

HEAD START

2015 PROGRAM REPORT



YEAR IN REVIEW

- 226 children and families served
- 127 children transitioned to Kindergarten
- 816 volunteers engaged
- 100% Average Monthly Enrollment
- 84.6% Average Monthly Attendance
- Estimated 50% of eligible children served*

*Based on information collected from US Census Bureau, 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Table B17001



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SHELBY'S STORY:

Shelby is four years old and is living with her grandparents. She was very excited for the opportunity to go to preschool. With the family's income, she qualified for Head Start. Unfortunately for Shelby, getting to preschool was a hurdle to her attending. Due to their home's location, Shelby was too far out in the country to use one of the Head Start bus routes to help her get to school. Additionally, her grandparents have been in poor health for several years and were unable to drive her to the nearest Head Start Center. Thankfully, OVO staff were able to assess Shelby's situation and work with her family to get her enrolled in the program's newly created Home-Based option. In order to best serve her needs, rather than attending a Center-Based classroom, OVO's Home Visitor came each week to facilitate Head Start curriculum in Shelby's home. She has made huge strides in her reading skills and is now able to write her own name! Not only has she learned a lot in her own home, but she also gets two field trips a month to one of the Head Start Centers to learn and play with the other children enrolled in the Home-Based program. She loves the time spent with the other kids, and it has greatly benefited her development of important social skills. Shelby's grandparents are so thrilled with her growth and are thankful for the flexibility this enrollment option has afforded them. Shelby transitioned into Kindergarten in the Fall of 2015 and has been doing incredibly well. Her family attributes her success to the skills she learned in our preschool and are confident that Shelby is ready for academic success in the years to come thanks to OVO Head Start!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW HOME-BASED PROGRAM

OVO is committed to making quality early childhood education accessible to all low-income families in our community. Unfortunately, some of our families face obstacles that make accessing this valuable service difficult. Due to living in rural parts of the county, lack of openings in our classrooms, or family issues, some children are unable to enroll in our program when classes are only offered at our Center locations. In order to meet the needs of these families, OVO created and implemented a Home-Based Head Start Program. Through this option, a Home Visitor works directly with parents and guardians in their own homes to provide educational materials and activities, individualized lesson plans to meet the child's developmental needs, and social support services to connect the family with other community resources.



During the 2014-15 school year, eight children and families were successfully enrolled and served through the Home-Based option. This program has been highly effective at targeting children and families that would otherwise be unable to attend preschool. We have been able to serve families in remote and rural areas where bus routes are unable to reach. We have also enrolled families in high demand areas, where Center-based openings are limited.

One of the greatest successes of the Home-Based program is the Center field trips. These socialization activities allow children enrolled in this option to interact with their peers and experience a formal classroom environment. Twice each month, children enrolled in the Home-Based program are able to visit a Head Start Center to do learning activities and games with other children. Pictured above is one of our Home-Based preschoolers practicing art and fine motor skills with a shaving cream activity. We are so pleased for this new way in which we can assist families in meeting their individualized needs and provide quality education to children in our community.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

During the 2015 Head Start Family Survey, we received a **96% or higher** satisfaction rating for **all services** surveyed to include family, community, educational, and special needs services. **100%** of parents and guardians stated that their children were more prepared for kindergarten and that they had learned the process to transition them to the next step in their education. Ninety percent of parents participated in home activities, which was the most common way for them to be involved in the program. Overall, **99%** of Head Start families agree they would recommend this program to a friend or family member.

"The staff, teachers and even the cooks really care about these children. They go above and beyond helping the students as well as the parents and guardians."

-Karen, Head Start Parent

"Wonderful people, attitudes and support. Quality education, great family support."

-Bill, Head Start Parent

"It is an amazing school. All three of my children have attended at least two years and are very well prepared for Kindergarten."

-Tammy, Head Start Guardian

WHAT OUR STAFF ARE SAYING ABOUT US

During the 2015 Employee Satisfaction Survey, **89%** of Head Start employees were satisfied working in the Head Start department, and **92%** reported satisfaction working for Ohio Valley Opportunities. The most commonly cited answers for what staff stated they liked best about working in Head Start were *"working with the children and families"* and *"teamwork."* We received a **perfect score** for staff training necessary for the job.

Community Support

Our Head Start Program is fortunate to receive an incredible level of community support. Our program has a total of 816 volunteers throughout the year. Of our total volunteers, 41% were current or former Head Start parents or guardians. With community support, we were able to match our federal Head Start grant with \$445,626 in donations, volunteer time, supplies, services, and local funds.

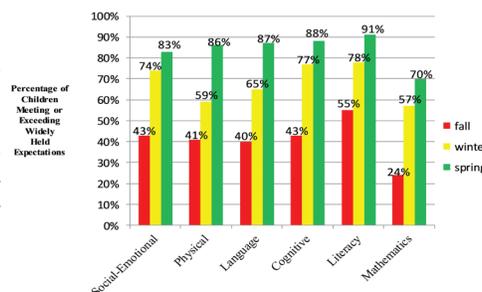
Increase Access to Mental Health Services for Children

OVO forged a new partnership with Project LAUNCH, operated by One Community One Family, to assist in fully implementing the Conscious Discipline® Program. It is an evidence-based, social-emotional program that assists in managing behavior, teaching children toward an emotionally healthy classroom environment. Through this partnership, Project LAUNCH provided materials and resources, onsite training, and registration and travel fees for three staff to participate in the national conference on Conscious Discipline. With the assistance of this new partnership, OVO has become a model program throughout the state for implementation of this great program.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

School Readiness

In order to gauge the success of our curriculum, teaching strategies, and education goals, our program aggregates and formally analyzes Child Outcomes data three times throughout the year. The 2015 results are summarized in the chart below. Based on these outcomes, we made adjustments to ensure maximum learning potential for each child. Parents were also involved in the educational process by participating in two Parent/Teacher Conferences and two Education Home Visits in order to develop educational goals and learn about their child's progress in Head Start. School readiness goals were developed around the five essential domains of the Head Start framework, parent input, and recommendations from local school systems. A total of 127 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2015.



Health Services

As a comprehensive child and family program, health goals are an integral part of our services. Of the children enrolled, 99.6% were determined to be up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care according to the Indiana Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for well child care. Five percent of children were diagnosed with a chronic condition needing medical treatment; 100% of these children received treatment for such conditions. One hundred percent of enrolled children were determined to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age. Additionally, 87% of children received preventive dental care; 19.6% were diagnosed as needing dental treatment; and 70% of those identified children received dental treatment.

Family Support Services

A total of 204 families received family support services during the 2014-15 school year. Family Fun Night events engaged families in preparing their children for kindergarten, learning about community resources, increasing their knowledge about health services for children, and expanding their parenting skills. Our Family Support Specialists are also available to work with families on the goal-setting process to strive toward self-sufficiency, and 86% of families took advantage of this valuable service. Of our families served, 58% had at least one working parent.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OVO Head Start provided early childhood education, health, and family support services for 226 children and families. We operated 11 classrooms in four Centers and one Home-Based program. Two classes provided full day classes five days per week; one class provided full day classes four days per week; and eight part day classes operated four days per week. Forty-four children (19.5%) were diagnosed with a documented disability and received special education services. Transportation services were provided to 153 children. Three of our four Centers operate as Licensed Child Care Centers and were active participants in the Paths to QUALITY (PTQ) Program Rating System, which is administered by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. The Licensed Centers operate at PTQ Level 3. Our fourth Center is located at Southwestern Elementary School in Hanover.

WHAT'S NEXT

Improve Classroom Environment and Quality

It is always our goal to provide the highest quality education and positive environment possible to our children and families. By utilizing the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®), we are able to measure the quality of our classroom environment and interactions. This rating system helps us to identify areas of improvement in order for us to strengthen our child outcomes. In the coming year, we will be providing additional training to assist our staff in implementing best practices in their classrooms. We will also be creating a new staff position to provide onsite coaching and mentoring for teaching staff. Although we will continue our ongoing classroom observations and evaluations, we will be partnering with another Head Start provider in the region to provide objective, external CLASS observations to verify our results and determine strategies for improvement.

Expand Use of Technology

Here at OVO, we strive to make technology an integral part of our students' learning experience and our teachers' work environment. The utilization of the latest technology allows our program to run more efficiently, better utilize staff time, and support children's school readiness skills. In 2016, we will be providing our staff with appropriate technology training to ensure full utilization of data management systems used to track necessary indicators and children's outcomes. We will also increase access in the classrooms to updated technology, such as individual tablets and multi-touch table PCs. With the increased use of technology in public schools, this focus on technology will help our preschoolers be more prepared for their academic careers.

Fully Implement Conscious Discipline

Our program has made excellent strides in the implementation of the Conscious Discipline Program throughout all of our classrooms. We will continue this process during the next year in order to support all of our students' social-emotional learning and to create positive learning environments. We will be providing our staff with additional training to ensure they are confident in their knowledge and skills of the program. We will also increase access to classroom materials and resources that support its full implementation. Finally, to ensure our staff receive the maximum level of support, we will be providing additional coaching and onsite monitoring in our Centers.

MOST RECENT REVIEW BY ADMINISTRATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF)

The FY 2013 Onsite Monitoring Review identified one area of non-compliance related to 1304.40(a)(1); the grantee did not engage in a collaborative partnership-building process with parents to identify family goals, necessary services, and other supports. Upon ACF Follow up Review, the non-compliance was corrected. Based on CLASS Observations conducted during the December 2012 Federal Review, the grantee exceeded the minimum requirements for each Domain (Emotional Support-4, Classroom Organization-3, and Instructional Support-2). However, the grantee fell among the lowest 10% of the Emotional Support Domain and therefore, has been determined to re-compete for funding as required in the Head Start Act of 2007. In addition, the grantee ranked among the highest 10% of Instructional Support.

RESULTS FROM CLASS™ OBSERVATIONS-DEC. 2012

Domain	Score
Emotional Support	5.4231
Classroom Organization	5.4103
Instructional Support	3.3718

Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest 10%
Emotional Support	5.5417	5.99	6.44
Classroom Organization	5.0556	5.62	6.17
Instructional Support	2.1061	2.71	3.35

OVO INTERNAL OBSERVATION-2015

Domain	Score
Emotional Support	6.51
Classroom Organization	5.86
Instructional Support	5.49

Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest 10%
Emotional Support	5.6562	6.04	6.37
Classroom Organization	5.2708	5.82	6.28
Instructional Support	2.2261	2.78	3.69