

A Year of Growth

Providing high-quality early childhood education
and comprehensive services since 1965



Orange County Head Start
2019-2020 Annual Report



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink sleeveless top with a Hello Kitty graphic and a floral skirt, is watering plants in a garden bed. She is holding a black watering can. The garden bed contains several colorful plants, including green leafy ones, a red flower, a blue flower, and a yellow flower. The background is a chain-link fence and a bed of wood chips.

**Education
Is The
Foundation
Upon Which
We Build Our
Future.**

– Christine Gregoire

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Orange County Government Board of County Commissioners



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Message from the Director

Greetings!

It is that time of the year when we share with you what we as Orange County Head Start (OCHS) have achieved by meeting the needs of the children and families we serve. The annual report is a representation of a year full of accomplishments, program strengths, opportunities for change and barriers to meeting program goals. I deliver this report in partnership with the Orange County Mayor, Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Executive Director, Lonnie C. Bell Jr., Policy Council and the numerous committed employees that show up daily to impact our community and change lives.

In fiscal year 2020, Orange County Head Start celebrated numerous accomplishments that will be highlighted throughout this report. I am proud of the outcomes highlighted in the report as it is clear that the goals developed and implemented garnered great results. Orange County Head Start believes in providing high quality, comprehensive services for children and families by providing developmentally appropriate, supportive learning environments for children. Orange County Head Start is the leading provider of early childhood development services funding 1,536 preschool children from economically challenged families living in Orange County. OCHS has served the community for over 50 years under the same grantee.

In 2020, the face and all the traditions of Head Start changed. Our children went home for Spring Break, and never returned to school face to face for the 2019-2020 school year. The program adopted a virtual learning format, and continued to provide services. Families participated in drive thru events to pick up educational packets so students could log into classrooms for learning. Operating an early

childhood program through a global pandemic has been one of the most difficult challenges, however the Orange County Head Start staff showed up daily.

Over the past year, we saw many changes. Our agency had to develop new policies, and now offer both face to face and virtual education services. We learned new ways to recruit and complete eligibility applications, hosted orientations, parent and policy council meetings, and staff trainings via ZOOM, Webex and Go to Meetings. The teachers converted their homes into classrooms, and hosted social distance visits with the Head Start students and parents. Management staff ensured the program made the necessary changes to adapt to the "new normal" while adhering to the federal regulations.

Years like 2019-2020 remind me that we are all in this together for the long haul. Momentum may not always be on our side, but the stakes are too high and the issues are too important to not keep moving forward. By joining together as a community, we have the strength to survive and even thrive. Over the past year we learned so much, and went places in early childhood education we did not think possible and I am so proud to lead this talented group of people. I am more confident now than ever that Orange County Head Start has grown and evolved as the "premier" early childhood educational institution in Central Florida.

Sonya Hill
Head Start Director



**Ready Minds,
Healthy Bodies**

Vision Statement

Orange County Head Start: School-Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families

Mission Statement

Orange County Head Start provides high-quality comprehensive services to low-income children and their diverse families through collaborative partnerships.

Philosophy

Orange County Head Start believes in providing high-quality, comprehensive services for children and families by providing developmentally appropriate, supportive learning environments for children. We embrace diversity and support families as they become self-reliant. We believe in providing opportunities for staff professional development and supporting employee wellness. We believe in collaborative partnerships and teamwork.

Values

- High-Quality Comprehensive Services
- School Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families
- Employees Personal and Professional Development and Well-Being
- Diversity and Teamwork
- Family Involvement and Participation
- Collaborative Partnerships and Community Support



Program Goals

Goal #1

Orange County Head Start will increase engagement of fathers/males in support of children's school readiness.

Goal #2:

Orange County Head Start will eliminate barriers to learning by decreasing the number of children with oral health concerns.

Goal #3:

Orange County Head Start will improve child outcomes by strengthening the capacity of parents to become advocates in the lives of their children.

Goal #4:

Orange County Head Start will assist families to improve their financial wellness.



Budget Information

Federal Grant Period: October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020

Total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source

\$14,131,502
Office of
Head Start

\$1,308,945
County GFIFT
Funds

\$871,219
USDA

\$799,098
VPK

\$1,320,183

*COVID-19 (One Time Funds)

Explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for FY 2019-2020

The proposed budget for FY 19-20 was \$20,556,664. Funds received were used to provide full-year, full-day comprehensive early childhood development services for 1,536 children and support to their families. Total expenditures of federal and non-federal funds for FY 19-20 were \$18,401,452. All federal funds were used to cover salaries, cost of living increases, operation of services and training. The non-federal match (in-kind) was used to assist with salaries and operational expenses.

Services \$11,734,513

Administration \$1,232,638

Disability \$399,249

Training \$156,870

USDA \$871,219

VPK \$799,098

Health and Dental \$281,737

Health and Dental \$239,489

**Family, Parent
and Community
Engagement** \$1,677,858

***COVID-19 (One Time Funds)** \$1,290,518

Program Characteristics

The Orange County Head Start Division promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other relevant services.

1,536

Funded Enrollment

780

Enrollment spaces available as full working day/full calendar year

5

Days per week

22

Head Start Centers across Orange County. Program Option: Center-based setting

82

Classrooms

Health Services

75%

1,303
Medical Exams

.3%

5 Dental
Treatments

62%

1,073
Dental Exams

97%

1,677 up to date on
Immunizations



Children and Family Services

1,605 The total number of families served

1,728 Children served
 2 Year Olds: **5** • 3 Year Olds: **780** • 4 Year Olds: **943**



12%

of children (205) had a diagnosed disability

Families by Type

Two-Parent Families **505**

Single Parent Families **1,100**

Single Parent Families by Type

Mother **1,050**

Father **28**

Grandparent **12**

Other Relative **1**

Foster Parent **6**

Enrollment by Type of Eligibility

1,122
Income below 100%

283
Public Assistance

16
Foster Child

278
Homeless

29
Over Income

Percentage of Single Parent/Guardian

95%
Mother

2.5%
Father

0.1%
Grandparent

1%
Other Relative

0.5%
Foster Parent



Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

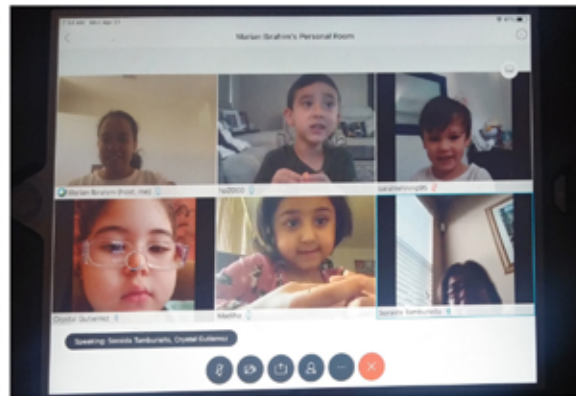
Orange County Head Start (OCHS) utilizes the High-Scope Curriculum which promotes research-based teaching practices to support children's development and learning in all Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) domains. The program uses the Galileo Pre-K assessment tool, G3 Assessment Scales, to evaluate children's developmental progress. Teachers complete baseline assessments for each child and regular, ongoing observation and documentation of progress using the structured assessments provided.

OCHS has experienced a consistent increase in the number of children and families experiencing trauma and mental health concerns. Historically, approximately 20% of our children receive services related to Mental Health. In preparation to provide additional focus on the social/emotional and mental health wellness of our children and staff, items were purchased for the classrooms, including books, sensory manipulatives, weighted plush animals, emotional expression and identification materials and items to create calming areas in the classroom. Teaching staff who have and exhibit positive mental wellness are better able to meet the social/emotional needs of their children. Training was provided for the staff including; 6 steps to conflict resolution, acknowledging feelings, Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) and Self Compassion for Educators. The topics for the first month of the 2019-2020 school year curriculum were focused heavily on the social/emotional and mental health wellness of the classroom, including increasing the emotional literacy of the children.

Parents also received training to enhance their social/emotional knowledge and addressing challenging behaviors at parent committee meetings. A parent training conference was held to assist parents in addressing the

special needs of their children. Topics included Emotional Coaching, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Understanding Child Growth and Development.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional measures were taken to ensure the mental health of the children, families and staff. Our mental health services have been provided through a variety of virtual platforms. Therapist have reported that the majority of therapy time is used for parent education skills development and focusing on the parent's mental health.



All teaching staff was enrolled in the 7-day virtual "Transforming Challenging Behavior" conference which included topics relating to behavior, mental health and social/emotional regulation. To further address the mental health needs of the staff, sessions were held with staff to complete the Professional Quality of Life Scale (Compassion

Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue Version). Staff was encouraged to reflect on their responses and provide encouragement and ideas to each other on how to avoid Compassion Fatigue.

The transition to distance learning in March of 2020 did have a slight impact on the achievement of Predicted DL scores, however Child Assessment data reflected in the chart on the following page shows that all children did make significant gains in all domains. Overall, the data outcomes show that the curriculum and strategies implemented by Orange County Head Start are effectively working to ensure that children are well prepared academically, socially and emotionally to transition to Kindergarten. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, a total of 684 children successfully transitioned to kindergarten.

2019-2020 Four Years Old Children Outcomes

Baseline Baseline

2019-2020 2019-2020

Predicted DL Score Predicted DL Score

Baseline **609**
2019-2020 **543**
Predicted DL Score **554**

Approaches to Learning

Baseline **658**
2019-2020 **572**
Predicted DL Score **592**

Creative Arts

Baseline **580**
2019-2020 **498**
Predicted DL Score **538**

Early Math

Baseline **572**
2019-2020 **490**
Predicted DL Score **520**

Language

Baseline **569**
2019-2020 **479**
Predicted DL Score **531**

Literacy

Baseline **609**
2019-2020 **543**
Predicted DL Score **581**

Logic & Reasoning

Baseline **559**
2019-2020 **475**
Predicted DL Score **522**

Nature & Science

Baseline **581**
2019-2020 **519**
Predicted DL Score **526**

Physical Development & Health

Baseline **576**
2019-2020 **496**
Predicted DL Score **513**

Social Emotional

Baseline **585**
2019-2020 **516**
Predicted DL Score **553**

Social Studies

Baseline **604**
2019-2020 **503**
Predicted DL Score **539**

School Readiness

Baseline **598**
2019-2020 **520**
Predicted DL Score **543**

Technology

Baseline **538**
2019-2020 **498**
Predicted DL Score **539**

English Language Acquisition

Parent Involvement Activities

For Me, For You, For Later is a 4-week financial literacy program designed by PNC Bank and Sesame Street for 3 to 5-year olds, as well as their families. Our parents benefit from the program by becoming more aware of their finances and learning how to talk to their children about how to manage money and make good choices. This is the third year the program has been offered to families and there have been significant gains in the number of families that participated. During the 2019-2020 school year, we had **55** participants..

CFPB's Financial Program is designed to enhance financial capability by educating and empowering our parents to address their financial decision regarding, opportunity and challenges that arise throughout their financial life cycle. OCHS utilizes this program to offer information and tools to address money management and other money topics through their family needs assessment. It also assists with preparing the next generation for financial success by developing money management habits and skills for the youth. During the 2019-2020 school year, **55** families participated.

24/7 Dads is a unique program designed to equip fathers with the self-awareness, compassion and a sense of responsibility that every good parent needs. It focuses on building the man first; father second, better skills in caring for children and building relationships with the mother of their children. OCHS philosophy behind the 24/7 Dads program is to support the growth and development of fathers and children as caring

and compassionate people who treat themselves, others, and the environment with respect and dignity. During the 2019-2020 school year **17** dads participated.

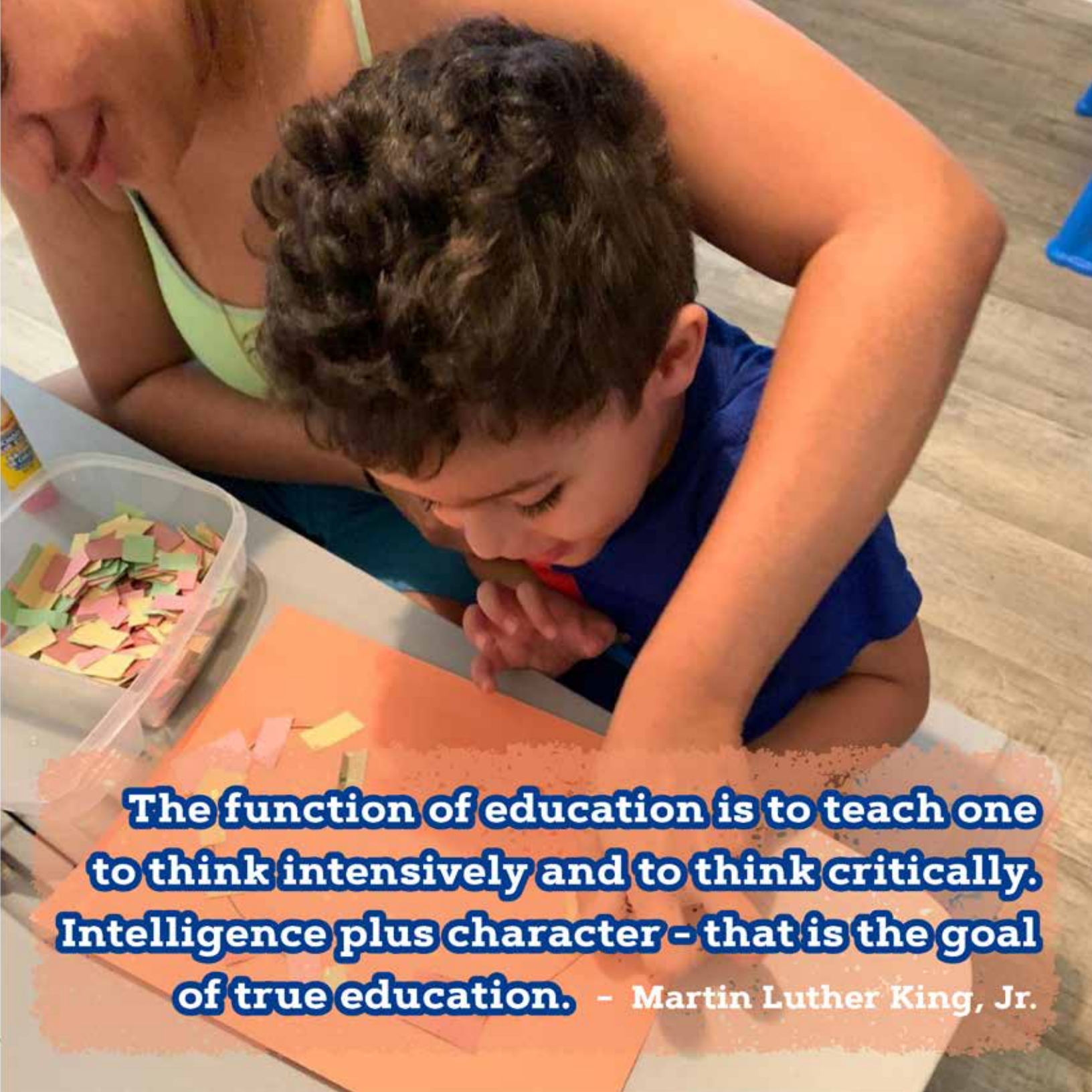
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors it is the Nation's first evidence-based comprehensive training program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5. The program supports parents as leaders of their families and as the child's first teacher. It is also a 12 wk. / 15 hours program, with a pre-post surveys and a graduation at the conclusion. During the 2019- 20 school year, we had **36** participants.

Incredible Years comprehensive, developmental based curricula for parents, teachers, and children designed to promote emotional and social

competence and to prevent, reduce and treat aggression and emotional problems in young children 0 to12 years old. The goal, is to promote children's social and emotional development and school readiness. The curricula runs for 15 weeks, once a week with 15 hours sessions that are confidential. A graduation is held for the participants at the conclusion of the program. During the 2019-2020 school year, we had **44** participants.

Jobs Partnership this program is a boot camp for life and work, with trained volunteer coaches and practical teaching that transforms the head and heart. This program connects the participants to the right people, resources and employers, with the goal of fulltime, family-sustaining careers. During the 2019-2020 school year, we had **10** participants.





The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. - Martin Luther King, Jr.



**To all our advocates, partners, and friends,
thank you once again for all your hard work
and perseverance!**



**Orange County
Head Start**

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