



Lorain County CAA



# Head Start School Readiness Outcomes Report 2014



Ready to Grow

Ready to Learn

Ready to Succeed

Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded, comprehensive child development programs. Children from 0 to 5 (and pregnant women) are automatically eligible if they are receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Children in foster care or experiencing homelessness are also automatically eligible.

Families with an income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level are also eligible. To promote interaction among children of all backgrounds, LCCAA's program allows for up to 10% of households to be above 130% of poverty.



- ▶ 3 directly operated centers
- ▶ 8 collaborative centers
- ▶ 939 enrolled in Head Start
- ▶ 40 enrolled in Early Head Start
- ▶ 24 Learning Lab Classrooms staffed with a teacher and assistant teacher
- ▶ Early Head Start children receive up to 40 hours a week of instruction and care
- ▶ Head Start includes full and part day options.
- ▶ Head Start includes 4 and 5 day program options.
- ▶ Head Start students receive between 14 and 30 hours of instruction each week.
- ▶ Average Daily Attendance is 73 percent.
- ▶ In 2013-14, LCCAA's Head Start program was reduced by 48 students due to the federal sequester. Those 48 student placements are being restored for the 2014-15 school year.
- ▶ Online enrollment now available at [www.lccaa.net](http://www.lccaa.net).

***No two families' circumstances are alike, but Head Start's social services are tailor-made to move everyone forward.***

LCCAA staff knows its clients. In addition to getting to know children so their academic needs can be met, LCCAA provides comprehensive and individualized services so every family succeeds. They include other LCCAA programs and referrals to partners. The potential list includes:

- ▶ Dental Screenings
- ▶ Vision Screenings
- ▶ Emergency Food, Clothing, Shelter
- ▶ Housing Assistance
- ▶ Utility Assistance
- ▶ GED programs
- ▶ Job Training
- ▶ Health Education
- ▶ Parenting Education
- ▶ Reentry Assistance
- ▶ Mental Health Services
- ▶ Domestic Violence Services
- ▶ Home Weatherization
- ▶ Emergency Home Repairs





“Head Start students were so far advanced compared to those with no preschool or private preschool.”  
- John Nolan, Wellington School District Superintendent

Kindergarteners need to be able to leave their parents or caregivers with confidence. They need to be able to care for their own basic needs (like using the bathroom and washing their hands). Curiosity and creativity are common characteristics of kindergarteners. They also are beginning to reason and solve problems.

Children who are ready for Kindergarten are ready to learn to read and write. They understand that letters form words and words form stories. They know how to hold a book right side up and they can hold a pencil or crayon in a way that allows them to make deliberate marks on paper.

“The Head Start program was a true gift to the district,” Superintendent John Nolan said of the new classroom in Wellington. “We were able to service a great number of children and it helped level the playing field for getting kids ready for Kindergarten.”

The Head Start Framework focuses on five content areas subdivided into 11 specific domains:

## The Standards

### **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**

Nolan continued, “When we did the Kindergarten screening, it showed the value of the young students coming from our in house Head Start program. Those students were so far advanced compared to those with no preschool or private preschool; it’s just so valuable.”

Ohio’s Department of Education has had standards for child development from 0 to 5 for several years. Last year, they were revised and aligned with the Common Core to meet the requirements of the Race to the Top grant the state received in 2011.

# Exceeding Expectations

At year end, the percentage of children exceeding for their age skyrocketed, while very few remain below average.

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. Most assessments take place at the beginning of the school year.

LCCAA uses six categories that align to the national Head Start framework. Assessments are repeated at the end of the school year so growth can be seen.

The Common Core and the newest Ohio Department of Education standards or early childhood education are based, in part, on the national Head Start framework LCCAA has been using for several years.

This framework uses **Widely Held Expectations** to determine whether a child is learning and developing skills at the rate most common and most appropriate for his age.

The following outcomes tell the story of success that is LCCAA Head Start.



Too often, attendance in the early school years is an afterthought. Children change so rapidly from birth to age 5 and they will never be better suited for absorbing new information and experiences.

“Although preschool is not required in Ohio, we must pay attention to the attendance rates of our students,” said Stefanie Drew, Family, Health, and Community Services Specialist for LCCAA Head Start.

Head Start provides opportunities for students to develop their cognitive, social and emotional skills needed for kindergarten success. Students cannot benefit fully if they are absent on a regular basis.

Children who do not attend class or who

come late consistently miss out on the fundamentals of reading and math skills. These basics are the foundations for School Readiness Success.

“Good attendance in the Head Start program can create a pathway for success,” Drew added. “Showing up on time, every day to school leads to adults who show up on time, every day for work. It becomes a habit.”

Parents are urged to take Head Start attendance seriously.

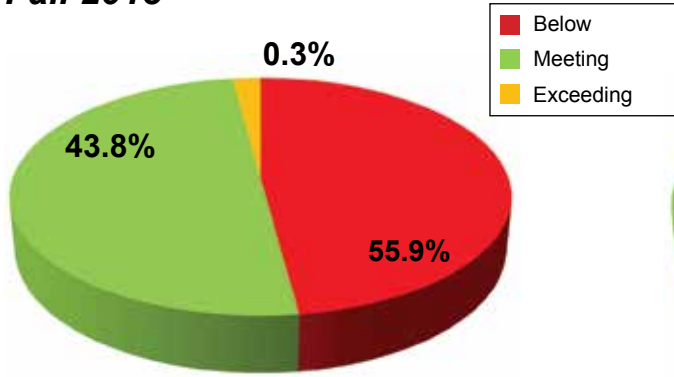
“We understand that perfect attendance is practically impossible,” Drew said, “but we want our students here every day, ready to learn.”

Attendance Matters

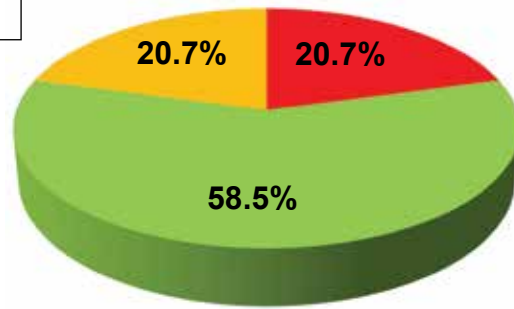
# Language Development

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 also regularly use conventional grammar and other social rules of language.

**Fall 2013\***



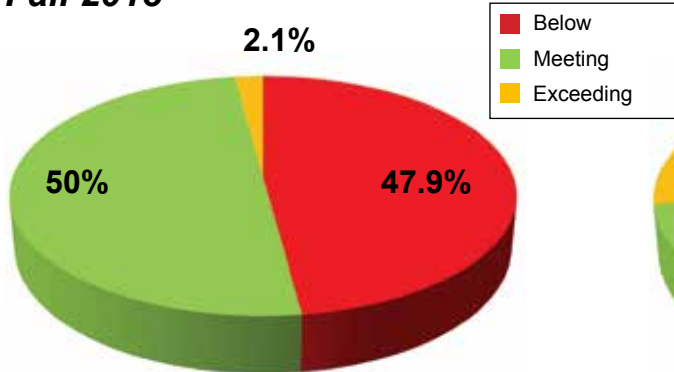
**Spring 2014<sup>◇</sup>**



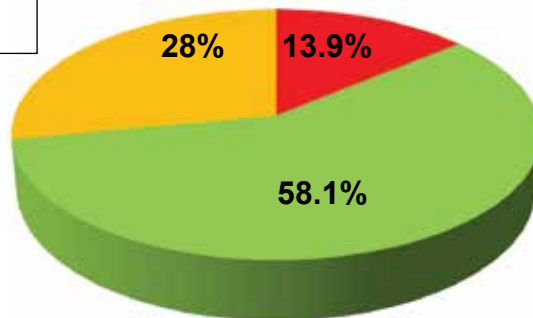
# Cognitive Development

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.

**Fall 2013\***



**Spring 2014<sup>◇</sup>**



Exceeding Expectations

Widely Held Expectations apply to all children in an age group regardless of their household income.

For more information see: [www.teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/Report-GOLD-Growth-Norms-9-2012.pdf](http://www.teachingstrategies.com/content/pageDocs/Report-GOLD-Growth-Norms-9-2012.pdf).

\* Assessed upon enrollment, prior to receiving instruction or other services. Data is from June 2014 for students in Head Start program year 2013-2014.

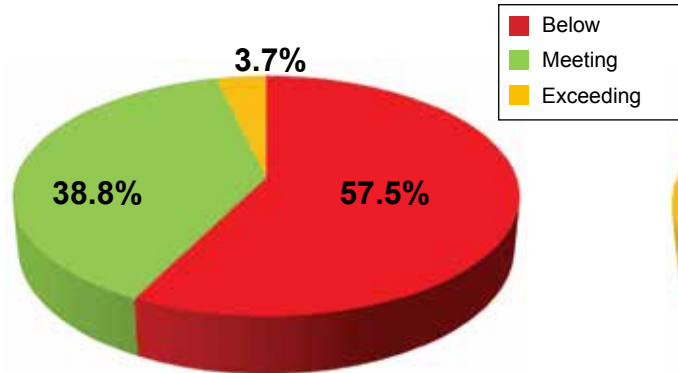
◇ Students assessed in the spring may not have experienced a full program year.



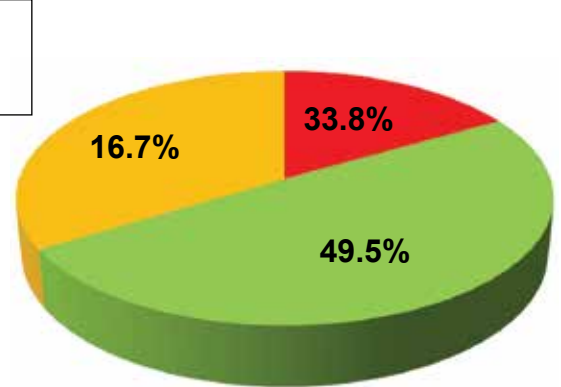
## Social Emotional Development

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. A child exceeding expectations in this area makes friends easily, manages her feelings, recognizes clues to other people's feelings and can balance his needs against other children's needs.

**Fall 2013\***



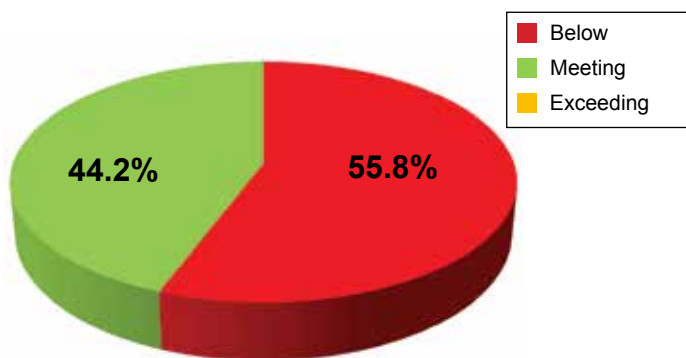
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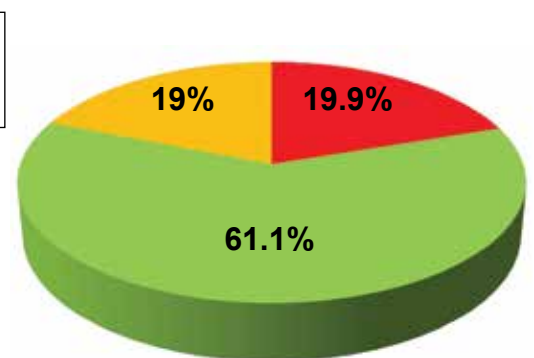
## Physical Development

Physical skills include things 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 to students with physical disabilities.

**Fall 2013\***



**Spring 2014<sup>◇</sup>**



Outcomes are reviewed and used for continuous improvement of the program to maximize the number of children exceeding expectations each year.

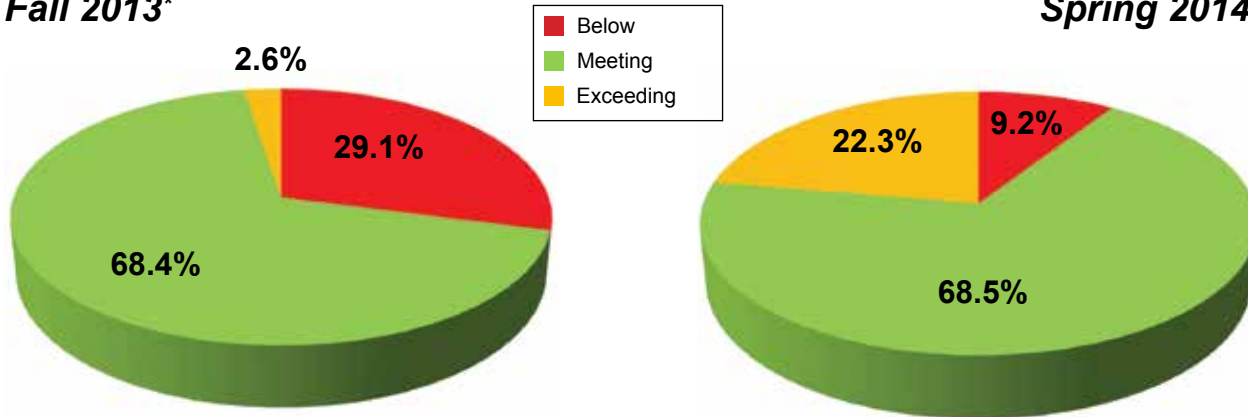
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## Literacy

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.

**Fall 2013\***

**Spring 2014<sup>◇</sup>**

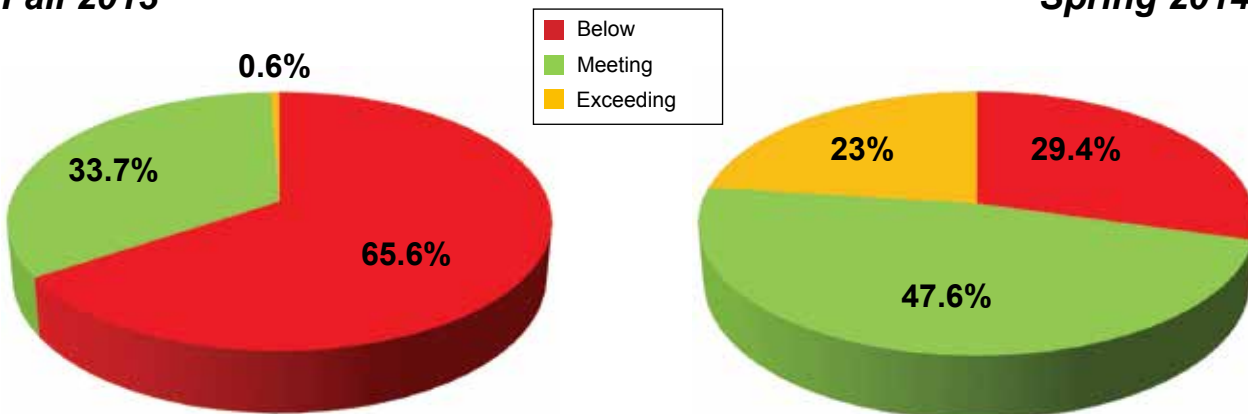


## Mathematics

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.

**Fall 2013\***

**Spring 2014<sup>◇</sup>**



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# Learning Begins at Birth



Scientists and educators know more than ever before about how a young child's brain develops; and, they know that learning starts immediately.

A 2014 study by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that reading to babies from birth boost brain development, strengthens parent-child relationships and builds literacy and communications skills.

Both Head Start and the Ohio Department of Education use an early learning framework to measure a young child's progress. This is true of all Head Start children using age-appropriate indicators from birth to age 5.

Each experience and each skill builds on the one mastered before it. The continuum of learning stretches from birth through pre-school and into Kindergarten and beyond.

"It's an exciting time to be an early education professional," said Director Shauna Matelski. "Research is increasingly showing the importance of a child's early years. And support for quality intervention programs like Head Start is growing."

**Early Head Start** starts with expectant mothers and stays with them until their children are 3. This is a time of rapid development and change. Key skills mastered in this time of a child's development include:

- \* developing balance and coordination including walking and hand-eye coordination
- \* expressing emotions and identifying feelings
- \* understanding words and speaking
- \* showing interest and participation in book reading/storytelling
- \* distinguishing between pictures and text, recognizing some logos and shapes
- \* recognizing their name in print
- \* learning to grasp and manipulate objects
- \* using number words and beginning to count
- \* recognizing basic shapes

For **Head Start** children, ages 3 to 5, skill development continues with an emphasis on indicators of school readiness:

- \* personal care (toileting, hand washing, dressing)
- \* following basic safety rules and delaying gratification for short periods
- \* separating from familiar adults with minimal distress
- \* understand more complex words and sentences, increasing vocabulary
- \* retelling familiar stories and identifying subjects and characters
- \* orienting books correctly and understanding how books work
- \* recognizing their name as well as other letters in print
- \* holding pencils correctly and writing some letters of their name
- \* counting correctly and identifying numbers and quantities

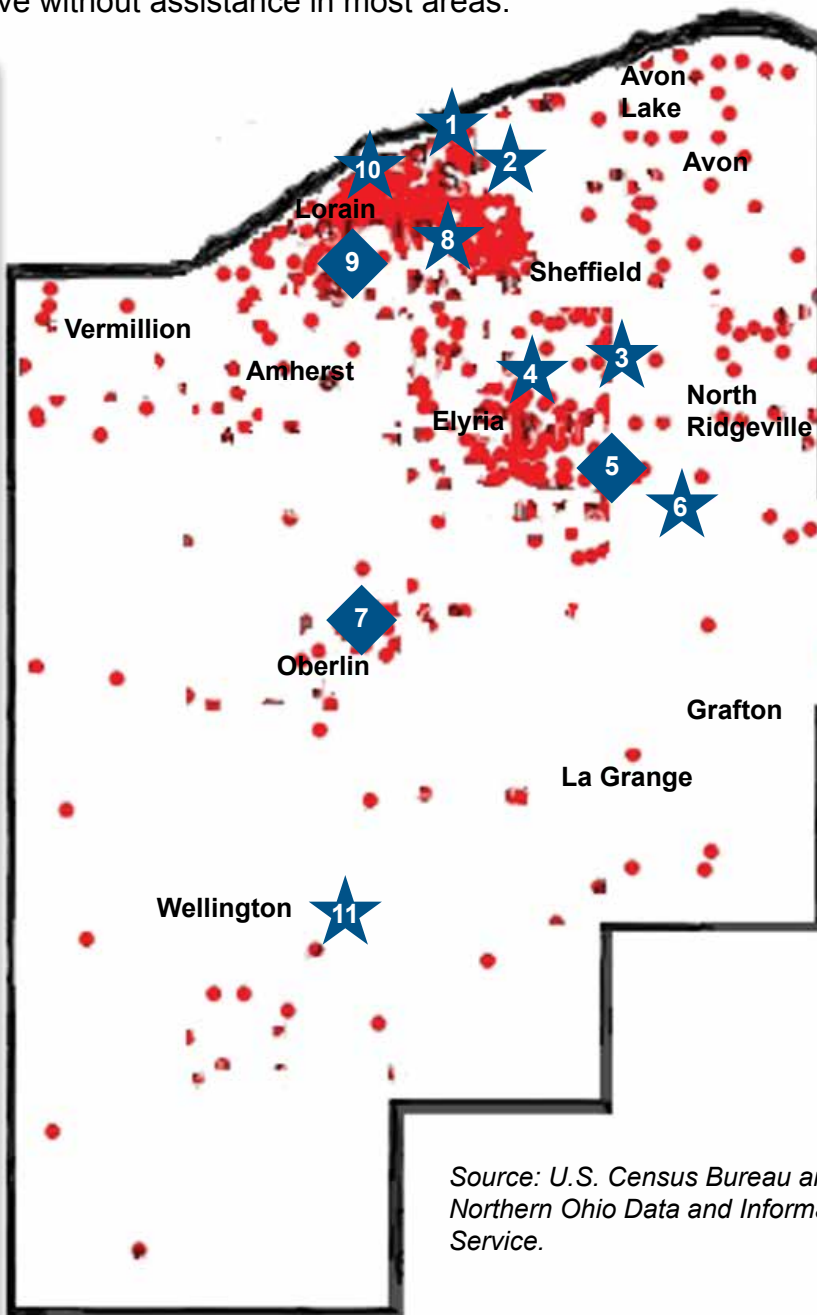


# Meeting Needs, Raising Expectations

Lorain County Community Action Head Start meets children and families where they are. Each situation is unique and so is the mix of services each family receives. Additionally, LCCAA takes care to locate its Head Start Centers and Collaborative Partners where need is the greatest, taking into account pockets of poverty in areas that are harder to reach due to the area's lack of public transit. A community needs assessment is conducted annually.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty as living on an income of \$23,550 annually for a family of four. For most Community Action programs, including Head Start, families are eligible for help even when they exceed that amount. Another measure of need, the Self-Sufficiency Standard, has found that much more than \$23,550 is needed to live without assistance in most areas.

1. Horizon Education Center, 2500 Colorado Ave., Lorain
2. Horizon Education Center, 4911 Grove Ave., Lorain
3. Elyria Early Childhood Village, 1005 Rosealee Ave., Elyria
4. Horizon Education Center, 10347 Dewhurst Road, Elyria
5. Hamilton Head Start Center, 1215 Middle Ave., Elyria
6. Horizon Education Center, 104 Loudon Court, Elyria (LMHA)
7. Oberlin Head Start, 12078 Leavitt Road, Oberlin \*
8. Lorain City Schools, five locations in Lorain
9. Hopkins-Locke Head Start Center, 1050 Reid Ave., Lorain
10. Little Lighthouse Learning Center, 205 W. 21st St., Lorain
11. Wellington Head Start Center, 305 Union St., Wellington



Each red dot indicates 50 people living in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Diamonds denote the location of directly operated Head Start Centers. Stars denote collaborative Centers.

\* Oberlin's center will close this summer and a new center will open at Childrens' Development Center, 150 Erie Court in Amherst.

## Students Find Learning is Fun and Important

“Head Start is the reason why my children have excelled in school. The program really prepares children for Kindergarten.”

Linda Sanchez knew Lorain County Community Action Agency’s Head Start program well even before she sent her three children through it. Many years ago, her mother Millie Alejandro was a Family Service Worker at the Hopkins-Locke center. Linda’s brother, Gamy Navarez, was enrolled during that time.

“Our family has a long history with the program,” Linda said. “I know it works. My children and my brother are testaments to what Head Start offers families and children.”



Gamy has just completed an early college program at Lorain County Community College and will be attending Ohio University this fall with plans to continue on to law school. Linda’s son Dany will graduate from high school in 2015 with his diploma as well as two associate’s degrees earned from LCCC through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) program. Dany is on the Dean’s List and is a member of the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at LCCC.

Linda’s daughter Sarah is an Early College student at LCCC where she is earning an associate’s degree and hoping to pursue a performing arts career or study ecology. Linda’s youngest daughter, Michelle, attended Head Start this school year and will transition to Kindergarten this fall, having scored well above average on the screening test.

“LCCAA Head Start is an exceptional program with exceptional teachers,” Linda said. “Head Start gave my children a liking for school. It taught them at an early age that learning is fun and important.”

When Dany and Sarah were enrolled, Linda participated on the parent committee and often would volunteer her time reading stories to the children, donating snacks for family events, and helped with recruitment and fund-raising events. Linda explained how the Head Start program helped build her confidence and that in other families through a variety of classes for parents.

That confidence boost helped Linda make a career change to full-time banker. She also makes time for a hobby rooted in Head Start.

“I grew to love baking after attending the class Head Start offered to parents. Now, one of my favorite hobbies is baking cakes,” Linda said. “Thanks to programs like these parents feel empowered and some may find a passion, like I did for baking.”

With the career change and a burgeoning hobby, Linda was left little time to volunteer for Michelle’s class.

“Julie Charles, Michelle’s Head Start teacher is absolutely amazing,” she said. “She always welcomed me into her classroom even if I only had 10 minutes to spare. Ms. Julie told me ‘any time you have is enough’.”

## Kids and Dad Learn to Value Education



Samuel Knight and his children learned to value education through the Lorain County Community Action Agency Head Start program.

“I love the program,” Samuel said. “My children learned the alphabet, numbers, and many other things like how to write their names.”

Samuel has now sent four children through the program. Samuel Jr. and Angela are now grown.

His daughter Jamala bridged from Head Start at Hopkins-Locke to begin Kindergarten this fall at Garfield Elementary in Lorain. His 3-year-old

step son, Dayvion, will return for his second year of Head Start at Hopkins Locke.

“I believe Head Start is a trusting, positive educational environment,” Samuel said. “Just like my older children, Jamala is now ready to attend Kindergarten thanks to all she learned in the Head Start program. I’m also excited to see how well Dayvion will do in his second year.”

Meanwhile, Samuel is pursuing his own education as a full-time student at Lorain County Community College. He is studying to become a drug counselor and advisor with the goal of helping individuals who struggle with drug addiction.

Jamala’s teachers, Sue Taylor and Alica Wilson, described Samuel as a dad who truly cares about the growth and success of his children while quietly continuing to strive for his own.

## Current Staff Celebrates Successful Alumni

Head Start works and a long list of college and high school graduates can provide evidence.

That’s why Judie Emerine wanted to highlight Head Start Alumni publicly when parents and students were celebrating their successful transition to Kindergarten last May.

Judie, site administrator at the Hamilton center, has been an employee of Head Start for 38 years. She invited staff and parents to share old pictures from their Head Start experiences to display on the board.

Judie, Assistant Administrator Maria Vasquez, and the Hamilton staff created the board and parents joined in by inserting their pictures. The pictures show students from many years ago and, in several cases, where they are today.

“We have high school graduation pictures next to pre-school bridging pictures,” Judie said. “It has been wonderful to see how far our students have gone with their Head Start education.”

During the bridging ceremonies in May, families gathered and took pictures together in front of the board and shared their Head Start memories with one another.

“I thought creating an alumni board at our center would help bring us together as a learning community,” Judie said. “Staff members definitely became excited and were eager to provide pictures of their years in the program and of their children who attended Head Start.”





Lorain County Community Action Agency's  
Head Start and Early Head Start  
are now accepting students.

Contact us at 440-245-3162, or  
506 Broadway Ave., P.O. Box 245, Lorain, Ohio 44052.

Applications also available online at  
[www.lccaa.net](http://www.lccaa.net).



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