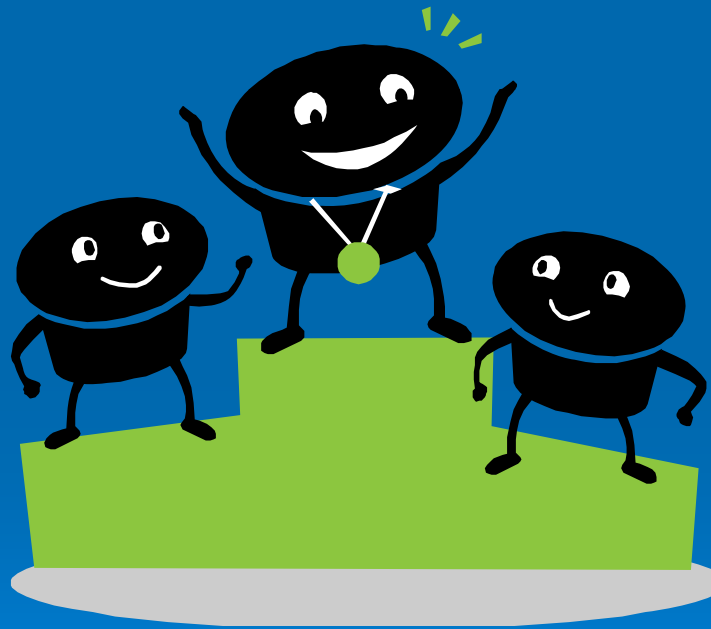
Many Head Start programs in California use the Desired Outcomes Development Profile - Revised (DODP-R) to assess child development. The DODP-R was developed by the California Department of Education. Use of this operational data to measure program outcomes is important, but does not provide measurable indicators of the positive impact that Head Start has on child development.

Children from all backgrounds were better prepared for school in all areas of development thanks to the Head Start programs. For example, an increase in the proportion of children scoring in the top two developmental levels was 19% for children with Head Start the year prior and 46% for children without Head Start. The difference, 27 percentage points, is the net impact of Head Start programs in the areas of language and literacy.

Head Start Programs Improve Language and Literacy Development in California Children in the Top Two Developmental Levels

Group	Percentage
Without Head Start	7%
With Head Start	26%

Going beyond the Performance Standards









SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



I am *moving* A Proactive Approach for Addressing
Childhood Obesity in Head Start Children
I am *learning*

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING PROJECT
Recipient of the 2006 Partnering for Health & Human Services Excellence Award

I am moving, I am learning Goals

1. Intentionally increase moderate to vigorous physical activity during daily routines.
MVPA
2. Improve the quality of structured movement experiences intentionally facilitated by teachers and adults.
3. Promote Healthy food choices each day.











More IMIL at the break...

