



Operational Reports

May 2024 Information

June 6th Policy Council Meeting

June 13th Board Meeting



Empowering people, transforming lives

Program Information

Linda Carter, Children's Services Director

Highlights



The Office of Head Start announced a 2.35% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2024.

WNCSource Children Services is excited to announce that we are adding two new Ford Escapes to our fleet. The vehicles were delivered on May 2, 2024. They are currently being titled and will soon have the agency logo added. This will make them available for staff use soon.

Celebration of Learning held at King Creek Children's Center May 24th.

A new fleet app for agency vehicles will soon be available. This safety app will be installed in each vehicle and is designed to support and reduce costs for vehicle maintenance and fuel. Safety solutions will be implemented to protect employees and enhance vehicle and equipment maintenance. It will help ensure that our fleet assets are safer, more secure, and well-maintained.

Our next Health Services Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually **on Tuesday, June 11th at 1 p.m.** All are welcome to attend - contact Caithlin Cole Ekman if you would like to join - cole-ekman@wncsource.org

Classroom Closures



May

Unscheduled:

1 Classroom at Etowah closed on May 8th due to lack of staff.

1 Classroom at Etowah closed on May 13th due to lack of staff.

1 Classroom at Hillview closed on May 14th due to lack of staff.

All four Classrooms at Etowah closed from May 16th - 20th due to flooding.

Scheduled:

The last day for children for the Henderson County Head Start and NC Pre-K classrooms was Thursday, May 23rd followed by Teacher Workdays.

All classrooms were closed on Friday, May 24th for the Celebration of Learning and the Company Picnic.

All classrooms were closed on Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day.

The last day for children for Bruce Drysdale classroom was Thursday, May 30th followed by Teacher Workdays.

Staffing Updates



Staff Hired:

Aixa O’Farril Anderson - EHS Teacher

Lita Fandozzi - Intern

Austan Horton - Intern

Hunter Johnson - EHS Teacher

Lily Smith - After-school Teacher

Tanya Thomas - EHS Teacher

Quantisha (Quan) Watkins - After-school Teacher

21 Trainees since 03/22- Program Inception

5 Apprentices hired 06/27/2023

2 Summer Interns hired

27 Staffing Positions Open*

**Not including After-school, Columbus, Substitute and Trainee/Apprenticeship/Intern or summer positions. It does include positions that are currently being filled by Trainees.*

Staff Departing:

Rachel Erickson, EHS Teacher

Beranize Estrada, Substitute

Elise Brady, NC Pre-K Support

Lily Balmer, Substitute

Sianna Gilbert, Center Floater

Gaven Johnson, Apprentice

Mark Sifuentes, Site Supervisor

Facilities



The Columbus Children Center is in the final phases of construction completion. The floors have been laid, the lights are on, and it looks beautiful! We look forward to a midsummer completion date and to be able to start setting up in the classrooms.

On Friday, May 10th, the United Way Day of Caring volunteers, WNCSource board members and staff supported our Tebeau center by planting beautiful willow, birch, and lovely annuals and perennials in our outdoor learning environments. Many thanks to Amy Smith, David White, Terri Bowman, Board members and all of the fantastic United Way volunteers !

Flooding occurred at the Etowah Children's Center on May 15th and 23rd. We lease the building from Henderson County, who is currently working with WGLA Engineering for possible options for resolving the issue.

Information Memorandum



ACF-IM-OHS-24-02 Issuance Date: 5/9/2024 <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-ohs-im-24-01>

SUBJECT: Strategies & Recommendations for Supporting Mental Health

PURPOSE: This Information Memorandum (IM) highlights the Head Start Program Performance Standards and related strategies for integrating mental health supports across all Head Start programs.

Although there are many ways mental health can be supported in Head Start programs, it is important for programs to develop a comprehensive, integrated early childhood mental health approach that promotes child and adult mental health, prevents concerns from developing, and supports early identification and referrals for treatment when needed. Using a continuum⁷ of mental health supports ensures every child and family receives the appropriate level of care. This continuum includes:

1. **Mental health promotion** – An approach aimed at strengthening positive aspects of mental health and well-being and is focused on setting children and families up for success.
2. **Prevention services and supports** – An approach aimed at reducing the likelihood of future disorders in the general population or for people who are identified as at risk of a disorder.
3. **Access to mental health treatment** – Interventions are delivered to people who continue to be at risk after engaging in prevention services or have been diagnosed with a mental disorder.

Enrollment

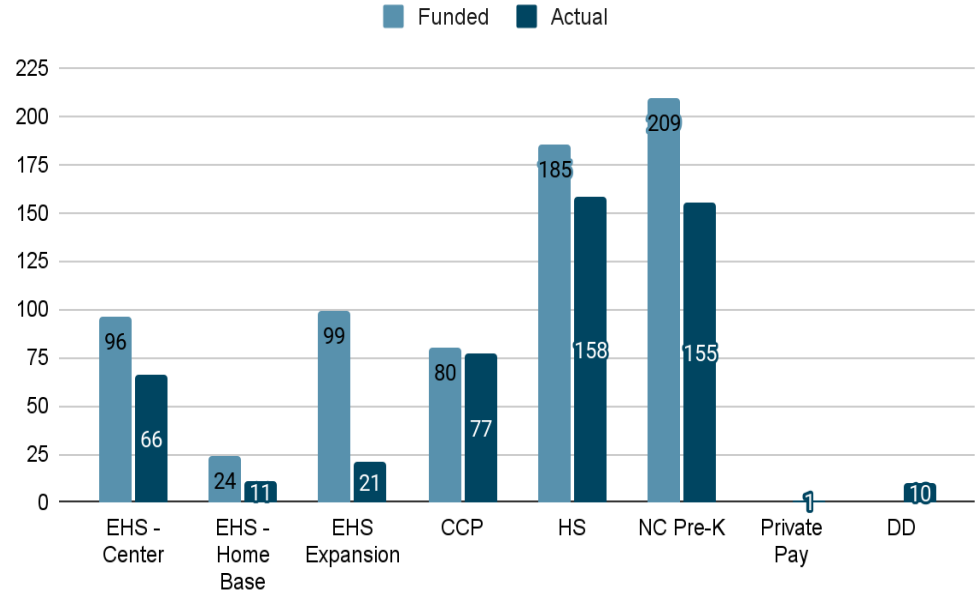
Madeline Ortiz Méndez, Enrollment Coordinator

Enrollment

Overall Enrollment

- Early Head Start (Center-Based) 61%
- Early Head Start (Home-Based) 46%
- EHS Expansion 23%
- EHS/CCP 90%
- HS-84%
- NCPK- 71%

2023-2024 Enrollment



Attendance

May 2024

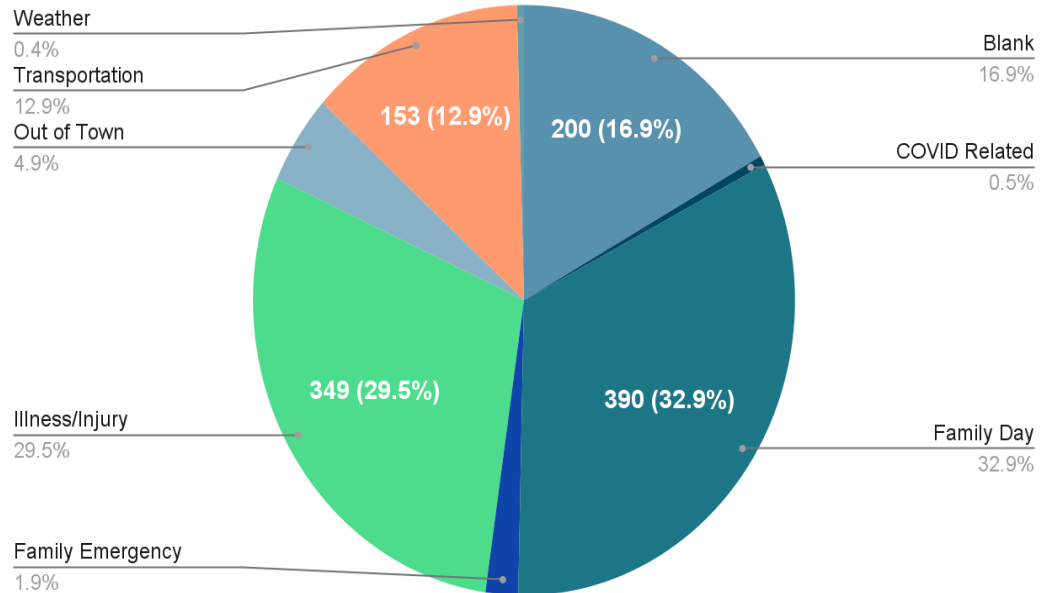
Average Daily Attendance by Program Type

- EHS Average Attendance 81%
- EHS Expansion Attendance 83%
- CCP Average Attendance 84%
- Head Start Average Attendance 79%
- NC Pre-K Average Attendance 82%

Absence Summary

- Total number of Absences from 5/01/24-5/29/24
 - 1283 (Increase of 99)
- 0 absences are related to COVID and a majority absences are due to Family Day (390).

Absence Reasons



Education & Child Development

Candy Doncevic, Education Coordinator

QCIT Observation in EHS

New Observation tool to use with our 0-3 year old classrooms. Spring was first observations of classrooms using this tool.

QCIT is an evidence based observational measure for classrooms that serve infants and toddlers. It provides data on the responsiveness of caregivers and the indicators of quality interactions in caregiver - child relationships.

What does QCIT measure?



Support for social-emotional development: How caregivers respond and nurture, create an environment that is warm and positive, and support children's interactions with peers and social and emotional development



Support for cognitive development: How caregivers help children build cognitive skills needed for exploring and learning about the world, problem-solving, and organizing and representing ideas

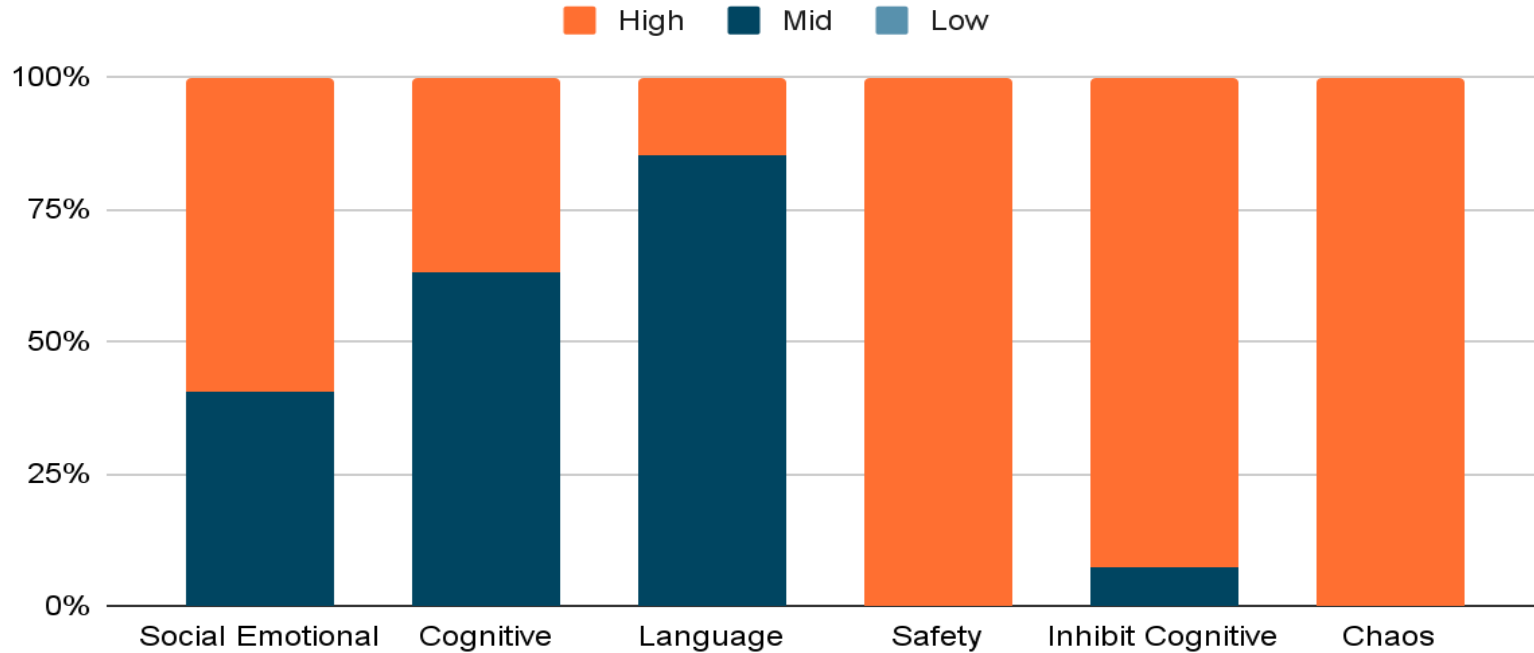


Support for language and literacy development: How caregivers support and extend children's language development through encouraging children's language use



Areas of concern: Issues that might affect a child's physical or emotional health and safety or interfere with cognitive development

QCIT Observation in EHS



Family Engagement in Children's Education

All of our classrooms are using **My Family App** to share curriculum resources with families.

147 Families have downloaded and used the Family app and shared:

- reading children's books,
- using Mighty Minutes, and
- viewing Modeled Moment Investigational Videos

887 Activities were viewed by families



Coaching in Review

Teaching staff coached

67

Data Chats Completed

32

Received Standard Coaching
(Monthly)

28

Coaching Connections
with Staff

2,304

Received Intensive Coaching
(Weekly or bi-weekly)

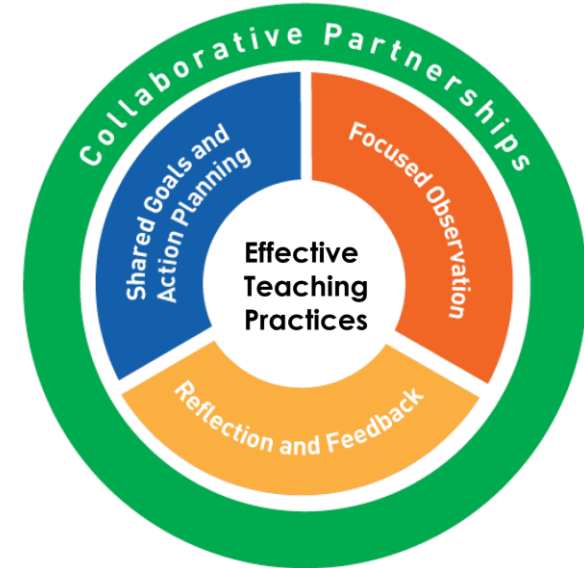
39

Formal Observations
Completed

80

Individual & Team
Goals Completed

55



Early Intervention

Mary Hanson, Early Intervention Coordinator

Development & Behavior Screenings



- 208 Children have a “Referral Recommended” status. Some families have requested referrals and we are supporting those. Others we are using ongoing classroom monitoring and teacher report for updates.
- 121 for Developmental Needs only
 - 29 for Behavioral Needs only
 - 29 for both
- 11 Children are scheduled to have ASQs completed to meet the 45 day requirement for this program year.
- The EI team follows up with teachers, parents and children after each ASQ.

Disabilities Services

Grant	IFSP / IEP	Cum. Enrollment	% of enrolled	Referrals	Child Support Plans
EHS & HS	56	313	18%	12	23
CCP	17	144	12%	3	3
Expansion	8	60	13%	0	1
NC Pre-K	18	115	16%	2	17

Each OHS grant requires us to serve 10% of our cumulative enrollment with children who qualify for an IEP or IFSP. We include NC Pre-K for comparative. Disability Waiver was submitted for the Expansion Grant.

Diagnosed Disabilities include:

- Autism (23)
- Health Impairment (11)
- Developmental Delay (36)
- Speech or Language Impairment (15)
- Hearing Impairment (2)

Team is supporting 7 children with an initial Early Alert to determine any developmental needs.

23-24 Early Intervention Program Summary

IDEA Eligibility	Referred	Received IEP/IFSP	Results Pending	Not Eligible	Parent Refusal
CCP	18	5	2	7	4
EHS	14	7	2	3	2
HS	32	11	11	5	5
EXP	4	3		1	
NCPK	21	6	5	6	4

Total Number of Behavior Incidents
1,616

Early Alerts Responded to
106

ASQs Completed
572

Children Supported by Mental Health Staff
99

Child Support Plans
46

Early Intervention Updates



Our Classroom Specialist Nathalie Steffan Santos finished providing support in Etowah and is now spending time in Forest City.

Parent outreach was provided at 3 centers to parents with children transitioning to Kindergarten and EI team members attended transition meetings as requested.

A survey was sent out to all teachers asking about EI support from the past year and we will use those responses to guide us in support next year.

Attendance at the CCP directors meeting this month will help to disseminate information about Early Intervention tools and supports we can provide.

Support Provided:

- Notify school systems and CDSA for IFSP IEP updates to stay current and help with classroom supports
- ASQ screenings and parent conferences
- Child Support Plan meetings
- Communications with parents and community partners
- Sensory tools and strategies
- Observations and development of BSPs and CSPs as well as small groups.
- Classroom teacher supports
- Working with HCPS ,TCPS, CDSA, Olson Huff, TEACCH, Key Autism Center, Carolina Peds, Mental Health Specialists, Children and Family Resource Center.

Health & Nutrition

Caitlin Cole-Ekman, Health & Nutrition Coordinator

Well Child Check Status



Expired Well Child Checks as of 05/30/2024:

EHS: 15 Children; 84% up to date

CCP: 11 Children; 85% up to date

End of 23-24 School Year -

HS: 10 Children; 88% up to date

NCPK: 2 Children; 98% up to date

Dental Status



Dental status as of 05/30/2024: - EHS & CCP
Only

- 115/135 children >1 years old have dental homes
 - 85%!
- 37 have been seen in last 6 months

Vision and Hearing Screenings & Referrals



May 2024

Heath team currently completing screenings for newly enrolled children

- All children are screened annually
- If a child fails screening 2x, we refer to them to their pediatrician for further screening/evaluation

Hearing - 648 completed, 4 children past 45 day requirement, 0 referrals needed

Vision - 663 completed, 3 children past 45 day requirement, 10 children are currently in the referral process

Numbers reflect full program year

CACFP May

Center	Breakfast Meals Served	Lunch Meals Served	Afternoon Snacks Served
Bruce Drysdale	248	354	209
Clear Creek	249	256	217
Dana	258	257	235
Edneyville	201	207	138
Etowah	500	523	443
Flat Rock	195	190	171
Forest City	263	277	247
Hillandale	192	205	182
Hillview	715	715	639
King Creek	800	827	758
Sugar Hill	760	777	636
Tebeau	583	597	562

April Reimbursement: \$44,545

March Reimbursement: \$30,607

February Reimbursement: \$41,792

January Reimbursement: \$34,039

December Reimbursement: \$22,663

November Reimbursement: \$33,861

October Reimbursement: \$35,683

September Reimbursement: \$31,662

August Reimbursement: \$21,269

Program Updates

Bridgett Librado, EHS Program Services Manager

Amy Smith, HS / NCPK Program Services Manager

Kathleen McDavid, CCP Coordinator

Hunter Weatherford, PD Coordinator



EARLY HEAD START UPDATES



- Flat Rock- A parent Committee meeting in May- Topic was Mother's Day Making Flowers. Two families attended and enjoyed the event with their children
- Etowah - A family Garden Event took place - where several parents showed up to plant items outside on the children's playgrounds. Parent participation is fairly high within this community every month. (pics on next slide)
- Forest City- Families joined in on planting pansy and vegetable seeds in their garden. Families love to help out at the forest city center and beautify the area. Plenty of community teamwork!



Head Start / NC Pre-K Program Updates

Summer Program Begins June 10th!



- We have two Appalachian State University interns working in our summer classrooms in both Henderson and Transylvania Counties, providing care for children ages 3-5 years.
- They are working towards completing 400 hours on the job while also developing a “Leadership, Advocacy, and Professional Practice” project and final report encompassing reflections on the internship experience.
- Everyone is making them feel right at home. We hope to entice them to apply for a full time position this Fall!



NCPK Transition Reports were finalized in the TS GOLD system. These reports will be transferred to receiving kindergarten teachers as the new school year begins, providing information about a child's knowledge, skills, and abilities related to widely held expectations for child development.

Children/families entering Kindergarten from our Head Start program also completed an “All About Me” form for receiving teachers.

Head Start/NCPK Classroom Highlights

Preparing for the New School Year!

University of Tennessee professional development trip June 6th & 7th
8 teachers/supervisors selected to attend

Learning experiences centered around:

- Holding tight to the strong foundations and principles of early care and education
- Reclaiming and choosing joy in our work
- Celebrating strong connections between educators, families, children, and communities
- Refocusing our energy on our purpose in early childhood



Partnership (CCP) Enrollment Update

1

Slide

Total Enrolled in Partner sites: 38 of 57

Little Red School - Ten of 10 EHS Spots Filled

- LR1 has 4 EHS children
- LR2 has 6 EHS children

*God's Gifts - Five of five EHS Spots Filled

*Laurie's Child Care - Five of Five EHS Spots Filled

Kids' Kingdom - Nine of eight EHS Spots Filled (spots recently reduced from 12 to an eventual eight)

- Infants/Ones Room: Four of four EHS spots filled, Staff: Two teachers.
- Toddler 1 Room: 5 of four EHS spots filled

Little Bright Minds - Nine of 16 spots filled (spots recently increased from 8 to 16 at new location) Currently enrolling to reach 16

- Ones Room: Three of eight EHS spots filled, Staff: Two teachers.
- Twos Room: Six of eight EHS spots filled.

We are currently seeking a new partner site to fill the remaining EHS spots

*Family Child Care Home



Partnership (CCP) Updates

Slide 2

At this time we have five partners in the CCP program. Four in Henderson County and one in Rutherford County.

Our next CCP Creative Curriculum training for teachers is coming up on June 7, 2024, conducted by a professional Teaching Strategies trainer. We look forward to the teachers enjoying their next session where they will learn more about implementing social-emotional learning within the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos.

The curriculum trainings for CCP teachers will now be scheduled quarterly with supplemental monthly videos for the CCP teachers to watch to continue to build their curriculum implementation skills.

CCP sites are planning with CCP staff and Amy Smith, our Head Start and NC Pre-K Program Services Manager and Outdoor Learning Environment Coordinator, to plant sunflowers at each site to create sunflower houses! Amy, parents, teachers, children, and CCP staff are working together to scout out and prepare the locations at each site. Amy Smith suggested titles of children's books, which we will provide to each site, that tie the activity to the Creative Curriculum.

Thank you, Amy!



Professional Development Updates

6.7.24 Teaching Strategies will be back in Hendersonville to provide a training for our CCP folks on Social Emotional Development and Learning Within the Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos!

6.18.24 We will be welcoming Susan McDonald who will be providing a training on; Conversations That Matter! Developing Strength-Based Communication Skills & Building Positive Strength-Based Teams. This training will be open to 30 folks who are Supervisors, ERSEA Staff, Family Advocates, and CCP Directors.

Additionally, 18 staff members currently have an education development plan!

Of those 18, 10 are currently working towards an ECE or PreK certificate.

We are also excited to announce that 15 current staff members are slated to complete a degree or certificate program by fall of 2024!



Trainee Program: We now have a total of 4 Teacher trainees all working on getting their Infant Toddler CDA! Please welcome our new trainee Destiny Gilliland!!

Apprenticeship Program: Apprentice Program 24-25 at BRCC is currently accepting applications! Draft day at BRCC is still scheduled to take place on June 25th where we will decide who will be joining us for the next apprenticeship term.

We also have approximately 3 non teaching staff members working towards a certificate or in the beginning stages of attaining a degree!