

Lorain County Community Action Agency

2016 HEAD START LEARNING
OUTCOMES REPORT



GROW

LEARN . SUCCEED

What is Head Start?

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs focused on comprehensive child development. Students prepare for Kindergarten and future academic success. Meanwhile, teachers and staff address the emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs of children and their families.

Head Start helps children and families:

- ◆ become lifelong learners.
- ◆ stay or become healthy and empowered.
- ◆ grow in confidence and desire to succeed.
- ◆ develop healthy relationships that last.
- ◆ become and remain self-sufficient.

Early Head Start supports pregnant women and monitors children's development for unique needs.

LCCAA serves **987 children** in Head Start and **40 children** in Early Head Start. Full and part day options and home-based programs are available. Students receive as much as **40 hours** of instruction each week from teams of teachers.



Who is Eligible?

Head Start and Early Head Start serve low-income children ages 0 to 5 and pregnant women.

Income is one measure of eligibility. Head Start families must live at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty as living on an income of \$24,300 annually for a family of four.

Families are eligible for Head Start if they earn 30 percent more than that or \$31,590 for a family of four.

Families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are automatically eligible. Homeless children, children in foster care and children with disabilities are also automatically eligible.



What does LCCAA HS offer?

All of LCCAA's directly operated Head Start centers are now rated at five stars in the Step Up to Quality program.



LCCAA Head Start goes beyond the minimum standards to provide quality classroom experiences that build a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

LCCAA added 100 slots in 2015-16 and will be adding another 30 slots this fall to meet the needs of Lorain County children.



What is Step Up to Quality?

Ohio created its 5-star rating system to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the minimum health and safety licensing requirements.

The program has been voluntary; however, beginning in 2020, all early childhood programs must be rated or they will be ineligible for public funds. LCCAA has been fortunate to have partners who work hard to exceed minimum standards. All of LCCAA's partner centers are rated at 3 stars or higher.

Higher ratings are given to programs employing teachers with more specialized training as well as enhanced parent, family and community engagement, among other criteria.

For additional details on the program, visit <http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/sutq.php>.

Quality Rated Centers

(LCCAA and Partners)

Five-Star Centers

Children's Developmental Center, Amherst
Elyria Early Childhood Village
Hamilton Head Start, Elyria
Hopkins-Locke, Lorain
Horizon Education Center, Loudon Court, Elyria
Little Lighthouse Learning Center, Lorain
Lorain City Schools
Wellington Head Start

Four-Star Centers

Horizon Education Center, Dewhurst Road, Elyria
Horizon Education Center, Grove Ave., Lorain

Three-Star Centers

Horizon Education Center, Colorado Ave., Lorain



How does LCCAA do it?

With solid research and a framework to focus them, LCCAA's Head Start teachers work in teams and with parents to get results. The end product is students who are ready for Kindergarten, eager to learn and hungry for success.



LCCAA's Head Start teachers are enthusiastically dedicated to preparing students for academic success. Their credentials support them.

More than 50% of LCCAA-employed teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field. LCCAA goes beyond the national requirement for associate's degrees set when Congress reauthorized Head Start in 2007.

To further strengthen classroom instruction, LCCAA moved to a team teaching model at directly operated centers in 2014-15.

'Our teachers love to learn and that is the foundation of their dedication to teaching. We could not ask for better professionals preparing these children for success.'

- Shauna Matelski, LCCAA Head Start Director

Head Start Framework

Approaches to Learning

Approaches to Learning
Creative Arts Expression

Cognition and General Knowledge

English Language Development
Logic and Reasoning
Mathematics Knowledge and Skills
Science Knowledge and Skills
Social Studies Knowledge and Skills

Language and Literacy

Language Development
Literacy Knowledge and Skills

Physical Development and Health

Social and Emotional Development



What are the tools?



Success in Head Start is very measurable. LCCAA Head Start teachers assess all students within 45 days of enrollment - no matter what time of year it is. The first performance standards for Head Start were published in 1975 and the current framework is used nationwide.

LCCAA uses GOLD, an assessment tool aligned to both the Head Start Framework and the Ohio Department of Education standards that focuses on widely held expectations. (See results on pages 6 and 7.)

Classroom environments are evaluated using CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) which offers teachers feedback on how they interact with students. (See page 8.)

All tools are grounded in years of research on what children should know and be able to do as three and four year olds.

More than Education

LCCAA knows you can't learn if you're hungry. And you can't get your child to school without a car. And you can't read to your child if you're worried about his health.

Family Service Workers walk with Head Start families on every step of their journey. They work to build positive, trusting relationships and respond to each unique need. They are the front-line for families in making sure needs are met.

LCCAA's Family Service Workers help parents set realistic and challenging goals for their children, addressing both their needs and their strengths. As children grow, family dynamics change and these key staff members encourage and support positive parent-child relationships.

Family Service Workers serve as a bridge between parents and Head Start teachers and then between parents and schools or community programs. Their work means children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning and schools are ready for children.

Other assistance available to Head Start families through LCCAA and its partners includes: Health Screenings, Dental and Vision Screenings, Job and Computer Skills Training, Transportation, Housing and Utility Assistance and Emergency Food, Clothing and Shelter.

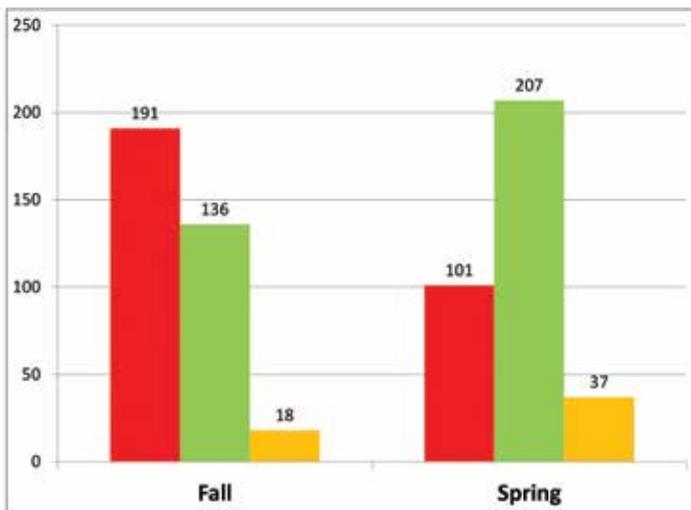


Head Start Works

Many preschoolers enter Head Start with little to no learning background. Fall assessments show relatively high numbers of children testing “below” widely held expectations.

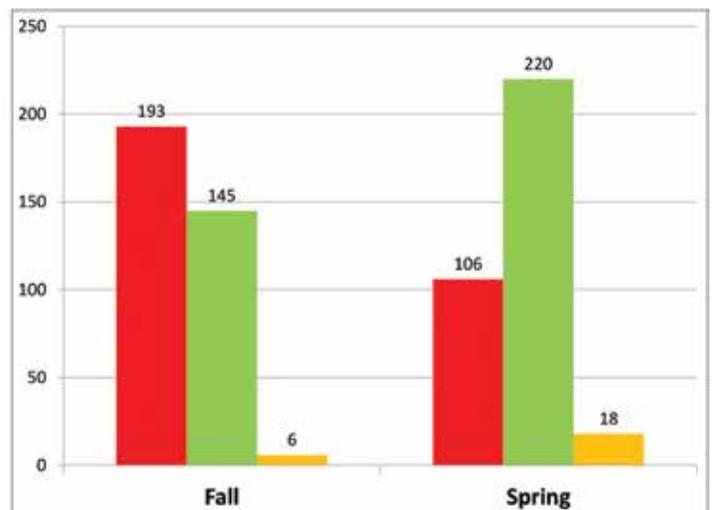
By the end of the year, the number of children exceeding expectations has skyrocketed and very few remain below average.

LCCAA’s data from GOLD, shown here, consistently shows dramatic improvement from fall to spring.



Social Emotional Development

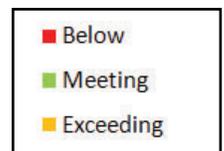
Social Emotional objectives focus on how children are learning to control their behavior and emotions as well as how they are getting along with other children. He makes friends easily, manages feelings, recognizes clues to other people’s feelings and can balance his needs against other children’s needs.



Physical Development

Physical skills include things that adults take for granted such as walking, running and skipping. They also include gross motor skills such as throwing a ball and fine motor skills like holding a crayon to color a picture. Head Start also provides special interventions for students with disabilities.

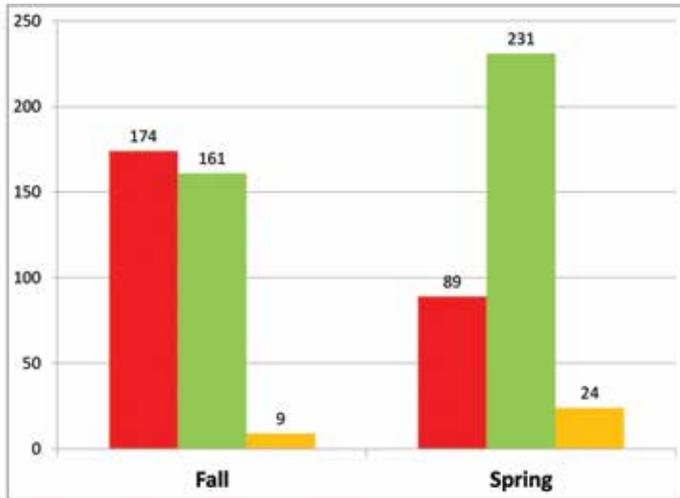
Widely Held Expectations are tasks and skills children of a certain age are expected to know and be able to perform. They apply to all children in an age group regardless of their household income.



Head Start Works

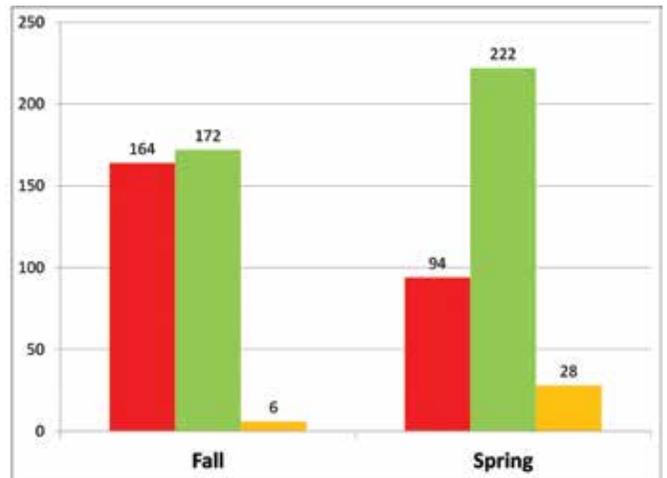
“We truly value our work and partnership with Head Start in preparing our youngest learners with a foundation for their K-12 experience.”

- Dr. Thomas Jama, Superintendent Elyria City Schools



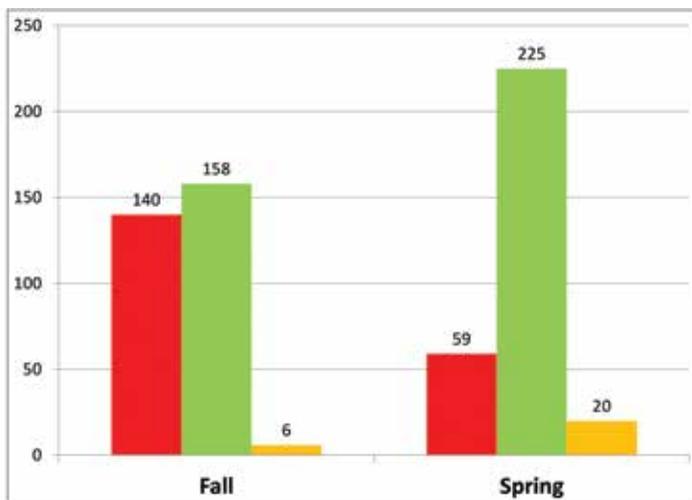
Language Development

Speaking and understanding words are skills that rapidly expand in the preschool years. Children learn to follow directions, hold a two-way conversation, and use complete sentences - all with an ever-growing vocabulary. They regularly use conventional grammar and other social rules of language.



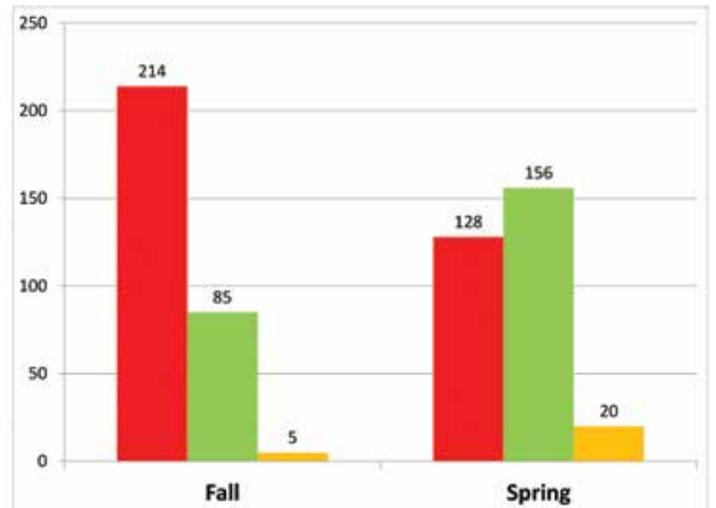
Cognitive Development

Young children enjoy learning because they are curious. As their attention spans lengthen, they are more persistent in trying to solve problems. They remember experiences and can connect them to each other. They learn to pretend and start to understand symbolic thought.



Literacy

Children preparing to become readers are learning to identify letters and their sounds. They recognize rhymes and hold books right side up. They understand some basic print concepts such as books are read from left to right. They can retell a familiar story and they are learning to write their names.



Mathematics

Counting, shapes, patterns and beginning measurements are all foundational math skills. As children progress in their academic career, this expands into scientific inquiry as well as geography and other concepts of social studies.



Growing Lifelong Learners

LCCAA Head Start teachers emphasize attendance. Although preschool is not required in Ohio, the opportunities in Head Start and Early Head Start prepare children for Kindergarten and lifelong academic success.

Children change so rapidly at this age and they will never be better suited to absorbing new information.

LCCAA Head Start teachers are dedicated to creating supportive, positive learning environments. They score above average in the nationally required CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) program demonstrating their commitment to their students.



CLASS is based on the latest research which shows that teacher-child interactions have a significant impact on a child's development and learning.

The CLASS domains for preschoolers are:

- ◆ **Emotional Support** which assesses the degree to which teachers establish and promote a positive climate in their classroom through their everyday interactions.
- ◆ **Classroom Organization** which assesses classroom routines and procedures related to the organization and management of children's behavior, time and attention in the classroom.
- ◆ **Instructional Support** which assesses the ways in which teachers implement the curriculum to effectively promote cognitive and language development.

Program	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support
National Head Start	6.03	5.80	2.88
LCCAA Head Start	6.37	5.93	3.68

Learn more about CLASS at <http://teachstone.com/classroom-assessment-scoring-system/>.



Partnering with Parents

In 2015-2016, parents volunteered 20,471 hours in our classrooms and centers.



**Thank you to the members of the
2015-16 Parent Policy Council!**

Tiffany Dennis, President
Autumn Standifird, Vice President
Isaac Moore, Secretary
Kristin Hopkins, Asst. Secretary
Duane Barlow
Reginald Cremeans
Amber Kitchen
R'Nita Moore
Monica Patterson
Robert Perkins
Candice Regal
Jack Tucker Sr.
Talisa Wiggins



Growing and Learning

Head Start Successes come in many forms. Every step toward a strong, self-sufficient life for students and families is a reason for celebration.

Head Start prepares students for academic success in Kindergarten and beyond, but it is also well-known for empowering parents.

In addition to fostering a life-long love of learning, Head Start helps parents see and make the most of opportunities that impact their entire family's future.



Head Start also helps both children and their parents make long-lasting friendships.

In short, Head Start Works!

Meeting Unique Needs

Juan had several negative school experiences as a pre-schooler. His frustrated and exhausted mother found the high level of professionalism her autistic son needed at Hamilton Head Start in Elyria.

“This was the best decision I ever made, not only for my son but for our entire family,” Candice said. “What impressed me the most was how the faculty and I worked together as a team to see if we could meet my son’s social and academic needs in a typically functioning immersive setting.”

Juan’s new team slowly transitioned him into his new setting by increasing his classroom time week by week.

As Juan grew, he lost his fear of academic settings, enjoyed making friends and bridged into a full-day kindergarten program which he completed in June 2016.

“I cannot express the joy that our entire family felt the day we saw my son sitting with this peers waiting to cross the stage at the Head Start Bridging Ceremony,” Candice said.

“For us, that day will also represent the great power that exists between communities, schools and families when they work together to ensure academic greatness and phenomenal school experiences for all children.”



Empowered to Succeed

Finding Resilience

When Asia gave birth to Jameson she was only 17 and ready to start her senior year of high school. She looked to Head Start originally for child care and found much more.

Asia enrolled Jameson in Early Head Start where he enjoyed learning activities, healthy meals and she got the support she needed to finish high school and begin college.

In April 2015, Asia earned her Realtor's license and sold her first home. She is on track to finish her bachelor's degree in health services in 2017. Jameson will attend preschool in Head Start this fall. Both are ready to learn and succeed.



Photo Courtesy Chronicle-Telegram



Learning Together

As her son Mason bridged to Kindergarten from Head Start, Shanecia graduated from the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center with her nursing degree.

“The first time we sat down and spoke, I knew she was an amazing mom,” said Family Service Worker Kim Shannon. “Shanecia is always on top of everything. I just love her drive and ambition.”

Shanecia attended her classes and completed her clinical requirements while working and parenting six children on her own. She proved to Head Start staff that the future was more important to her than the present.

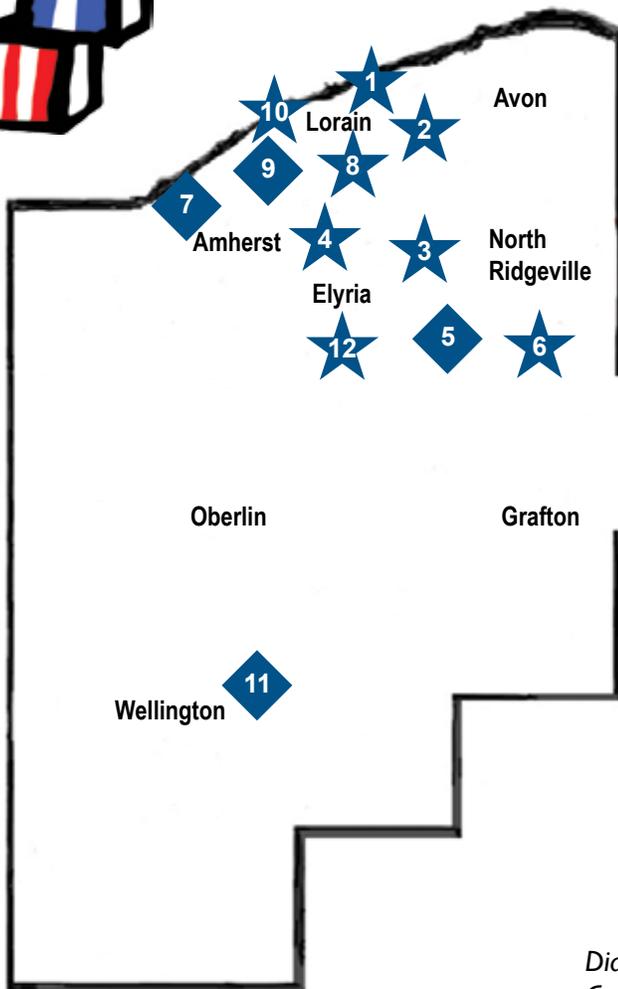
Her son Bryson and daughter Peyton will attend Hamilton Head Start this fall while Mason attends Kindergarten in Elyria City Schools.



Lorain County Community Action Agency

506 Broadway, Lorain, Ohio
www.lccaa.net 440-245-2009

Register online today! Classes start Sept. 15



1. Horizon Ed. Center, 2500 Colorado Ave., Lorain
2. Horizon Ed.Center, 4911 Grove Ave., Lorain
3. Elyria Early Childhood Village, 42101 Griswold Road., Elyria
4. Horizon Ed. Center, 10347 Dewhurst Road, Elyria
5. Hamilton Head Start Center, 1215 Middle Ave., Elyria
6. Horizon Ed. Center, 104 Loudon Court, Elyria (LMHA)
7. Childrens' Developmental Center, 150 Erie Court, Amherst.
8. Lorain City Schools, five locations in Lorain
9. Hopkins-Locke Head Start Center, 1050 Reid Ave., Lorain
10. Little Lighthouse Learning Center, 1715 Meister Ave., Lorain *New Location*
11. Wellington Head Start Center, 305 Union St., Wellington
12. **PARTNERING THIS FALL!** Cascade, 233 Bond St., Elyria

Diamonds denote the locations of directly operated Head Start Centers. Stars denote collaborative centers.

Henry Patterson, Board Chair

Jackie Boehnlein, CEO

Shauna Matelski, Head Start Director

Tiffany Dennis, Policy Council President