



## 2011-2012 Annual Report



Santa Cruz Community  
Counseling Center

Head Start – Early Head Start  
Santa Cruz County, California

# Letter from the Director

Dear Head Start friends and families,

This has been a wonderfully successful year for SCCCC Head Start! I want to take this opportunity to thank all the incredibly committed staff, parents and community members who support, celebrate and work so hard for children and families in Santa Cruz County. You have accomplished so much. We have continued to grow and expand, but thanks to all of you we have never lost sight of our goal to bring quality care and education to young children in our community. This year we have worked together to solidify our partnerships, share our program resources and to promote the importance of early childhood education at every opportunity. We can truly see the difference that Head Start and Early Head Start is making in Santa Cruz County!

I am happy to report that the program had an outstanding tri-annual Federal Review this year and our teachers received some of the highest instructional scores in Region IX. It was inspiring to hear the Review Team talk about the commitment, dedication and compassion of our Head Start and Early Head Start staff. As the Director, I am in the fortunate position of being able to hear and see the success stories of our children and their parents. They are always ready to talk about what a difference Head Start and Early Head Start has made in their lives. But we also know the importance of being able to offer measurable outcomes that reflect the work we do with families. This year, the program has focused on developing school readiness goals that correspond directly to measurable objectives. Our goal is to ensure that our classrooms, environments and services continue to meet the highest national standards possible.

We are extremely proud of the Teachers, Home Visitors and Family Service Workers who demonstrate on a daily basis that not only is it possible to provide high quality services to low-income families—it is essential. Together we are making a difference for children!

Sincerely,



Cynthia Sloane  
Child and Family Development Programs  
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center  
Santa Cruz, California



**We can truly see the difference that Head Start and Early Head Start is making in Santa Cruz County!**

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## Policy Council Executive Committee

Chair – Pamela Ruderman  
Vice Chair – Asel Ismailova  
Secretary – Rozanne Borja

# Health Highlights

## New Grants and Activities:

- Head Start received four Head Start Body Start Play Space grants. Twenty thousand dollars went towards enhancing the outdoor play spaces at the San Lorenzo Valley Home Based site, Beach Street Center, Vista Verde Center, and the Baskin Center.
- Funding from the Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust and support from the Central California Alliance for Health helped launch a health literacy project targeting Early Head Start families. A total of 88 families participated in workshops.
- Head Start teachers received a new nutrition curriculum, "Food for Thought" thanks to our partner, the Nutrition and Fitness Collaborative of the Central Coast. Teachers are using new tools to celebrate whole fruits and vegetables with children.
- First Five Santa Cruz County provided Head Start with \$5000 to support our car seat safety program. Head Start's two certified child passenger safety technicians have been busy educating families and installing new car seats.
- Early Head Start is integrating resources from "Little Voices for Healthy Choices" into their curriculum and socialization planning. LVHC is an EHS national initiative on music, movement, nutrition, brain development and sleep for infants and toddlers.



## Health Data

Head Start and Early Head Start staff work with families to ensure Performance Standards are met in the area of health and that children receive all appropriate health care.

- 99% of Head Start and Early Head Start children have health insurance and a documented medical and dental home.
- 99.5% of Head Start children and 97% of EHS children in the program at least 90 days were up-to-date on their immunizations.
- 96% of Head Start children and 98% of Early Head Start children, enrolled over 45 days, were kept up-to-date on a schedule of well child care.
- By the end of the program year, 95% of Head Start children, enrolled at least 90 days, had visited the dentist in the past year.

# Parent Engagement

Parent Engagement is the foundation of the Early Head Start/Head Start Program. We recognize that parents are the first and most influential teachers of their children. Parents have the opportunity to set goals for themselves and are included in the goal setting process for their child.

Six hundred seventeen Head Start and two hundred seventy-six Early Head Start parents volunteered in a variety of activities in the 2011/2012 school year. Some of the activities included parents:

- As Classroom Volunteers
- Engaging in home literacy activities
- Attending Parent Committee Meetings
- Serving on the Parent Policy Council (the program's major decision-making body)
- Participating on Hiring Committees
- Providing Curriculum Input
- Serving on the Health Advisory Board

Parent education is a major program commitment. During the 2011/2012 school year the following parent workshops/trainings were offered to parents throughout the year:

- Parent Leadership
- Parenting classes
- Music Together workshop
- ESL classes (beginning & intermediate)
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Financial Resource Fair
- Family Literacy
- I'm Moving, I'm Learning
- Family Nutrition and Wellness
- Male Involvement (fathers and father figures)



*What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, is what the community must want for all its children.*

– John Dewey

The Fathers-In-Action group met on a monthly basis during the school year. This group facilitated by our PAPAs program supports male involvement with an emphasis on strengthening the father-child bond by utilizing a parent education curriculum specifically designed to promote and support fathers.

This year's parent engagement activities provided parents a variety of opportunities to volunteer and learn in a supportive and fun environment.

# Head Start Father Involvement Initiative

This year we celebrated our fifth year of partnership between SCCCC Head Start and PAPÁS, Supporting Father Involvement. The goal of the Father Friendly Initiative is to build up families through education and engagement strategies. Our goal has been to equip Head Start staff and families with knowledge, skills and tools to increase positive father involvement and father friendly environments within Head Start.

The Father Friendly Initiative committee has used assessments, training/technical assistance, direct services and collaboration groups as ways to increase father involvement and father friendly environments across the program.

Our Head Start Fathers-In-Action group supports, educates, and encourages Head Start fathers and father-figures. In the words of one of the fathers, "This class [Head Start Fathers-In-Action] has helped me to understand, support and appreciate my children better and my role as a father too – I wish I had this class many years ago." In addition, the PAPÁS program

continues to offer Head Start families our evidence based parenting education program to build their strengths as individuals, work together as parents and nurture their relationship as couples.

The collaboration between PAPÁS and Head Start is a great model for community organizations to draw on as a road map for building successful father engagement, involvement and father-friendly strategies in a program. This year we expect more collaboration and integration between PAPÁS and Head Start, since PAPÁS will now be based out of the Head Start Administrative Office.



“This class has helped me to understand, support and appreciate my children better and my role as a father too – I wish I had this class many years ago.”

# Westridge – Building



As the building began to take shape we realized that by moving a few things around we could create a space that would be big enough for our staff meetings, provide a teacher resource area, and have a computer lab for parents. We knew we needed private rooms for counseling and at least a couple of conference rooms for meetings. We also knew from the

very beginning that we wanted to have a space our community partners could use and share with us. Our hope was that we could use this new and wonderful space as an opportunity to strengthen our connections and visibility in Santa Cruz County.

**W**hen we first began to think about creating the Westridge Head Start Office we knew that we wanted to create a space where everyone would feel comfortable and where we could invite our partners and families. We knew it had to be “child friendly” and immediately engage children as a place that was interesting and fun. We wanted a place where it would be very clear that children were welcome guests and could make themselves right at home.



Slowly, as the dust began to settle, our new space began to emerge and has ended up being the centerpiece for a whole host of trainings, community meetings, celebrations, staff events and classes. The Westridge Building is usually full of people enjoying the spacious kitchen and convenient meeting rooms. During any week, we host a wide array of educational events and meetings that support early childhood education in our community. The minute you walk in the door, you

*The minute you walk in the door, you know that you have arrived in a place that honors children.*

# a Community

know that you have arrived in a place that honors children. Our playroom is at the heart of our building and there is nothing more fun than watching children enjoy our "nature" themed play space or marvel at our friendly frog. Families can utilize the playroom for supervised visitation and it is used on a regular basis for short term child care.

It is important to provide quality spaces for children to live and grow, and to create spaces that clearly demonstrate that they are important and cared for. Westridge is a place that brings people together who support children and children's programs. People who work every day to make sure that children are safe, fed, educated and loved. People

who understand the importance of early childhood education and the critical role it plays in the quality of our community and in our future. We are very grateful to be able to share this space with our friends and colleagues and appreciate everyone who has so graciously become part of our Head Start family.



# 2011-2012 Measuring

## Head Start

SCCCC Head Start uses the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) system to assess children's progress in meeting Head Start Outcome goals. Teachers observe children and document these observations three times a year. The chart below shows where the children in our program scored in the fall and the spring in seven DRDP domains. It measures how many children scored in the top two developmental levels: building and integrating.

In the fall of 2011 our Head Start children scored lowest in Mathematical Development with only 21% of the children scoring in the top two developmental levels. By

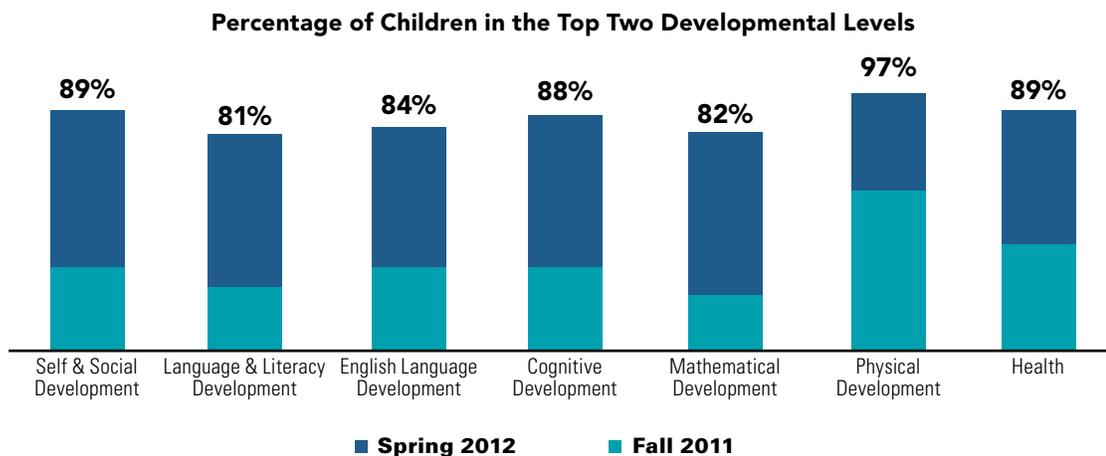


the spring of 2012, 81% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels. The second lowest score in the fall of 2011 was in Language and Literacy Development, 24% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels in the fall. By the spring of 2012 81% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels in this area. The children scored an average of 4.5% higher in all the DRDP domains over last year's scores.

Our program also uses the DRDP Parent Survey form to find out if our families are satisfied with our program. This year 100% of our families were satisfied, and of those families 85% were very satisfied. This is up 7% from last year's results.

*Observations were conducted in all of our Head Start preschool center-based classrooms using the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool by two independent CLASS reliable observers in February 2012. This CLASS tool looks at three domains of teacher-child interactions and measures those observed interactions on a seven point scale. Our program received a*

## Domain Comparison for Preschoolers Spring 2012



Number of children: 446 (Only children with both Fall and Spring data are included in this chart.)

# Our Outcomes

## Early Head Start

SCCCC Early Head Start Centers use the Desired Results Developmental Profile/ Infant/Toddler (DRDP-IT) system to assess children's progress in meeting Early Head Start Outcome goals. Teachers observe children and document these observations three times a year. The chart below shows where the children in our program scored in the fall and the spring in seven DRDP domains. It measures how many children scored in the top two developmental levels: building and integrating.

In the fall of 2011 our Early Head Start children scored lowest in Language and Literacy Development with only 24% of the children



scoring in the top two developmental levels. By spring of 2012, 81% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels. The second lowest score in the fall of 2011 was in Self and Social Development, 24% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels in the fall. By the spring of 2012, 81% of the children scored in the top two developmental levels in this area.

Our Early Head Start program also uses the DRDP Parent Survey form to find out if our families are satisfied with our program. This year 100% of our families were satisfied, and of those families 93% were very satisfied.

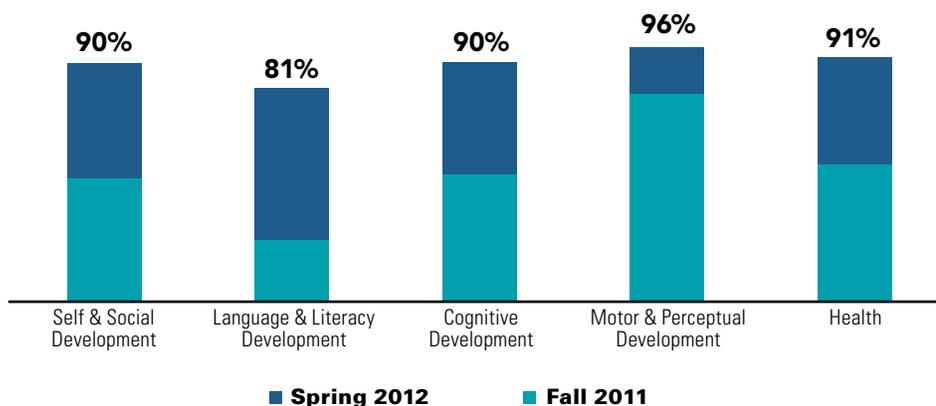
*Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.*

– Margaret Mead

*6.02 on the Domain of Emotional Support, a 5.2 on Classroom Organization, and 3.5 in Instructional Support. These scores are significantly higher than the national average of Head Start programs. These scores speak to the high quality of interactions and instruction that children are receiving in our program.*

## Domain Comparison for Infant-Toddlers Spring 2012

Percentage of Children in the Top Two Developmental Levels



Number of children: 24 (Only children with both Fall and Spring data are included in this chart.)

# Monterey Bay Aquarium Partnership

Our Head Start Center Based Program has had a strong partnership with the Monterey Bay Aquarium for over 10 years.

Through this partnership, children and their parents visit the aquarium two or three times a year. They visit the Splash Zone exhibit, which is especially designed for children, one hour before the aquarium opens and then visit the rest of the aquarium for another two hours. The aquarium educators work with the Head Start teachers to provide the children and their parents with an educational experience that promotes their love of the ocean and nature. The Splash Zone program helps children learn that they can care about nature by getting involved in conservation activities.

The Splash Zone collaboration was designed with Head Start children in mind. The Splash Zone exhibit introduces children and families to the ocean environment through hands-on experiences, interactive and bilingual exhibits, and close encounters with sea animals. Head



Start teachers work together with the aquarium education staff to provide activities that are age appropriate for preschool children and that support the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. This year special emphasis is being placed on supporting children's concept development through supporting their emerging skills in observation, prediction, problem solving, and comparing and contrasting.

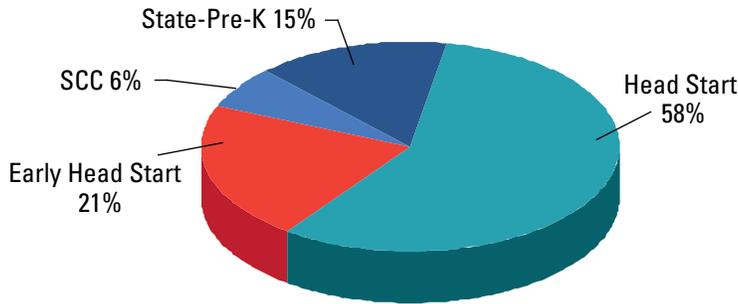
Parent participation is an essential ingredient in the Splash Zone program. The program recognizes that parents are children's most influential teachers. An aquarium educator comes to a parent meeting at each Head Start center in the fall before the aquarium visits begin. They share information about the program with parents and they provide the parents with a Splash Zone music CD, books about sea life, and a book about the Splash Zone visits for parents to share at home with their children. They highly encourage a parent to accompany their child on each field trip. The underlying vision of the program is that by learning together, families will develop a new appreciation for ocean life and a desire to protect any species they encounter.



# Financial Snapshot

## Child and Family Development Programs Enrollment

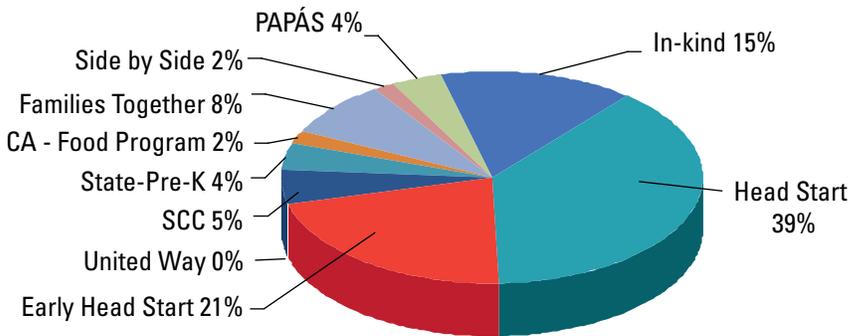
## Inscripciones del Programa de Child and Family Development



Total CFDP Enrollment: 797  
Inscripciones de CFDP: 797

## Child and Family Development Programs Funding Sources

## Fuentes de Financiamiento de Programa de Child and Family Development



HS/EHS: \$7,934,290  
Other Programs: \$2,399,109  
Total CFDP Funding: \$10,333,399

### Head Start

HHS-Basic	\$3,889,506
HHS-Training	\$44,183
HHS-COLA	\$27,999
CACFP food program	\$184,637
In-Kind	\$990,122
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	\$5,136,447

### Early Head Start

HHS-Basic	\$2,143,019
HHS-Training	\$54,191
HHS-COLA	\$15,475
CACFP food program	\$31,986
In-Kind	\$553,172
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	\$2,797,843

### State Pre-K

COE	\$420,785
CACFP food program	\$5,897
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	\$426,682

Families Together	\$853,008
PAPÁS	\$400,152
SCC	\$530,450
United Way	\$8,817
Side by Side	\$180,000
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	\$1,972,427

**Totals \$10,333,399**



**Santa Cruz  
Head Start –  
Early Head Start**

Nothing you do for a child is ever wasted. – Garrison Keillor



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The question is not  
whether we can afford  
to invest in every child;  
it is whether we can  
afford not to.

—Marian Wright Edelman