

EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

Serving eligible families in Middlesex County

FISCAL YEAR
2021

JANUARY –
DECEMBER
2021



aces

Early Head Start

ACES EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START SERVICES
300 WASHINGTON STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

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WHO WE ARE



OUR MISSION

To ensure that the cornerstones of child development, family development, staff development, and community building are in place for Middlesex County’s income eligible expectant families or families with infants and toddlers through age three.

OUR PURPOSE

To utilize existing family and child services, and to expand their capacity to provide the comprehensive array of family and child supports unique to the Head Start experience.

OUR GOAL

The goal of this program is to promote the development of 60 infants/toddlers and pregnant women and enable parents to fulfill their roles as parents and move toward self-sufficiency.

EARLY HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL
Cameron English, *Policy Council Chairperson*

ACES GOVERNING BOARD
Susan Riccio, *Chair*



Advocacy, Commitment, Excellence, Service.
Dedicated to enhancing and transforming lives through education, innovation, and leadership.

FROM THE EARLY HEAD START DIRECTOR

Greetings Middlesex County,

During the 2021, funding year, ACES Early Head Start maintained full enrollment for the majority of the year and exceeded the 10% mandate for enrolling children with disabilities (part C eligible). Clearly, it has been a difficult time in our country as the pandemic continues to affect the lives of many in our community. Throughout this time, ACES continues to provide all the necessary resources and safeguards to ensure children, families, and staff are safe and healthy. This included providing COVID home test kits and the most up to date national and local guidance on the virus. I am particularly grateful to our staff for their perseverance as we navigated through the challenges of keeping this virus under control and away from homes and offices.

As reported annually, the most recent ACES financial audit dated December 2021, had no findings for Early Head Start. Back in July 2020, ACES entered into a partnership with Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) to operate three Head Start classrooms in Middlesex County. These classrooms were located in Clinton, Portland, and Middletown. In 2021, ACES decided to focus on the two classrooms located in Portland and Middletown. Along with our community partners from Portland Public Schools and Middletown Public Schools, we successfully provided comprehensive, quality services to children 3-5 years at Valley View Elementary and Snow Elementary.

The clear path to in person services was scary for families as well as staff. Thanks to the flexibilities by the Office of Head Start, we offered our services in a manner that respected families comfort levels.

Early Head Start welcomed a new Family Service Specialist and worked hand in hand with many new Head Start staff throughout the year. As I write this letter, I want to also take the time to announce some significant changes to the program structure. Most recently, I transitioned into a new role at ACES. I am now the Director of Special Programs and Community Engagement. This is a position which allows me to have a cabinet position within the ACES Executive Leadership Council. In my view, I see this as an opportunity to improve representation of the head start options and other ACES services. It is not every day I would consider such an opportunity but definitely saw the larger benefit of having a stronger voice at that level. I want to assure Middlesex County of my commitment to stay involved in the work. This means that a new Program Coordinator will need to oversee the daily program operations of Early Head Start. With that said, we can now officially announce Heather Granja will serve in that capacity.

Once again, I would like to thank our community partners, the ACES Governing Board, Policy Council members, families and staff for their ongoing support ensuring we had another amazing year.



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Cuevas".

Rebecca Cuevas, LMSW
Director of Special Programs and Community Engagement

FISCAL YEAR 2021 EXPENDITURES

The EHS (Early Head Start) budget is separated into two categories:

1. **OPERATIONS**, which are costs related to the day-to-day management of the program, including staff salaries and costs to support services to families. This also includes **Training & Technical Assistance**, which are costs related to the training of EHS staff.
2. **NON-FEDERAL SHARE**, which are in-kind donations or services received from third parties or contributed by the agency during the program period. Total must equal 25% of federal award, unless a waiver is applied for an approved by the Regional Office.

This report reflects funded enrollment, funding sources and activities for ACES Middlesex County Early Head Start Partnership for the fiscal year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in accordance with Head Start Act 644(a)(2).

Total Federal Share: \$989,001

Total Non-Federal Share (In-Kind Contributions): \$280,993 (\$247,251 required)

FEDERAL SHARE

CATEGORIES	EXPENSES
Salaries	\$338,307.92
Benefits	\$48,281.60
Supplies – Office	\$2,450.70
Supplies – Child & Family	\$5,077.77
Equipment	\$6,186.88
Contractual – Health & Disabilities	\$1,619.72
Contractual – Middlesex Health	\$369,516.91
Training & Technical Assistance	\$15,596.62
Other – Building Maintenance	\$72.66
Other – Local Travel	\$2,602.66
Other – Advertising	\$1,890.63
Other – Consultants	\$43,113.50
Other – Communication	\$6,857.62
Other – Technology	\$62,781.80
Other – Dues & Fees	\$6,440.01
Other – Program Improvement	\$2,054.00
TOTAL INDIRECT TO ACES	\$76,150
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$989,001

NON-FEDERAL SHARE

CATEGORIES	EXPENSES
ACES Facilities & Office Space	\$128,383.11
MDSX Facilities & Office Space	\$43,050.46
Salaries & Benefits (Consultants)	\$28,346.04
Volunteers – Governance	\$69,780.96
Volunteers – Program	\$213.31
Health & Disabilities	\$909.56
Donations	\$8,668.55
Other	\$1,640.89
TOTAL NON-FEDERAL SHARE	\$280,992.88

WHO WE SERVED

All demographic data based upon 2021 Program Information Report (PIR) unless otherwise noted.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

- 60 Home Visiting slots available:
 - Children ages 0-3 years: 54
 - Expectant Mothers: 6

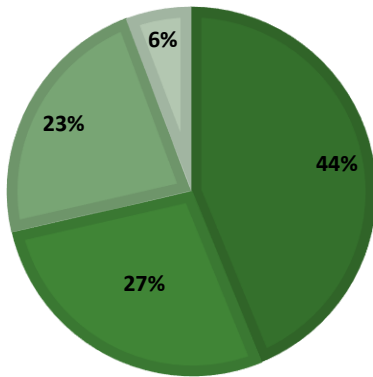
2021 SERVICE NUMBERS:

- 90 total children
- 87 total families
- 17 total expectant mothers

AVERAGE REPORTED MONTHLY ENROLLMENT: 100%

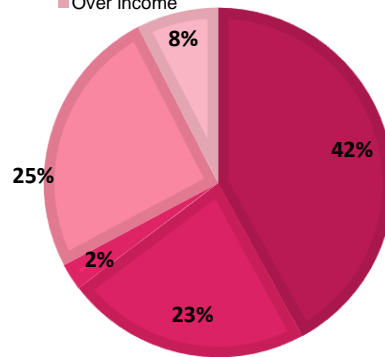
CHILD AGES

- Under 1 year
- 1 year old
- 2 years old
- 3 years old



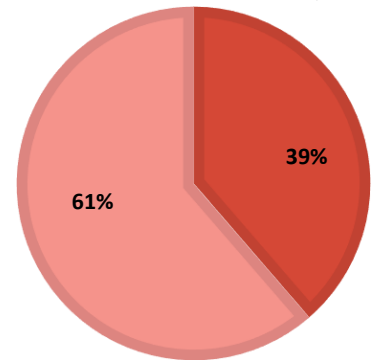
ELIGIBILITY

- Income eligible
- Public Assistance
- Foster Care
- Homeless
- Over income



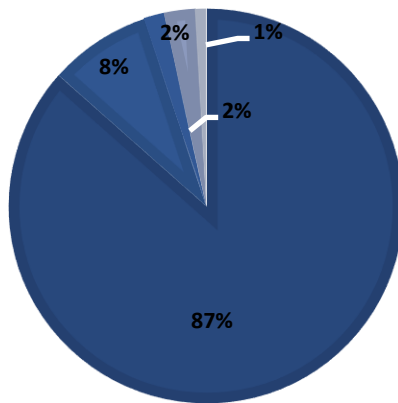
ETHNICITY

- Hispanic or Latino origin
- Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin



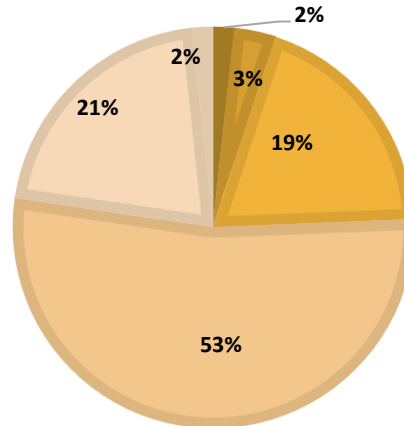
LANGUAGE

- English
- Spanish
- Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages
- East Asian Languages
- European & Slavic Languages



RACE

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black/African American
- White
- Biracial/Multi-racial
- Unspecified



CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES

EHS is not interested only in the children enrolled in the program, but in the entire family. We ensure that families have quality information on good health habits and offer workshops and in-service training. Our staff assists families in obtaining the most up-to-date physicals and vaccinations, and link families to dental services in the community.

96%

of enrolled children were **up to date** on a schedule of age-appropriate **preventive and primary health care, and oral health care**, according to the CT Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for well childcare.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

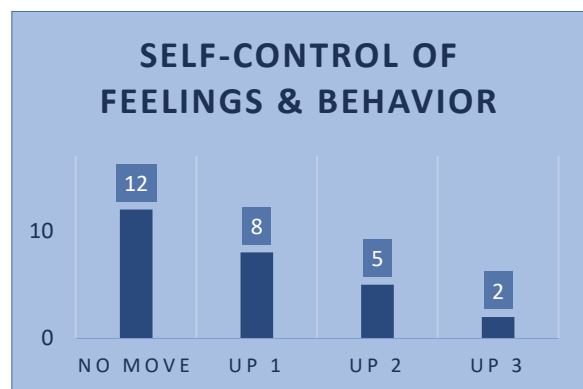
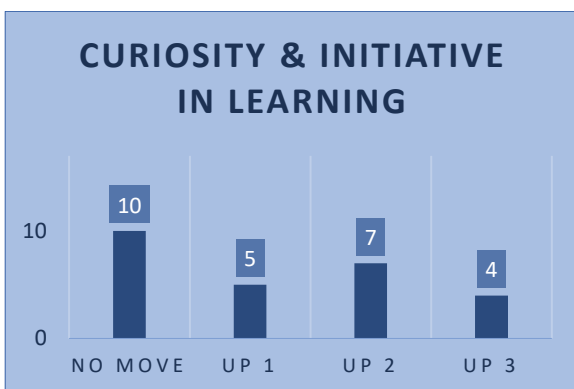
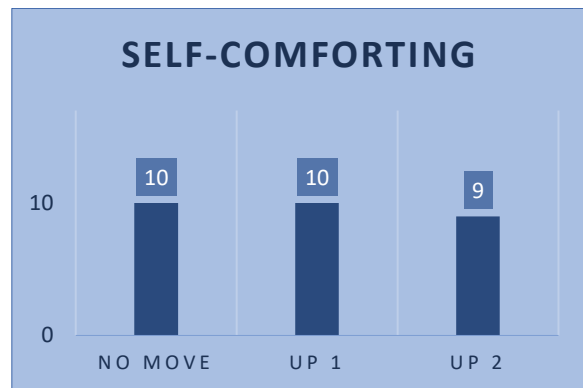
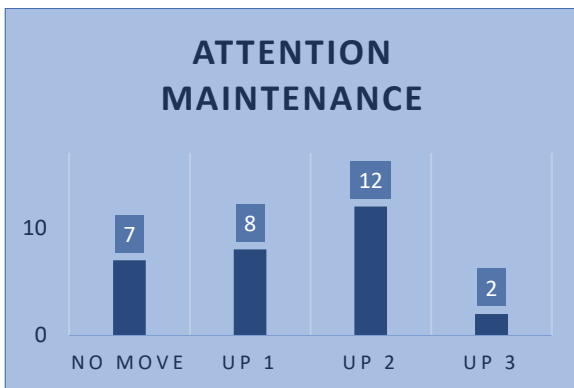
ACES Early Head Start developed nine school readiness goals for the 2019-2020 program year to align with the five central domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (2015):

- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

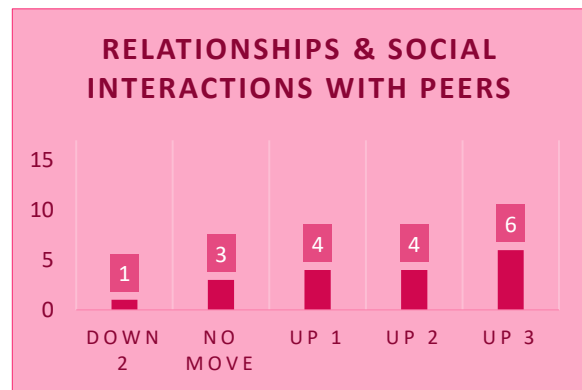
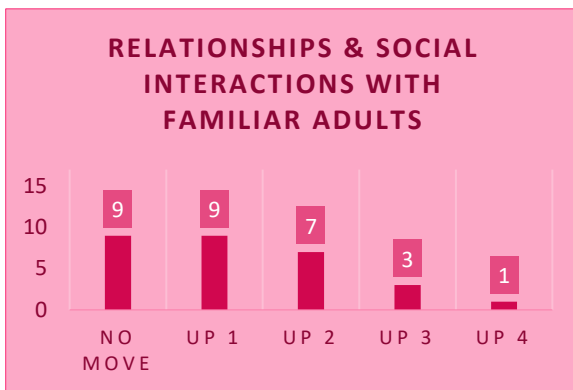
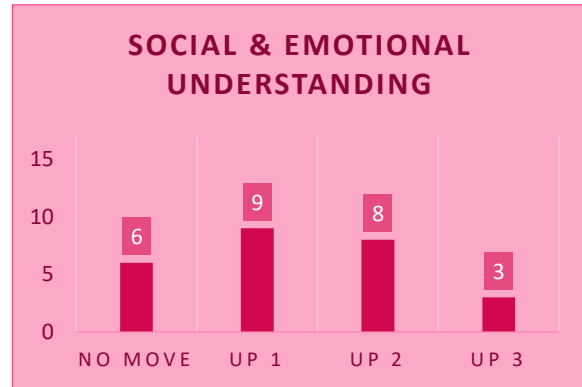
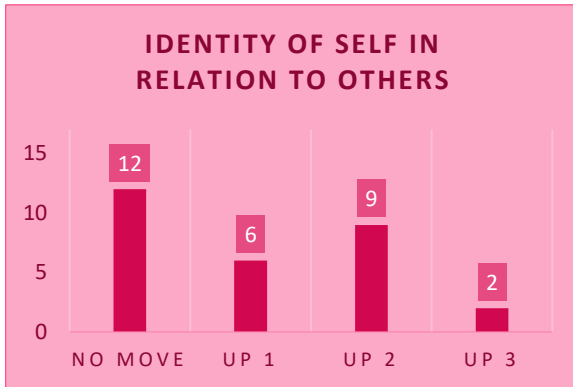
During our 2019-2020 Winter cycle, we piloted the ChildPlus Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) assessment and made the full switch to using that assessment for the 2020-2021 program year. The DRDP is a child assessment for children birth through age five, developed in California as part of their technical support system. ChildPlus is offering this assessment as part of their information system, providing all child data in one system. This assessment better suits our needs and allows for more parent-friendly reports that are informative as well as easy to understand.

The growth data in this report reflects a subset of children with sufficient data through the 2020-2021 program year (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021). The DRDP assessment compares children to themselves with growth being determined by an increase in scoring bands. The bands are as follows: Responding Earlier, Responding Later, Exploring Earlier, Exploring Middle, Exploring Later, Building Earlier, Building Middle, Building Later & Integrating Earlier.

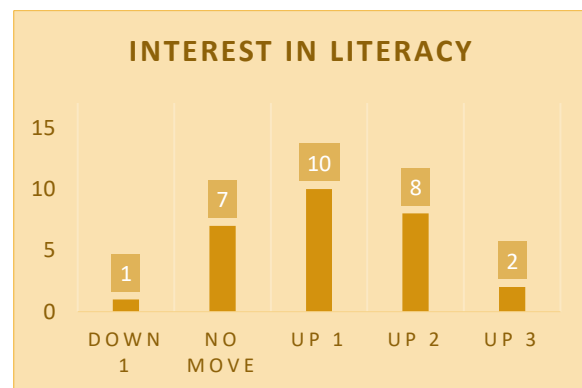
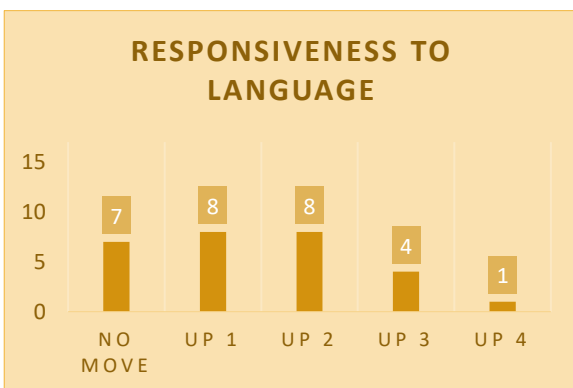
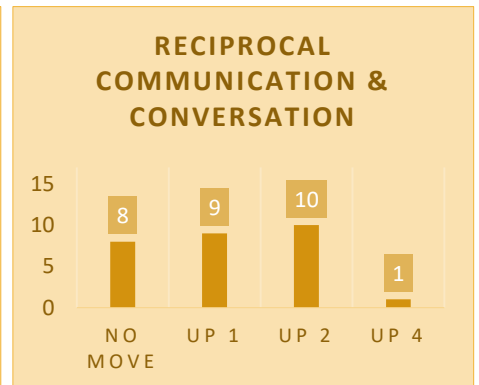
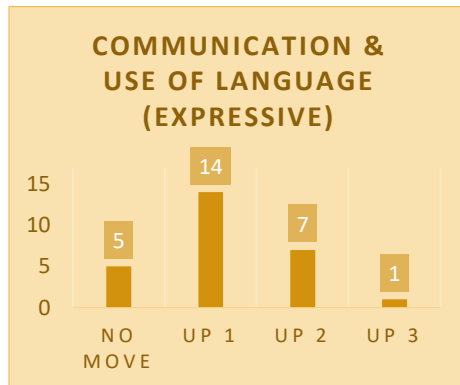
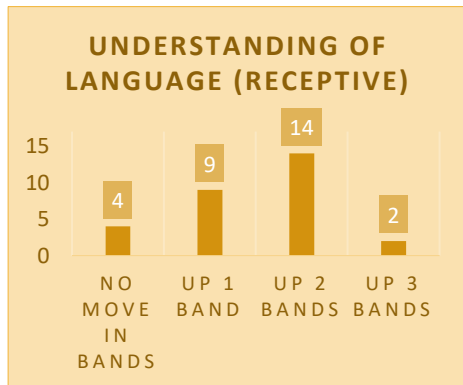
APPROACHES TO LEARNING – SELF-REGULATION: GROWTH



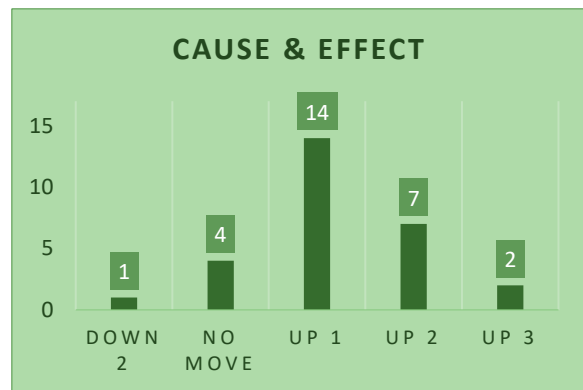
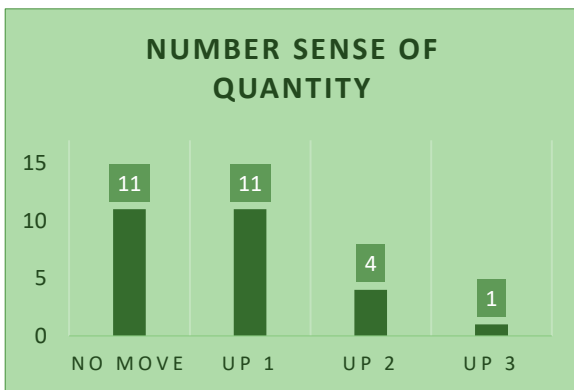
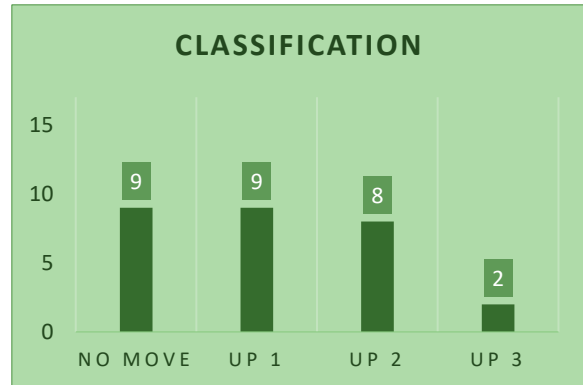
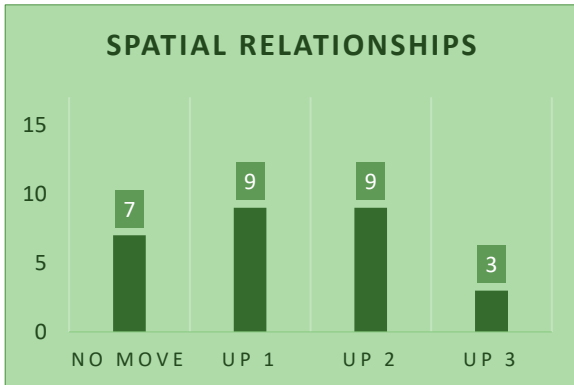
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH



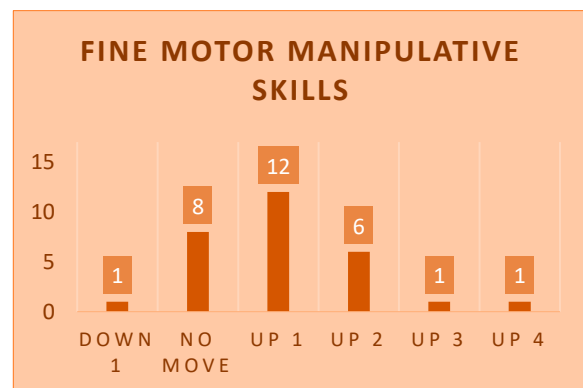
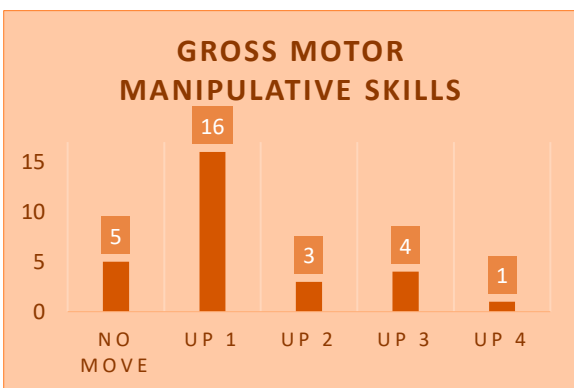
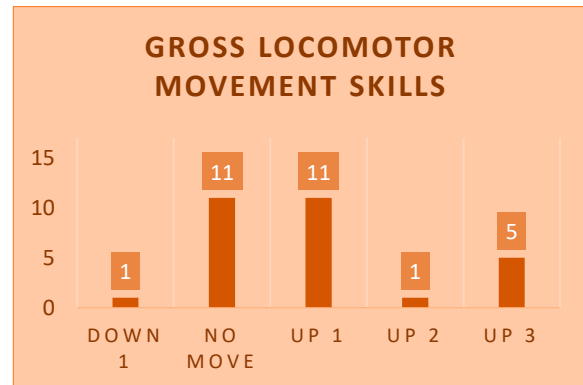
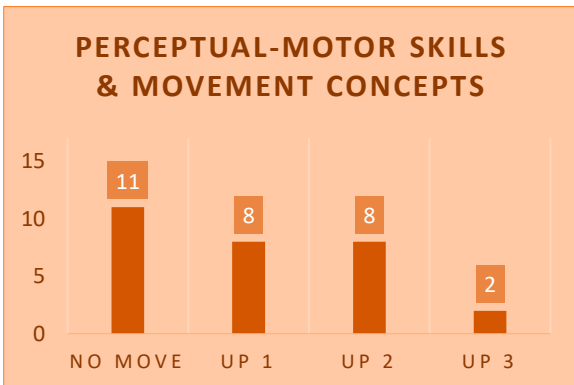
LANGUAGE & LITERACY DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH



COGNITION, INCLUDING MATH AND SCIENCE: GROWTH



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH



PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

POLICY COUNCIL

- Members were elected from Early Head Start parents, as well as ACES Governing Board and community representatives
- Met regularly, approved hiring, and approved grant proposals
- Volunteer sub-committees met in the areas of Personnel and Self-Assessment
- Head Start Orientation and Governance training was provided to all interested parents and community members

PARENT COMMITTEE ALLIANCE

- In-Person, Middletown, CT
 - Held 3 meetings
 - Average attendance: 6 parents
- Virtual
 - Held 2 meetings
 - Average attendance: 2 parents

Topics Addressed:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ Parent Observations | ➤ Parent Advocacy |
| ➤ Policy Council Updates | ➤ Community Events |
| ➤ Program Updates | ➤ Parent Suggestions |
| ➤ Health and Safety | ➤ Meeting Their Needs |

PARENT EDUCATION

Topics included: health and wellness, safety in the home and outdoors, promoting language acquisition, family goal setting, child development, importance of music and movement, dental health, healthy nutrition, reading to children and reading children's cues.

FAMILY FUN DAY

- Due to COVID, the annual event was not held this year.

SOCIALIZATION PLAYGROUPS

The purpose of our socialization playgroups for infants and toddlers is to support the child's development by strengthening the parent/child relationship. Socialization playgroups are designed to reinforce many of the activities and goals that are developed by the family and home visitor during their home visits. Parents are very hands-on during socialization playgroups.

Family Activities	# Events	Average # Parents	Average # Children
ACES Early Head Start Socialization	3	5	4
Grace Episcopal Church Socialization	4	3	3
Circle of Security	6	2	2
Community Parks Socialization	3	5	5
Family Leadership at Community Partner's Meetings	1	1	1
Firehouse with Family Resource Center	1	5	5
Rehabilitation Associates	1	3	3
Socialization - Virtual	6	4	4
Walk & Talk	12	3	3

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City of Middletown Community Health Center, Inc. CT Birth to Three CT Dental Health Partnership CT Dept. of Children and Families CT Foodbank Faith Lutheran Church Hallie House Injury Free Kids LEARN Young Children and Families	Middlesex Central CT Chapter of the American Columbus House Middletown Adult Education Middlesex Health Middletown School Readiness Council Middlesex United Way Opportunity Knocks Collaborative Russell Library Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
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BIRTH TO THREE PARTNERS

ABC Intervention American School for the Deaf Beacon Services of Connecticut Creative Interventions Easter Seals of Greater Waterbury Jane Bisantz & Associates, LLC LEARN: Partners for Birth to Three Reachout, Inc. Rehabilitation Associates of CT, Inc. Sarah, Inc. – Kidsteps TheraCare

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PARTNERS

Clinton Public Schools Cromwell Public Schools Middletown Public Schools Old Saybrook Public Schools Portland Public Schools Westbrook Public Schools
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