



# Head Start Annual Report 2008-2009

Serving Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Jackson Counties

**Our mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive Head Start services with respect to each child, family and community.**

## Kindergarten Preparation

Efforts to prepare children for kindergarten begin as soon as a child is enrolled in one of our Head Start program options, which includes center, home based, and partnership options. The staff and parents review **the child's health and nutrition history**, as well as completing the required developmental screener within the first 45 days of enrollment. Our programs encourage parent participation in the screening process by using the Child Development Review and Comprehensive Identification Process as our developmental screener, and the Ages and Stages Social/Emotional Questionnaire as our behavioral screener.

Throughout the program year, our teaching staff implements the researched-based Creative Curriculum. This curriculum promotes school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and math skills, social emotional development, physical development and approaches to learning. The curriculum is based on scientifically valid research and is aligned with the Head Start Outcomes Framework and the **State of Wisconsin's Early Learning Standards**. The Creative Curriculum is linked to on-line comprehensive ongoing assessment with measurable objectives which are utilized for weekly planning. This assessment is organized into three observation periods throughout the program year. At the end of each observation period, the teaching staff completes the online

assessment based on teacher observation, portfolio and anecdotal records **and identifies each child's developmental level as "Forerunner", "Step I", "Step II", or "Step III", as shown in the table below.** The Forerunner Step offers teachers a way to identify children who are not yet at the initial level of typical preschool development, but show beginning evidence of reaching the objective. Step I approximates a beginning level of typical preschool development. Steps II and III represent higher levels in the sequence of development for each objective. Because this assessment system is based on **children's development across two years**, we do not expect that children **will be able to "complete" the Developmental Continuum**, or move across the entire continuum, in a one year period.

The Child Progress and Planning Report is shared with parents during home visits or parent teacher conferences. The teaching staff, along with the parents, develops and facilitates individualized plans and activities to support and encourage the development of skills and experiences that will prepare each child and family as they transition to kindergarten. Transition is facilitated by signed agreements which are in place with 17 local school districts in the four counties in the Western Dairyland Head Start service area.

Western Dairyland's Head Start Program offers education, health programs, and social services to income-eligible families with children ages 3 to 5.



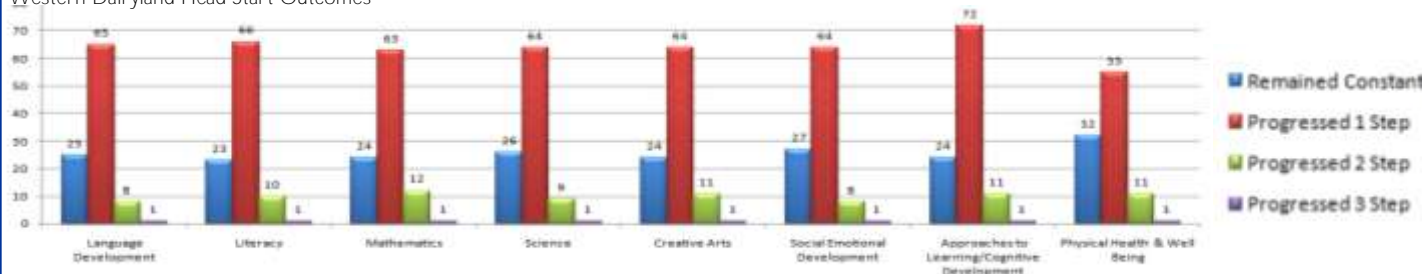
## Parent Involvement Activities

Parents are always welcome to join us!

**Parents are a child's most important teacher and we value each parent's input and participation.** In the 2008-2009 program year, we served approximately 40 children whose parents use English as their second language. Interpreters are provided to make sure that parents and children can benefit from involvement and feel as included as possible. We have created a number of activities that are specifically geared toward parent involvement. Some of those activities are:

- Parent Meetings
- Socializations
- Policy Council
- Parent Trainings
- Family Literacy
- Field Trips
- Volunteering
- Health and Nutrition Education
- Family Fun Events
- Male Involvement
- Family and Community Partnerships

Western Dairyland Head Start Outcomes





## Enrollment

Western Dairyland Head Start offers center, home based, and partnership program options. We are federally funded to serve 525 children.

- Western Dairyland Head Start  
402 children/517 served
- Delegate Agency Eau Claire Area School District  
123 children/139 served
- Head Start State Supplement  
31 children

Average Monthly Enrollment 100%  
Income Eligible Children Served 80%

### Partner Option

We are funded to serve 83 children in the Partner option. We partner with:

- Black River Area Child Care
- Genesis Child Development Center
- **Children's House Montessori**
- Regis Child Development Center
- **Children's Secret Garden**
- Teddy Bear Family Day care
- **UWEC Children's Center**

### Home Based Option

We are funded to serve 77 children in the Home Based option throughout Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Center Option	Funded Enrollment
Altoona Early Education Center	32
Black River Falls Head Start Center	28
Blair Head Start-Early Learning Center	32
Eau Claire Family Literacy/Head Start	15
Eleva/Strum Early Learning Center	24
Independence Head Start Center	82
Truax Head Start Center	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

## Volunteer Participation

Volunteer participation is essential to the success of our program. Volunteers, parents, and community members helped us to raise \$1,184,844 in In-Kind contributions.



"My daughter is getting to experience so many new things. She lights up. She's excited. She wants to learn as much as she can and Head Start allows her to do that." - Head Start Parent

## Medical and Dental Exams

The Oral Health Initiative grant project was designed to address oral health challenges for families by providing intensive oral health education to Head Start children, parents and guardians, and pregnant women. Target populations were broken into two groups: 1) The educators, including Head Start staff, county public health and WIC staff, and local clinic nurses and physicians, who receive train-the-trainer training, and 2) Head Start children, parents and guardians, and MA eligible pregnant women received oral health education.

Sarah Wruck, Western Dairyland Head Start's Dental Hygienist provided education to staff, parents, and children. She also provided oral health exams and fluoride varnish applications to the Head Start children.

Families received oral health kits and one-on-one education at Head Start registrations. Children and teachers brush teeth daily at centers and group socializations. Oral health is included in daily lesson plans. Families are also assisted by securing a dental provider for Head Start children needing dental treatment.

### Medical

- 93% of children completed physical exams
- 12% of children were diagnosed as needing medical treatment
- 100% of children who needed medical treatment, received the treatments needed

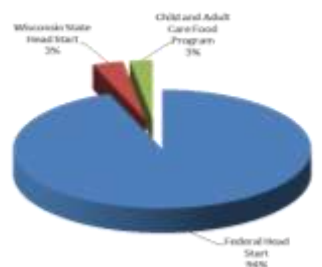
### Dental

- 89% of children completed dental exams
- 24% of children were diagnosed as needing dental treatment
- 75% of children who needed dental treatment, received the treatments needed

## Funding and Budgets

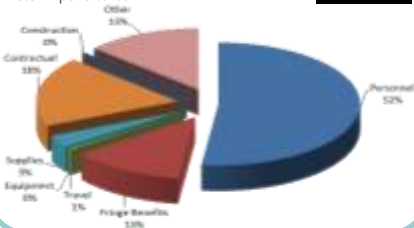
### Revenues

Federal Head Start - 94%	\$3,925,524
Wisconsin State Head Start - 3%	\$139,643
Child and Adult Care Food Program - 3%	\$102,216
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,167,382</b>



### Expenditures

Personnel	2,163,338
Fringe Benefits	535,700
Travel	17,599
Equipment	2,500
Supplies	134,529
Contractual	764,256
Construction	0
Other	549,459
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,167,382</b>



## Monitoring Review and Financial Audit

The Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring review in May of 2008 and awarded our Program with a Certificate of Excellence. They found that our Program was in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Our Financial Audit showed no areas of non-compliance.



## Contact Us!

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