



EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

Serving eligible families in Middlesex County



FISCAL YEAR
2022

JANUARY –
DECEMBER
2022



aces Early Head Start

ACES EARLY 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 2022 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). As the COVID-19 virus maintained its prevalence throughout our community, ACES continued to provide all the necessary resources and safeguards to ensure children, families and staff are safe and healthy. This included providing current state and federal information; along with “Wellness Bags” filled with COVID home test kits, masks, thermometers, tissues and activities.

As reported annually, the most recent ACES financial audit dated January 3, 2023 had no findings for Early Head Start.

Back in July of 2020, ACES entered into a partnership with Capital 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 two classrooms located in Portland and Middletown. This partnership was dissolved in June of 2022, with most Head Start staff being absorbed back into CREC. Coincidentally during this shift, some structural changes at ACES also occurred. Rebecca Cuevas assumed a role serving as a cabinet member on ACES Executive Leadership Council as their Director of Special Programs and Community Engagement. Even with this change, Becky continues to support and represent Early Head Start and the Middlesex community. ACES Early Head Start also welcomed back one of our Head Start Staff, Nelie Mondesir, as our new Education and Disabilities Manager.

The Fall of 2022 also presented us with some staffing shortages due to two staff members being out for an extended period of time. The team rallied, and multiple managers and support staff conducted home visits for over four months. The dedication and perseverance of this EHS team has shown through, making this program only stronger. Much inspiration was also derived from our families, who embraced these individuals into their homes, and allowed them to come weekly even during a pandemic.

Once again, I would like to thank our community partners, the ACES Governing Board, Policy Council members, families and staff for their ongoing efforts to make 2022 an amazing year for Early Head Start.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather M. Granja". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Heather M. Granja M.ED
Program Coordinator

FISCAL YEAR 2022 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, 2022 through December 31, 2022, in accordance with Head Start Act 644(a)(2).

Total Federal Share: \$1,021,077.00

Total Non-Federal Share (In-Kind Contributions): \$251,555 (\$247,251 required)

FEDERAL SHARE

CATEGORIES	EXPENSES
Salaries	\$322,493.49
Benefits	\$59,180.54
Supplies	\$13,393.81
Contractual – Health & Disabilities	\$350.00
Contractual – Middlesex Health	\$423,495.11
Training & Technical Assistance	\$21,231.70
Other – Building Maintenance	\$15.99
Other – Local Travel	\$2,053.59
Other – Advertising	\$1,571.82
Other – Consultants	\$22,625.00
Other – Communication	\$3,649.11
Other – Computer Software	\$8,891.25
Other – Technology Support	\$15,280.00
Other – Technology Leases	\$5,655.42
Other – Translation Services	\$7,009.75
Other – Dues & Fees	\$7,452.28
Other – Program Improvement	\$2,054.00
Other – Parent Services	\$2,987.60
TOTAL INDIRECT TO ACES	\$77,059.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$994,395.46

NON-FEDERAL SHARE

CATEGORIES	EXPENSES
ACES Facilities & Office Space	\$134,674.75
MDSX Facilities & Office Space	\$41,693.92
Salaries & Benefits (Consultants)	\$26,716.97
Volunteers – Governance	\$48,469.44
TOTAL NON-FEDERAL SHARE	\$251,555.08

WHO WE SERVED

All demographic data based upon 2021-2022 Program Information Report (PIR) unless otherwise noted.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

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

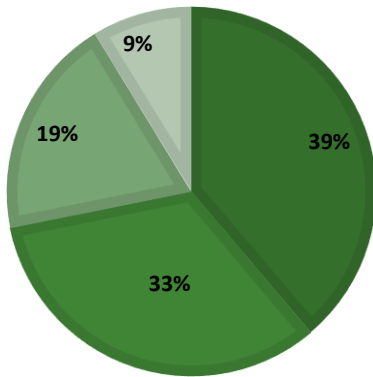
2021-2022 SERVICE NUMBERS:

- 103 total children
- 95 total families
- 12 total expectant people

AVERAGE REPORTED MONTHLY ENROLLMENT: 100%

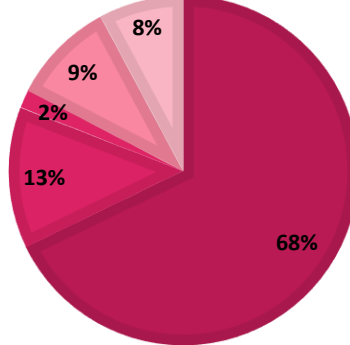
CHILD AGES

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



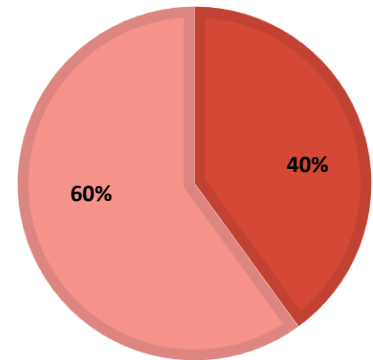
ELIGIBILITY

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



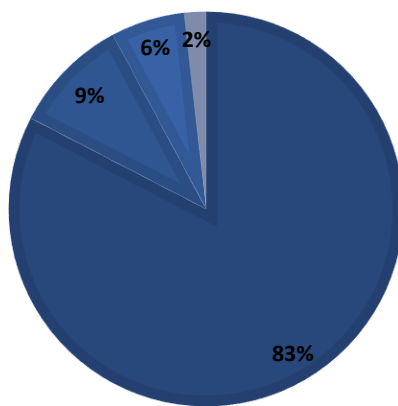
ETHNICITY

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



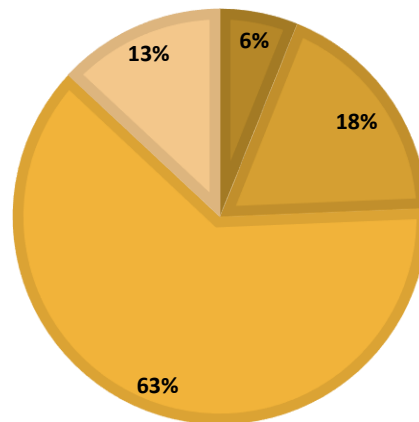
LANGUAGE

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



RACE

- Asian
- Black/African American
- White
- Biracial/Multi-racial



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.

62%

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

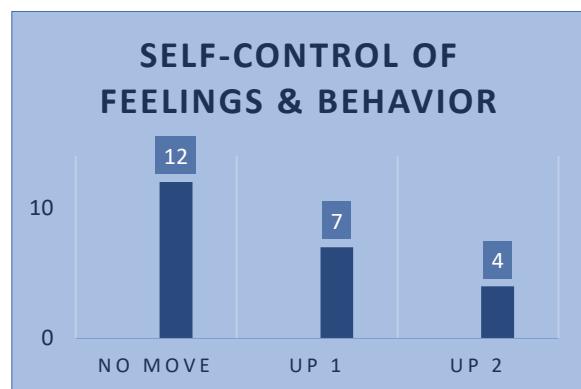
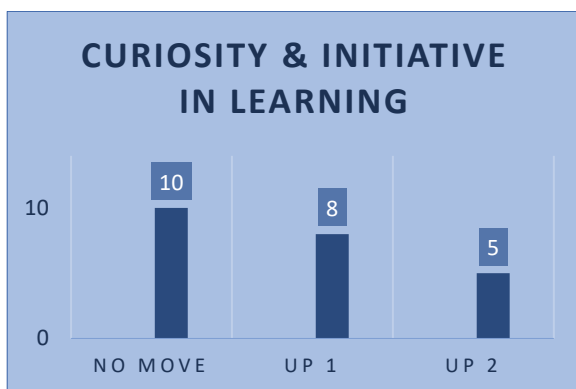
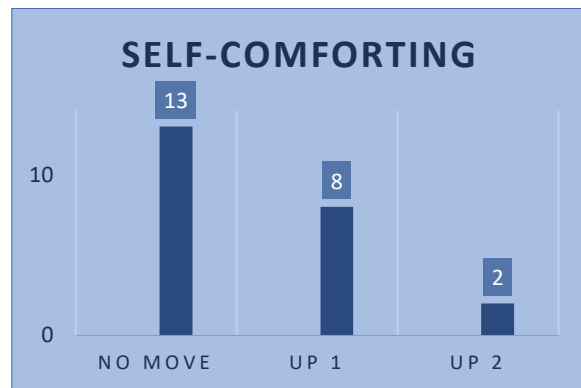
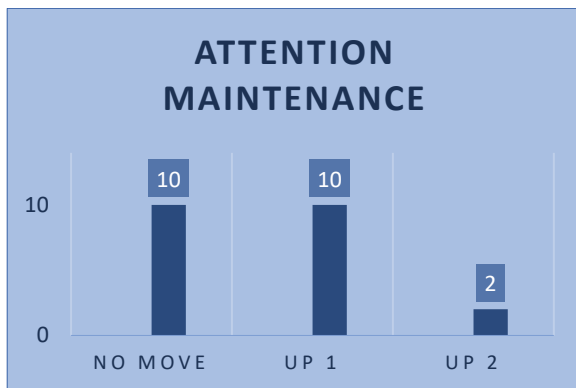
ACES Early Head Start developed nine school readiness goals for the 2019-2020 program year to align with the five central domains of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (2015):

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

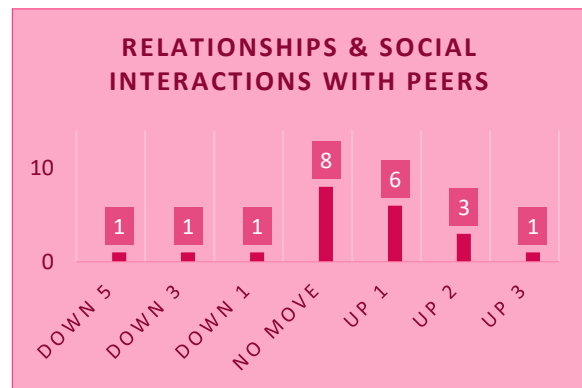
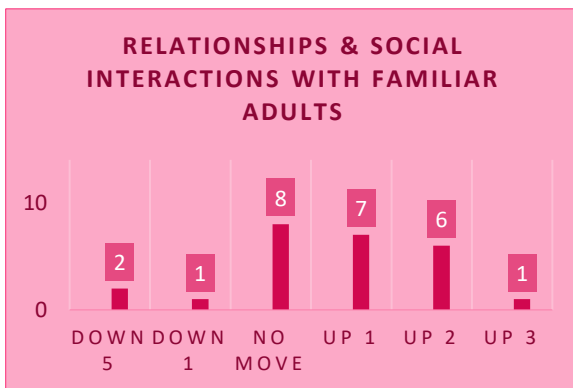
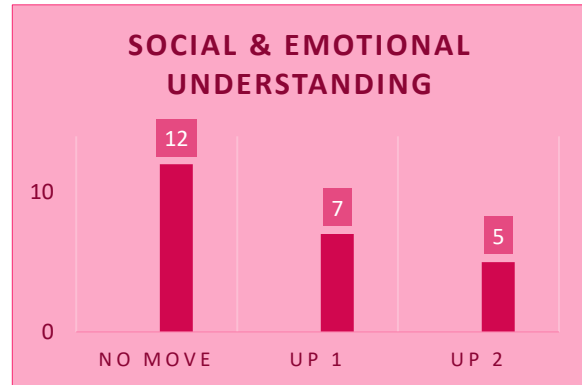
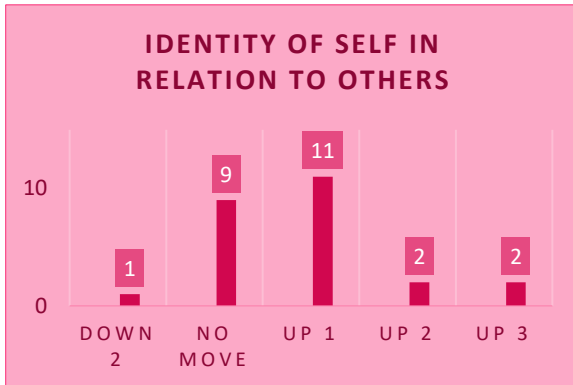
During our 2019-2020 Winter cycle, we piloted the ChildPlus Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) assessment and made the full switch to using that assessment for the 2020-2021 program year. The DRDP is a child assessment for children birth through age five, developed in California as part of 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 2021-2022 program year (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022). 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.

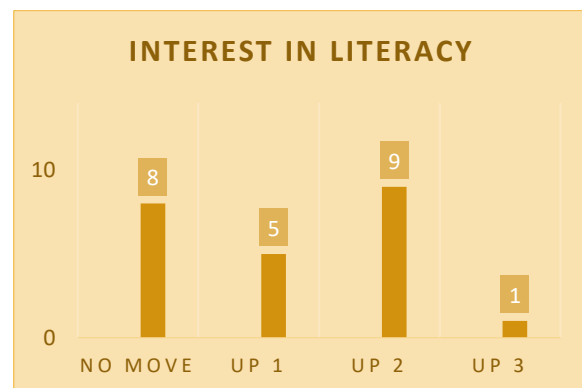
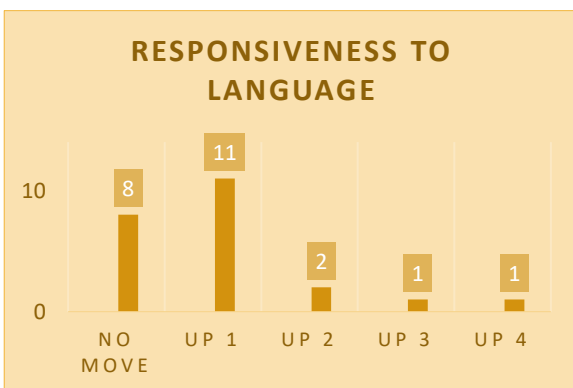
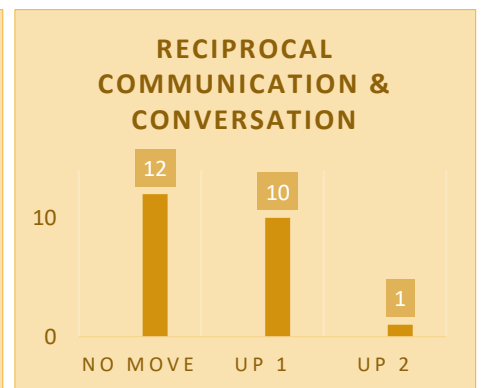
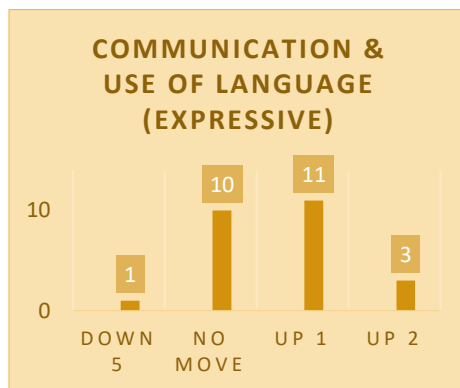
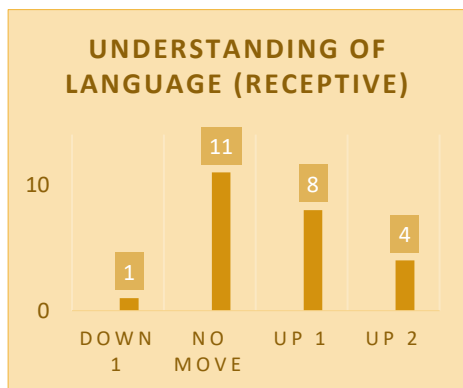
APPROACHES TO LEARNING – SELF-REGULATION: GROWTH



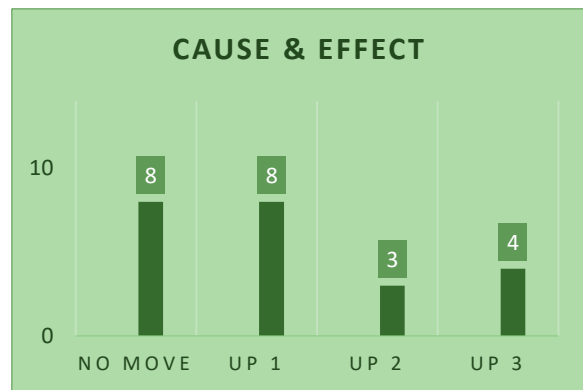
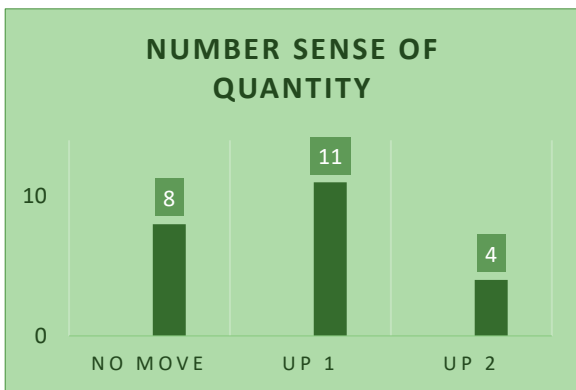
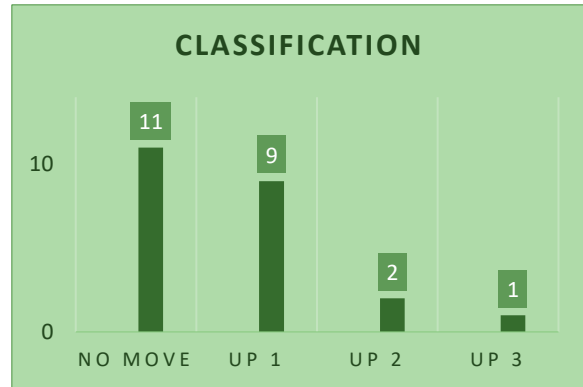
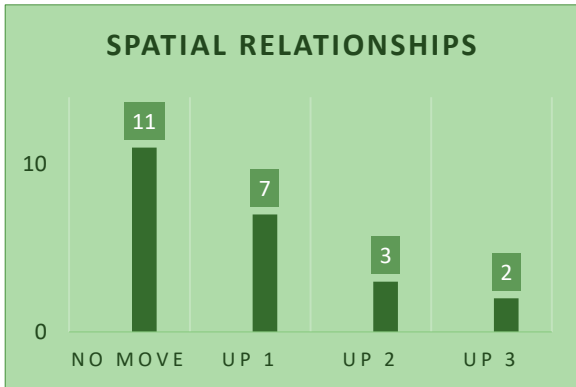
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH



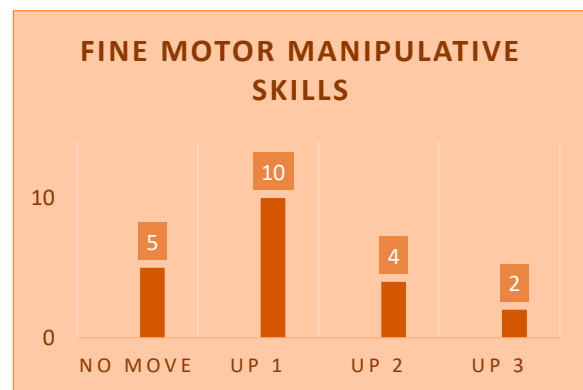
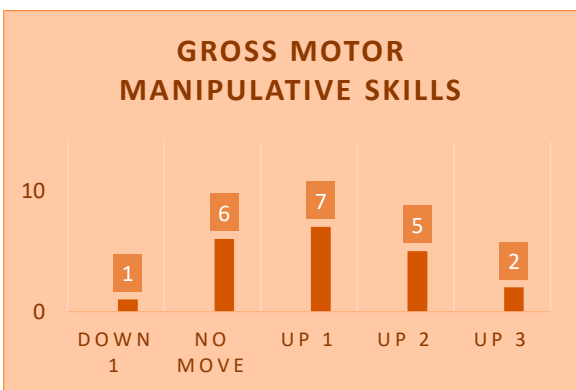
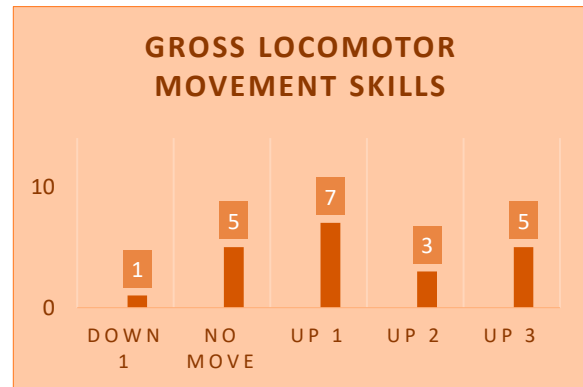
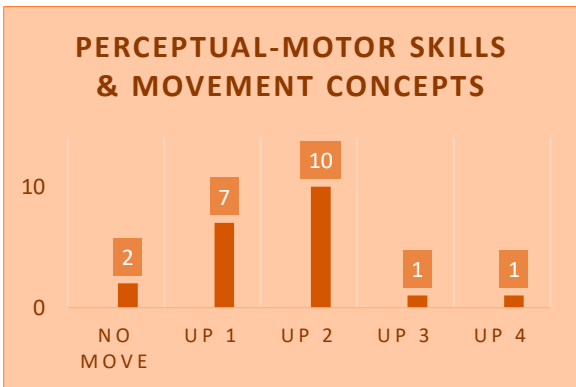
LANGUAGE & LITERACY DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH



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 7 meetings
 - Average attendance: 6 parents
 - 26 parents met during the Family Fun Day event in Middletown
- Grace Church
 - Held 2 meetings
 - Average attendance: 2 parents
- Community Parks
 - Held 4 meetings
 - Average attendance: 4 parents

Topics Addressed:

- Parent Observations
- Policy Council Updates
- Program Updates
- Health and Safety
- Parent Advocacy
- Community Events
- Parent Suggestions
- 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

- The annual event was held August 5, 2023 in Middletown at the EHS office on 300 Washington St.
- 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.

Family Activities	# Events	Average # Parents	Average # Children
ACES Early Head Start Socialization	12	5	6
Grace Episcopal Church Socialization	3	2	2
Circle of Security	3	2	2
Community Parks Socialization	8	3	3
Family Leadership at Community Partner's Meetings	1	2	3
Walk & Talk	7	4	4

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City of Middletown Columbus House Community Health Center, Inc. CT Birth to Three CT Dental Health Partnership CT Dept. of Children and Families CT Foodbank Diaper Bank of CT ECHO Program Faith Lutheran Church Grace Episcopal Church Hallie House Injury Free Kids	Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) LEARN Young Children and Families Middlesex Central CT Chapter of the American Middletown Adult Education Middlesex Health Middletown Fire Department Middletown Police/PAL 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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