



EARLY HEAD START
at Carey Services

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

"Turning abilities into opportunities"



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A NOTE FROM **BETH WICKHAM**

VICE-PRESIDENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

“

As last year has now officially been closed, we find ourselves welcoming the cooler weather and admiring the leaves as they turn beautiful colors. In our classrooms, the children remind me of these leaves; they grow and change, acquiring new skills at an incredible pace. It's truly amazing how quickly these little ones develop during the short time we have with them, whether in class or at home.

This year has brought us its fair share of challenges and changes that we have had to navigate. The world is in constant flux, and we must do our best to keep our program both consistent and aligned with new regulations from national and federal levels.

Our Policy Council has played a vital role in guiding our program with innovative ideas and strategies that support the direction of Early Head Start. Additionally, the Board has provided valuable insights into potential pathways for continued growth, especially as we rebuild from the loss of several staff within the last few months.

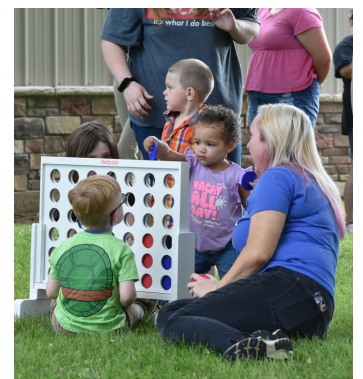
Like many programs, we are facing difficulties in staffing, as some staff seek positions with higher pay elsewhere. We feel fortunate to have a dedicated team that has allowed us to keep classrooms open for the most part. We are also planning to open a new room here in Marion soon.

Looking ahead, the future of Early Head Start appears bright. Currently, two staff members are enrolled in courses to further their education, and we are incredibly proud of their commitment to advancing both their own skills and our program. Staff are gaining essential knowledge from fantastic community resources, including the Indiana Head Start Association. Our management team continuously attends training sessions to enhance their expertise, which they then share with our staff. Once again, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support of our Early Head Start program. Please feel free to visit us and spend an afternoon; we would love to see you.



BETH WICKHAM

Vice-President of Early Childhood Education



A NOTE FROM **NYCOLE WHITAKER**

HARTFORD CITY CLASSROOM SUPERVISOR

“

Hartford City classrooms had a lot of different adventures and new experiences this past year! Children engaged and learned about different animals and environments throughout the year, meeting ducks and getting their puppy love in with a visit from Rusty the therapy dog who came to see us monthly. We always enjoy watching the children build new skills and enhance their learning! The year did present itself with some unforeseen challenges which really helped us gain insight into the need of our community and allowed us to transition with the support of our policy council and board as well as our dedicated families who really drive our program. We would not be who we are without all these entities working together! It most definitely takes a village, and we are so thankful for them! Looking forward to another great year!



Nycole Whitaker, LPN
Hartford City Site Supervisor

A NOTE FROM **DESSIE FOOR**

MARION CLASSROOMS SUPERVISOR

“

Wow, what an incredible year it's been! In September, we opened our 5th center classroom, expanding our reach to better serve our growing community. Thanks to the dedication of our amazing staff and the support of our wonderful parents, we've continued to shine, maintaining our Level 4 Paths to QUALITY rating and NAEYC Accreditation.

Here's to **growth, teamwork**, and another year of **making a difference!**



Dessie Foor
Marion Classrooms Supervisor



EARLY HEAD START IMPACTS ON CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Why It Matters?

Early Head Start (EHS) programs promote **physical, cognitive, language and communication, and social-emotional development** of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving. Age expectancy (AE) is an important indicator of childhood development. EHS helps to create awareness and to implement this information with the families we serve.

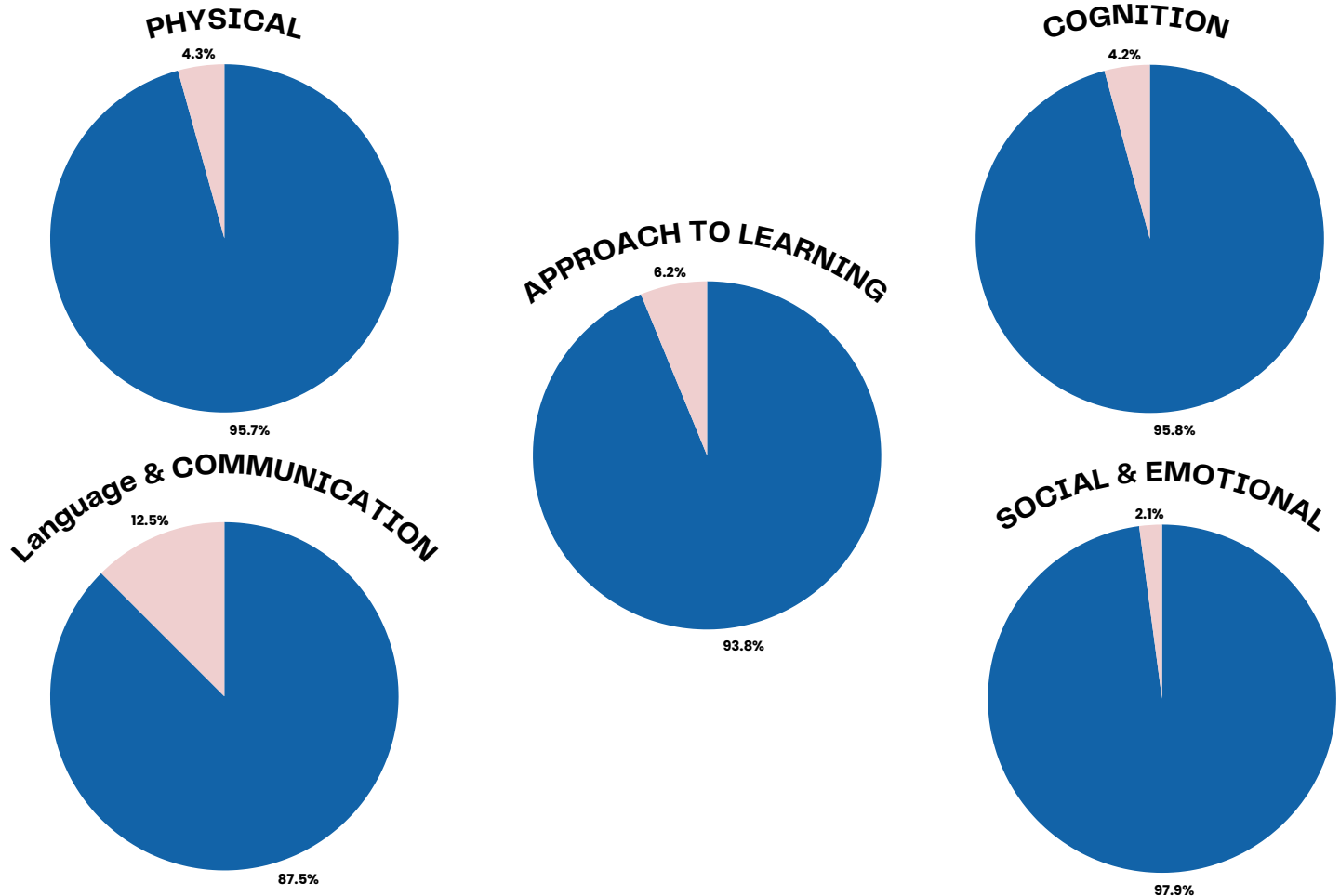


Chart Key:

- Maintained AE** – Children who maintained or increased rate of development within AE development
- Increased to AE** – Children who increased rate of development from below to AE development
- Maintained or Increased to Above AE** – Children who increased rate of development from below to AE development
- Increased Significantly but Below AE** – Children who made significant increases in rate of development but continue to be below AE development
- Continued or Decreased to Below AE** – Children who show below AE or dropped to below AE development



Funding Sources

Budget

Actual

PY 2024-2025 Program Base Grant	\$1,675,020.00	\$1,675,020.00
PY 2024-2025 T & TA Grant	\$28,258.00	\$28,258.00
CACFP (Food Service Program)		\$73,190.78
CCDF (Child Care Subsidy)		\$66,300.00
TOTAL	\$1,703,278.00	\$1,842,768.78

Expenses

Budget

Actual

Staff Wages	\$1,176,345.00	\$1,169,610.50
Benefits	\$218,275.00	\$218,817.56
Instructional Supplies/Classroom Supplies	\$8,000.00	\$24,737.94
Food/Food Services Supplies		\$45,676.49
Policy Council/Parent Services	\$1,500.00	\$3,048.24
Nutrition/Mental Health Consultants	\$8,700.00	\$7,702.95
Office & Household Supplies	\$7,000.00	\$22,638.72
Public Relations/Recruitment/Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$16,691.97
Audit	\$4,094.00	\$4,000.00
Utilities/Maint./Insurance/Classroom Utiliz.	\$29,740.00	\$53,719.46
Local Travel	\$8,399.00	\$6,814.99
Indirect	\$211,467.00	\$214,092.33
Training/Technical Assistance	\$28,258.00	\$55,217.63
TOTAL	\$1,703,278.00	\$1,842,768.78

Chart Key:

PY: Program Year

T & TA: Training & Training Assistant

CACFP: Child and adult care Food Program

CCDF: Child Care Develepoment Fund

Annual Audit Results:

Audit conducted by Blue & Co. for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30,2025 is slated to be presented to the board at 10/15/25 meeting.

EHS Program Enrollment Statistics

Total Families Served	106
Total Children Served	129
Total Pregnant Women Served	9
Total Number of Children Enrolled Multiple Years	45
Number of Children that graduated from EHS during Program Year	35
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	59
Average monthly enrollment as a percent of funded enrollment	90%
Average monthly waiting list for Blackford County program options	5
Average monthly waiting list for Grant County program options	40

Parent/ Guardian Education

Advanced degree or baccalaureate degree	7%
Associate degree, vocational school, or some college	28%
High School graduate or GED	51%
Less than high school graduate	14%

Prenatal Enrollees % of Enrollment

Received Regular Prenatal Care Presented	100%
At-Risk Pregnancies Received Mental	55%
Health Intervention/Follow-Up Received	45%
Substance Abuse Treatment Received	11%
Professional Dental Exam Postnatals who	56%
Breastfed Infants Postnatals who Follow	67%
Safe-Sleep Practices	100%

Children's Health Outcomes at the Year-End:

Percent of Children with a medical home (regular doctor)	99%
Percent of Children with health insurance	99%
Percent of Children up-to-date on immunizations	92%
Percent of Children up-to-date on all EPSDT (preventive and primary health care)	80%
Percent of Children up-to-date on preventive dental services	90%

2024 **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

HARTFORD CITY CLASSROOM SUPERVISOR

2024 Holiday Celebration was an open house style with a total of 94 people (including staff). The families get to enjoy the evening and play games with their children by letting the child lead the play and show their interests



2025 **SCHOOL READINESS CELEBRATION**

2025 School Readiness Celebration had 35 graduates. There was a total of 150 (including staff) that attended in honor of our families and their success with the program. These families have worked extremely hard to help improve the lives of their children and families.



A NOTE FROM **JENNIFER CROPPER**

HOME-BASED COORDINATOR

“

The home-based staff have over 30 years of service provided to this community. Tracy Nutter 22 years and Jennifer Cropper 9 years. We provide support for families that want to do better than they currently are. That looks different for every family. We meet them where they are, and we help them get a plan in place to reach their goals.



Jennifer Cropper
Home-Based Coordinator

EARLY HEAD START

at Carey Services 2025



106
CHILDREN SERVED



45
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN
ENROLLED MULTIPLE YEARS

100%

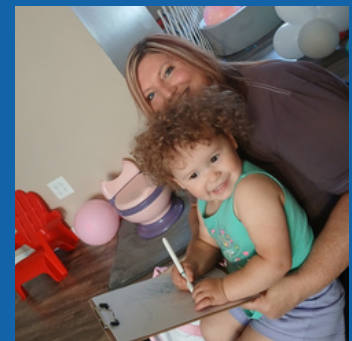
OF PRENATAL MOMS
RECEIVED REGULAR
PRENATAL CARE



59
CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES SERVED



35
CHILDREN GRADUATED
THIS PROGRAM YEAR



The Home-Based program has an amazing asset in Tracy Nutter. She has been a Home Visitor for 23 years and has made an incredible impact on numerous families in our area!

A NOTE FROM **JANE FICK**

PARENT ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

“

A special thanks to all volunteers, council members, staff and advocates!
We are so thankful for each of you. We would not be who we are without you!
THANK YOU!

”

A NOTE FROM **JIM ALLBAUGH**

PRESIDENT/ CEO - WORLD CLASS LEARNING WITH MEANING

“

When I share with the community about our Early Head Start program at Carey Services, I am always sure to let people know what we are providing is not “Daycare.” Of course, it is Care during the Day. And, of course, the service provided by our Early Head Start team is Extraordinary Care provided by Passionate People. But the Early Head Start program at Carey Services is so much more, and something much more special than just “Daycare.”

When our Early Head Start team supports children and families, they are doing so with best practice, world class, and with the highest quality approach possible. I would want my kids to be served by the Early Head Start team if I had children from birth to three years of age! What I hope the readers of this article understand is that families at Carey Services are meeting the right milestones, being provided quality and curriculum-based education, and being prepared for the next stage in learning and thriving, together. That is learning with meaning!

And the good news is that our Early Head Start team is planning and organizing opportunities to provide even more meaningful education and learning experiences for prenatal mothers and children birth to 3 years of age. We talk at Carey Services about helping the families we support to have an “Experience of a Lifetime.” Isn’t that what you want, and what families want in this community?! I know that is what I want for you, for the families we support, and for all in our community!

Come to Carey Services to connect to have that Experience of a Lifetime for your family and/or to find out how we can share the positive impact our Early Head Start team is making in the community. I would love to share with you about our Early Head Start at Carey Services team and services we provide. Please feel free to contact me at jallbaugh@careyservices.com and/or at 765.668.8961 Ext. 102 to see how you can get involved!



Jim Allbaugh
President/ CEO

