

EARLY HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT

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

FISCAL YEAR
2020

JANUARY –
DECEMBER
2020



Early Head Start & Head Start Services

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

CONTENTS

FROM THE EARLY HEAD START DIRECTOR2

FISCAL YEAR 2020 EXPENDITURES3

WHO WE SERVED4

CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES5

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN.....5

 APPROACHES TO LEARNING: GROWTH5

 SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH5

 LANGUAGE & LITERACY DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH.....6

 COGNITION: GROWTH.....6

 PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH7

 ASSESSMENT TOOL CHANGE FOR 2020-2021.....7

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES.....7

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS8

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
Christie Arnold, *Policy Council Chairperson*

ACES GOVERNING BOARD
Norman Hicks, *Chair*



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

FROM THE EARLY HEAD START DIRECTOR

Greetings,

We are on a brighter path! I believe many would agree that 2020 was a very difficult year for everyone across our country and the world. The lockdowns, mask mandates, loss of life, economic crisis, and all that came with the pandemic will remain etched in our lives for years to come. In addition, we experienced the pain and divisions from an extraordinary election cycle and faced head on the very public outrage and realities of racial and social injustices in our society. The pervasive instances of racism and violence captured on television and social media, reminded us there is still much work to be done. Still, we as a program and community stood in solidarity. We have a great responsibility to address the individual needs of all families and their children. Our commitment will always be to provide quality and equitable educational services to our youngest learners and their families.

As the lockdowns were initiated in March 2020, the Early Head Start program moved all services remotely. Home visits, parent committees, socializations, and policy council meetings were offered through zoom meeting spaces. It took some time to adapt to this major change but overall staff and families endured. This new norm was only strengthened by the commitment of staff, families, and community providers working together to support each other.

During the summer of 2020, Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), offered ACES Early Head Start the opportunity to be a partner in their newly awarded federal grant expanding services to include center based classrooms to 3-5 year olds in 3 different locations of Middlesex County. As a result, ACES officially opened a head start site at Snow Elementary School in Middletown, one at Valley View Elementary School in Portland, and one at the former CRT site at the American Legion in Clinton. These classrooms would not be possible without the support and partnership with Middletown Public Schools, Portland Public Schools, and the American Legion in Clinton. In the initial months of this expansion, we changed our name to ACES Early Head Start and Head Start Services. We now serve 60 children and families in the home visiting program and serve 55 children in the center-based classrooms.

We are grateful for the support and funding we received from ACES to help with PPE and guide us through the many measures necessary to mitigate and protect our staff and families. COVID related relief funds at the federal level also contributed to our ability to reopen offices and subsequently the classrooms at the three locations.

Our community partnerships including our longstanding relationship with Middlesex Hospital have helped engage and provide resources to families with technology, diapers, masks, books, educational materials, gift cards, food & nutrition, and referral services related to health and wellness throughout the year. As the director of this program, I must express my sincere gratitude to our home visitors, teachers, managers, specialists, consultants and administrative staff for their dedication and optimism during this extraordinary year.

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



Respectfully,

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

Rebecca Cuevas, LMSW
Program Director, Early Head Start and Head Start

FISCAL YEAR 2020 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, 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, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in accordance with Head Start Act 644(a)(2).

Total Federal Share: \$1,030,059

Total Non-Federal Share (In-Kind Contributions): \$190,811

LINE ITEM
OPERATIONS

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$323,505.23
Benefits	\$40,491.42
Supplies – Office	\$5,239.48
Supplies – Parent Activities	\$2,141.43
Supplies – Program	\$3,751.72
Supplies – Socialization	\$89.04
Contractual – Health/Disabilities	\$316.57
Contractual – Middlesex Hospital	\$373,270.29
Other – Advertising	\$1,495.73
Other – Communications	\$7,535.42
Other – Consultants	\$84,532.00
Other – Dues/Fees	\$6,348.39
Other – Facility Usage	\$3.69
Other – Local Travel	\$592.08
Other – Parent Activities	\$100.00
Other – Postage	\$339.65
Other – Technology	\$2,128.95
Computer Software	\$2,498.54
Lease – Technology	\$3,016.38
Technology Support	\$9,234.26
Program Improvement	\$13,340.44
Equipment – Below \$1,000	\$1,264.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$881,234.71

TRAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training – Contractual	\$1,036.51
Training – Staff Development	\$282.14
Travel – Staff Dev/Conferences	\$3,608.21
Training – Supplies	\$26.91
TOTAL TRAINING/TA	\$4,953.77

TOTAL INDIRECT TO ACES

\$74,882.95

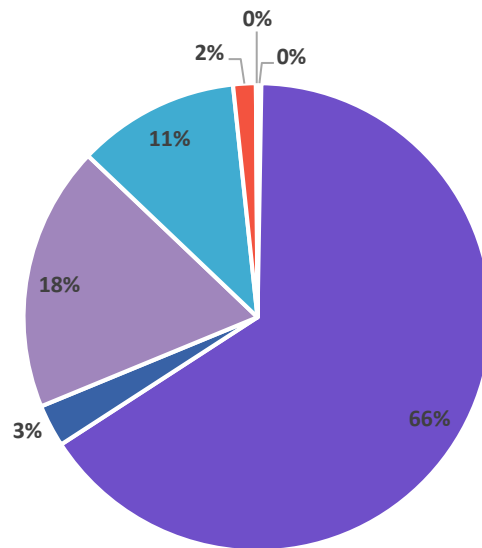
TOTAL EXPENDED

\$961,071.43

TOTAL UNOBLIGATED

\$68,987.27

NON-FEDERAL SHARE



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

WHO WE SERVED

All demographic data based upon 2020 Program Information Report (PIR) unless otherwise noted.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

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

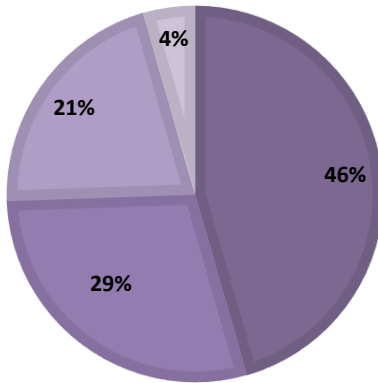
2020 SERVICE NUMBERS:

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

AVERAGE REPORTED MONTHLY ENROLLMENT: 100%

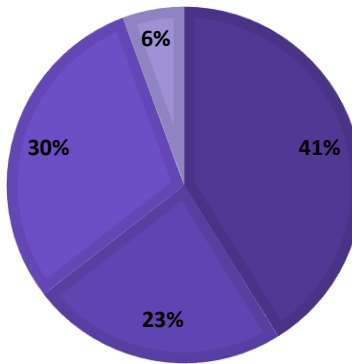
CHILD AGES

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



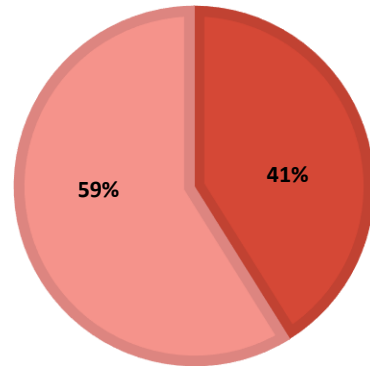
ELIGIBILITY

- Income eligible
- Public Assistance
- Homeless
- Over income



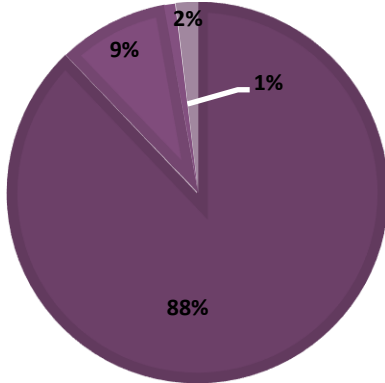
ETHNICITY

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



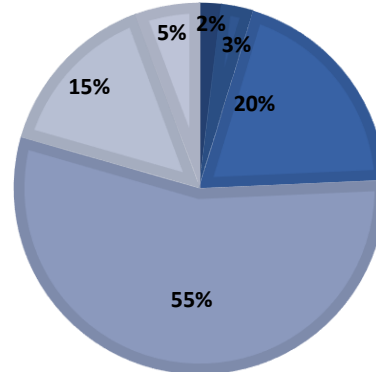
LANGUAGE

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



RACE

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



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.

53% 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 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):

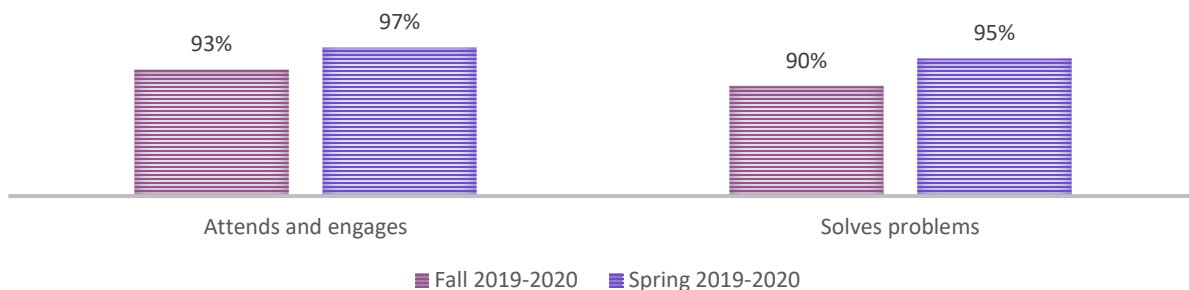
- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

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 2019-2020 program year (September 2019 – August 2020). 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.

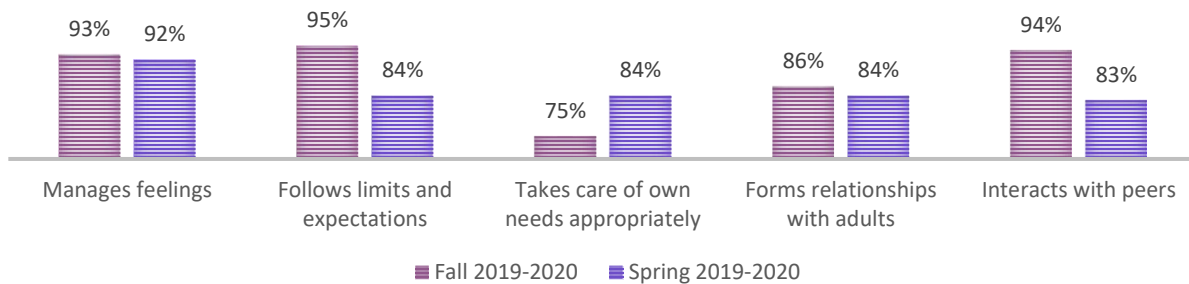
APPROACHES TO LEARNING: GROWTH

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



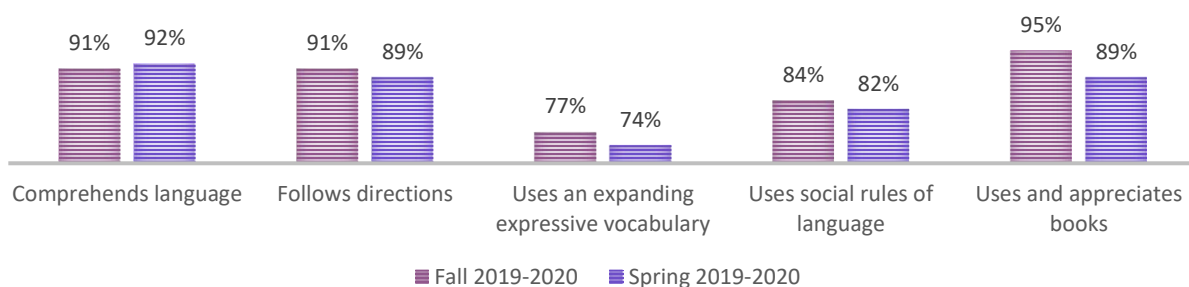
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH

- *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.*



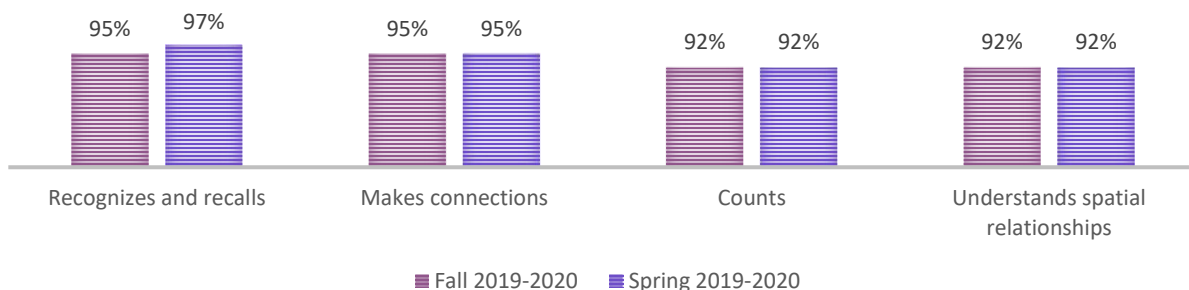
LANGUAGE & LITERACY DEVELOPMENT: GROWTH

- *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.*



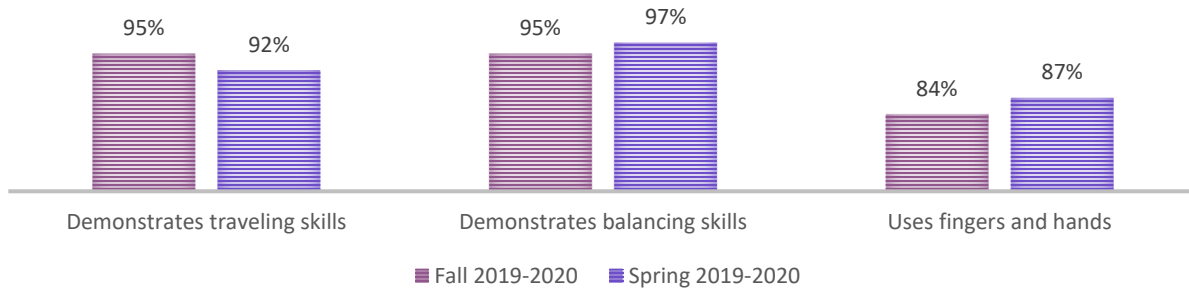
COGNITION: GROWTH

- *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.*



ASSESSMENT TOOL CHANGE FOR 2020-2021

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.

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: 4 parents
- Virtual
 - Held 4 meetings
 - Average attendance: 5 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

- 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	2	7	7
Grace Episcopal Church Socialization	3	2	2
Circle of Security	3	3	3
Family Leadership at Hallie House	1	2	2
Grow Truck	7	8	8
Snack & Paint	1	6	1
Rehabilitation Associates	1	1	1
Garden Basics & Foundation Virtual	1	2	2
Parent Chat Virtual	9	3	3
Socialization Virtual	3	3	4
Mental Health Mondays Virtual	2	2	2
Nutrition Education Virtual	2	4	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