

EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

*Serving eligible families in Middletown, Cromwell,
Portland, Old Saybrook, Clinton & Westbrook*

FISCAL YEAR
2019

JANUARY –
DECEMBER
2019



aces
area cooperative educational services

ACES MIDDLESEX COUNTY EARLY HEAD START PARTNERSHIP
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

Johny Lopez, *Policy Council Chairperson*
Amanda Cistulli, *Policy Council Vice-Chairperson*

ACES GOVERNING BOARD

Norman Hicks, *Chair*
Chris Drake, *Policy Council Representative*



Advocacy, Commitment, Excellence, Service.

Dedicated to enhancing and transforming lives through education, innovation, and leadership.

FROM THE EARLY HEAD START DIRECTOR

Greetings,

During the 2019 funding year, the ACES Middlesex County Early Head Start maintained full enrollment and exceeded the 10% mandate for enrolling children with disabilities (Part C eligible). This year we enrolled families in a new communication tool called Parent Square. This provides staff the ability to send program announcements, messages and alerts to families much quicker through email or text. Parent Square was implemented across all ACES schools and programs.

The most recent ACES audit completed June 30, 2019, revealed no findings for Early Head Start.

The program has seen growth in the amount of activity from community partner agencies and families at the ACES Middletown Education Center. We believe renovations and upgrades from the previous year produced a much warmer and welcoming environment for our children, families, and community. Our socialization experiences continued this year at Grace Episcopal Church, and the ACES Middletown Education Center.

Our partnerships in the community have engaged Early Head Start families with the Grow Truck, Circle of Security, and Birth to Three playgroups. Faith Lutheran Church has donated diapers, parishioners with exceptional knitting skills provided hats and blankets for newborns, and weekly pasta dinners offered to the communities served by ACES.

This year we hired a new ERSEA assistant who expanded on the work from a former staff member supporting the eligibility process and enrollment of families. Her outreach efforts included increasing enrollment and maintaining a waitlist. In addition, a Family Engagement & Data Assistant joined us to improve and support family outcome data, increase family goal setting, improve data collection, documentation, and analysis. She has focused her attention on increasing attendance to parent committees and offering additional parent activities driven by parent request. A new home visitor supervisor and mental health professional came onboard late in the year to complete our team. These three staff members are a welcome addition to the Early Head Start Team!

As always, our doors are open to the greater Middlesex County community, our governing board, families, and partners. We are eager to work with you and thank you immensely for the ongoing support.

Respectfully,



Rebecca Cuevas, LMSW
Program Coordinator, Early Head Start



FISCAL YEAR 2019 EXPENDITURES

The EHS budget is separated into 3 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.
2. **TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**, which are costs related to the training of EHS staff.
3. **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.

This report reflects funded enrollment, funding sources and activities for ACES Middlesex County Early Head Start Partnership for the fiscal year January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in accordance with Head Start Act 644(a)(2). The EHS program was reviewed as part of the ACES yearly audit by Buckley, Frame, Boudreau & Co. There were no findings specific to the EHS program. Audit report issued June 30, 2019.

Total Federal Share: \$924,261

Total Non-Federal Share (In-Kind Contributions): \$231,065

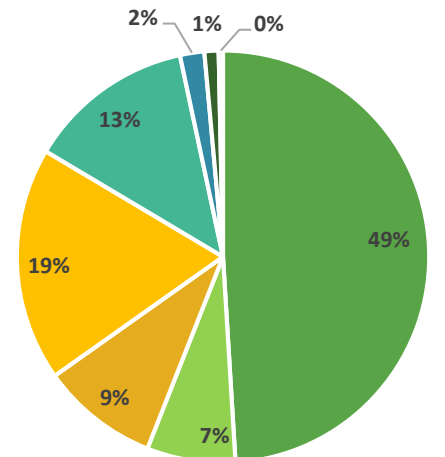
LINE ITEM OPERATIONS

Salaries	\$267,994
Benefits	\$56,971
Supplies – Office	\$7,066
Supplies – Parent Activities	\$1,181
Supplies – Program	\$4,929
Supplies – Socialization	\$1,487
Contractual – Child Services	\$0
Contractual – Health/Disabilities	\$251
Contractual – Middlesex Hospital	\$356,494
Other – Advertising	\$0
Other – Communications	\$4,076
Other – Consultants	\$94,394
Other – Copying	\$34
Other – Dues/Fees	\$5,826
Other – Facility Usage	\$1,954
Other – Local Travel	\$3,709
Other – Parent Activities	\$112
Other – Postage	\$232
Other – Technology	\$8,389
Other – Translation Services	\$1,010
Computer Software	\$191
Program Improvement	\$4,206
Equipment – Below \$1,000	\$609
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$821,115

TRAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training – Contractual	\$7,733
Training – Staff Development	\$7,915
Travel – Staff Dev/Conferences	\$3,502
Training – Supplies	\$845
TOTAL TRAINING/TA	\$19,995
TOTAL INDIRECT TO ACES	\$66,512
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$907,622
TOTAL UNOBLIGATED	\$16,639

NON-FEDERAL SHARE



- ACES Facility/Office Space (Faith Lutheran)
- ACES Facility/Office Space (SDA)
- Health & Disabilities
- Middlesex Health Facility/Office Space
- Salaries/Benefits (Consultants)
- Volunteers - Governance
- Volunteers - Program
- Donations

WHO WE SERVED

All demographic data based upon 2019 Program Information Report (PIR) unless otherwise noted.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

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

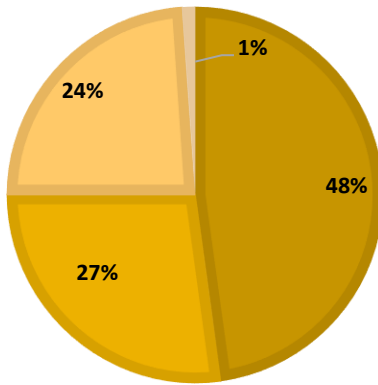
2019 SERVICE NUMBERS:

- 92 total children
- 87 total families
- 18 total expectant mothers

AVERAGE REPORTED MONTHLY ENROLLMENT: 100%

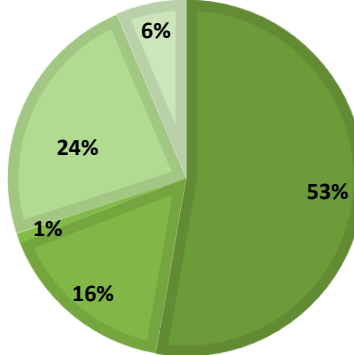
CHILD AGES

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



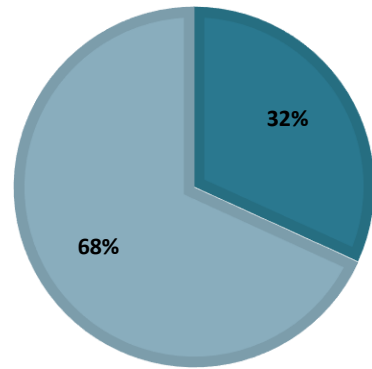
ELIGIBILITY

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



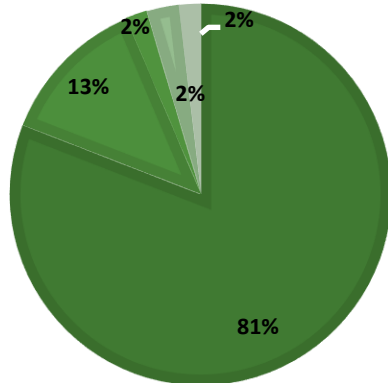
ETHNICITY

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



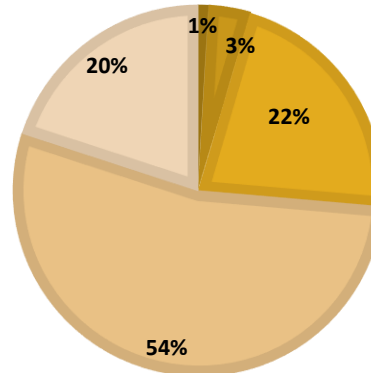
LANGUAGE

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



RACE

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black/African American
- White



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.

94% 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 child care.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

ACES Middlesex County Early Head Start Partnership developed nine school readiness goals for the 2018-2019 program year to align with the five central domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (2015):

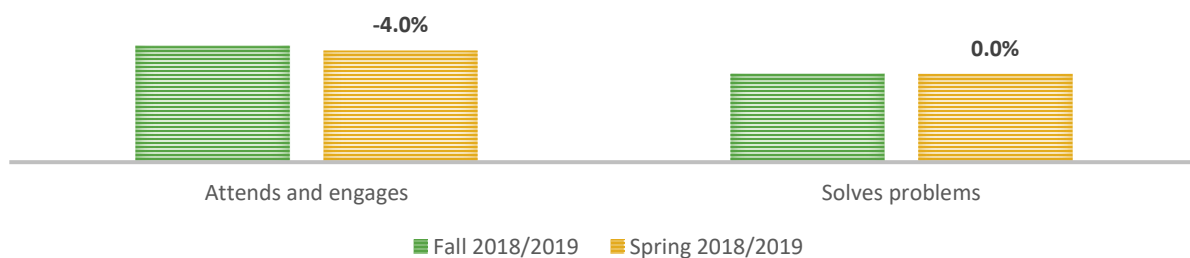
- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

Observation data was collected by home visitors in the home and during socialization experiences, according to the objectives in the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment Tool (TS GOLD) for infants and toddlers that align with the School Readiness Goals.

The growth data in this report reflects a subset of children with sufficient data across three program checkpoints in the 2018-2019 program year (September 2018 – August 2019). Children displayed overall growth in all areas and age ranges. The percent of growth for each dimension is listed along with the number of children included in each. Larger percentages generally reflect a smaller number of children assessed for that indicator.

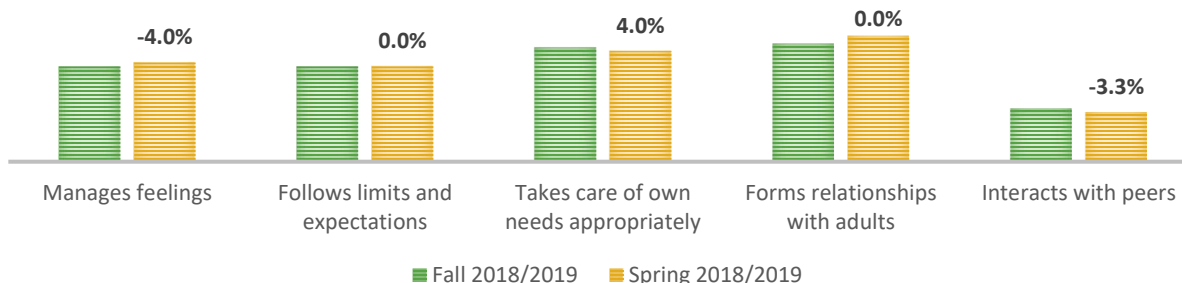
APPROACHES TO LEARNING: GROWTH

- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to demonstrate interest, curiosity, persistence and eagerness in exploring the world around them.*



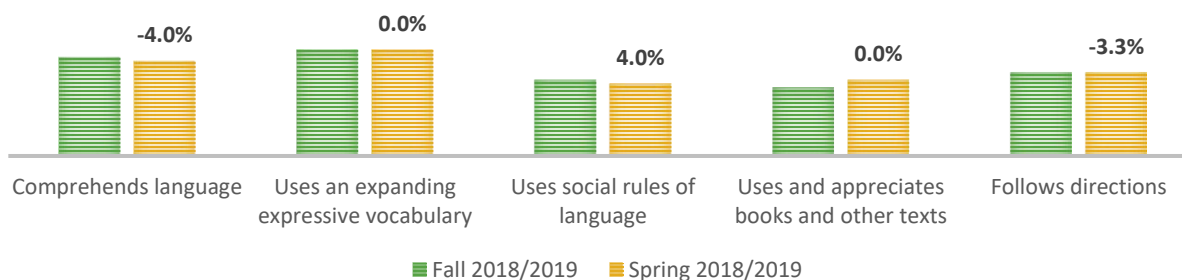
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH

- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to develop the ability to express and manage emotions in appropriate ways.*
- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to develop and engage in positive relationships and interactions with adults and peers.*
- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to develop age appropriate self-help skills.*



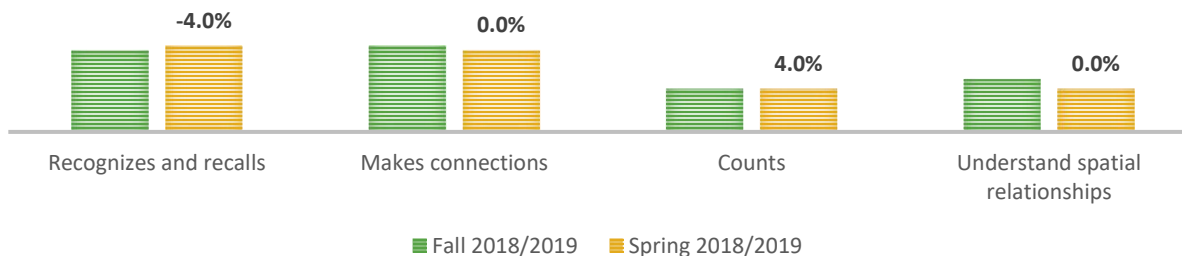
LANGUAGE & LITERACY DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH

- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to demonstrate receptive and expressive language skills and communication strategies in their home language(s).*
- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to learn and demonstrate how print works, and engage with stories and books.*



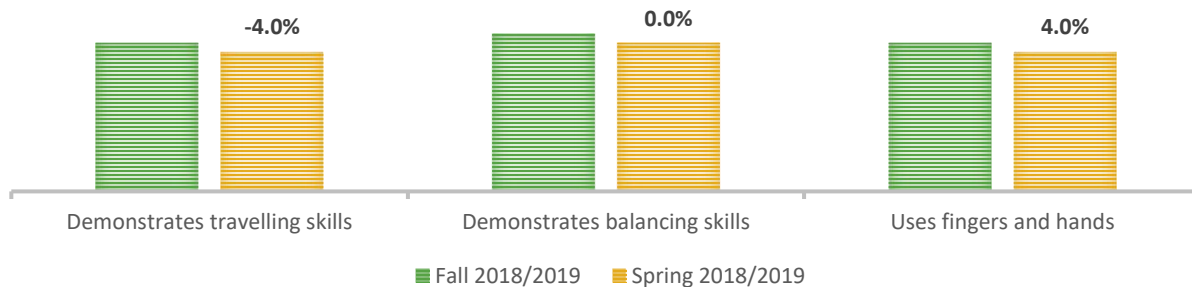
COGNITION: GROWTH

- *Our infants and toddlers will learn and begin to use math concepts during daily routines and experiences. (1 year and up)*
- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to use all of their senses to process and explore their environment and demonstrate the ability to remember and connect new and known experiences in their environment.*



PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH

- *Our infants and toddlers will begin to develop and strengthen control over large and small muscles.*



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

- Middletown, CT
 - Held 0 meetings at Russell Library
 - Held 4 meeting at Faith Lutheran Church
 - Average attendance: 4 parents
 - 13 parents met during the Family Fun Day event in Middletown
- Old Saybrook, CT
 - Held 0 meeting at Grace Episcopal Church
 - Average attendance: 0 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, Infant Massage, 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

- The annual event was held September 13, 2019 in Middletown at the Veteran's Park
- Families engaged in games and movement activities, as well as interacting with some of our community partners and their resources

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.

In 2019, socialization playgroups were held regularly at the Russell Library and ACES in Middletown, and at Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook for shoreline area families as well as some others locations:

Socialization Site	# Playgroups	Average # Parents	Average # Children
Rehabilitation Associates	40	2	2
Russell Library	7	5	5
ACES Early Head Start	7	3	3
Grace Episcopal Church	10	3	3
Walk & Talk	12	4	4
Infant Massage	3	1	1
Kid City	7	4	4
Waltrous	1	3	4

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

BIRTH TO THREE PARTNERS

ABC Intervention
American School for the Deaf
Creative Interventions
Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center 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