

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas

HEAD START

Monthly Report March 2021



Education Team: Head Start teachers have been working hard to complete the CLI Progress Monitoring assessment and Early Head Start teachers are on their last week for the DRDP assessment (Desired Results Developmental Profile). Families will receive their child's assessment information during the next parent conference. The coaching team is continuing to provide teachers with professional growth by modeling, providing guidance, and assisting where needed. Coaches are out at centers weekly and are always available for teachers.



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School Readiness: The month of March has been spent analyzing student progress data and teacher/child interactions. We finally have enough data to create reports that will be shared at this month's Policy Council and Board meetings. This is the first time ever that we are implementing CLASS with our youngest children and we are happy to report that our EHS teachers are doing a fabulous job based on the initial data. We compared the data to another Head Start program in San Antonio and our scores are as high or higher than theirs. CLASS measures the interactions between teachers and their children and encourages the use of positive relationships, responsive care giving, and the use of structured play and high levels of language modeling to develop the children's language and thinking abilities. Data for our school readiness assessments is also now available and reports will be presented to Policy Council and the CAI Board this month as well. We are proud of our teachers and excited about the progress our children have made in spite of COVID.

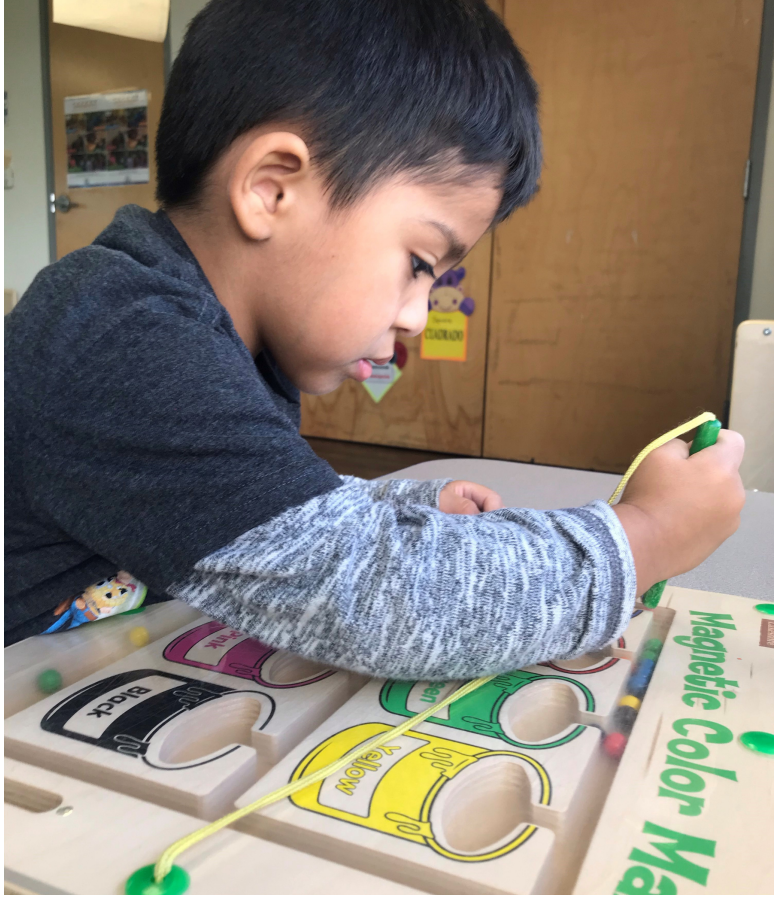


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Mental Health and Disabilities: The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator attended the Office of Disability and Prevention for Children Statewide Virtual Conference in March. Many resources were shared from [PreventChildDisability.org](https://www.preventchilddisability.org).

On March 23, 2021 our Annual Health Advisory Committee met to examine our strengths as well as reflect on any areas that might need improvement in keeping our children safe and healthy. Some items discussed were how Community Action Head Start has adjusted and adapted to meet the needs of our families during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are areas we are continuing to adjust and improve.

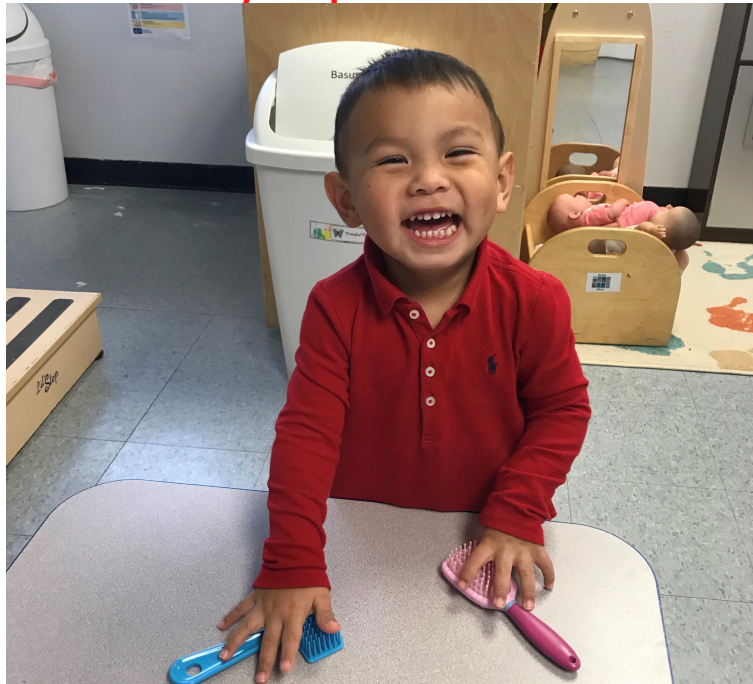
The Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator continues to meet with parents and IARD committees to ensure we are doing everything we can to meet the needs of children who have special needs.



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Health: During the month of March, the Community Action Health Advisory Committee met virtually to meet the bi-annual meeting requirement set by the Office of Head Start.

The committee consisted of community members from WIC, the Health Department, Corridor Pediatrics along with Head Start Staff. Questions were asked by the Health Coordinator to the committee to obtain guidance on lice, flu vaccine and lead screenings. The Health Department representative shared information about the COVID vaccine and the availability of the vaccine. The family advocates continue reaching out to families offering support in getting babies their well exams, dental screenings, and any other labs required by the Texas Health Steps.

ERSEA & Transitions: Eligibility Criteria was approved by Policy Council and the CAI Board of Directors. Family Advocates and Family Advocate Assistants completed required Eligibility Training for 2021. The application for School Year 2021/2022 is now live. You can share this link [Head Start Application](#) with friends and family who are not currently in the program. In the upcoming month, Family Advocates will begin supporting families transitioning to Prekindergarten. We are currently in the process of opening an additional Infant classroom at Lillie Belle Townsend.

Our current enrollment is 417 of 502 available slots.



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Head Start Operations & Safety: We have been attending planning meetings and seeking bids for William Crook, our new Early Head Start center scheduled to open in August of 2022. Our department is handling the bids for the playground equipment and the classroom furniture.

We are also currently accepting bids for the 3 Head Start buses that are currently not being used.



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Nutrition: March was National Nutrition Month and employees all across Community Action showed their appreciation to the kitchen staff the week of March 22nd -March 26th by writing letters, saying kinds words, giving gifts and unexpected treats. Thank you to all our kitchen staff for proving nutritious meals every day to all children in our program. In addition, the Program Nutritionist participated in the Community Action, Inc. Health Advisory Committee meeting that happens twice per year. At this meeting the Program Nutritionist was able to educate community partners about the nutrition services Community Action Provides to enrolled children and solicit the advice of local .

Head Start Office Manager: We have been working with our Coordinators to put together thank you gifts for our cooks and Family Advocates. It's very rewarding to see the surprised looks and smiles on their faces! We congratulate all those that help make Head Start and Early Head Start a wonderful place to work!



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Ready for school. Ready for the world.

Family Services: During the month of March the Family Advocate Team focused on improving our implementation of Ready Rosie, our parenting curriculum, and improving our data entry in Child Plus.

We are working to ensure playlists of videos that will support good parenting are posted consistently and the use of those playlists by parents is tracked correctly in Child Plus.

FA's are also preparing for the third and final Parent Visit to complete an additional Family Need Assessment so that we can clearly see progress made towards family goals with the support of Head Start services.

The Parent Survey results are in and will be presented during this month's Policy Council meeting. Overall, parents are happy with the services we are providing for them.

We also working on the Family Services section of the Program Information Report which compiles data of services provided to families during the current school year.



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