



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

STEP Early Learning: Serving children and families in Lycoming and Clinton counties during the 2021-22 program year. Early Learning programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, PA Department of Human Services, PA Department of Education, and the Affordable Care Act.



STEP Head Start Program Vision:

to be a catalyst for inspiring positive change and fostering hope in children, family, and community.



STEP Head Start Program Mission:

to foster hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families through partnerships with parents and the community.

STEP Head Start is a part of STEP's Early Learning Pathway to Success



STEP's **mission** is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

STEP Early Learning 2021-2022 RISK AND REACH

STEP Head Start is committed to helping children and families succeed. The program implements its vision through Head Start, Early Head Start, and PA Pre-K Counts. STEP Head Start gives children the tools they need to succeed in school and in life, and families the tools they need to maximize their children's success as well as their own. Parent engagement is the cornerstone of STEP Head Start.

The following Risk and Reach information is from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning Program Risk and Reach Assessment, State Fiscal Year 2016-2017, published January 2019.

RISK		REACH
The overall Risk Level of Clinton and Lycoming counties is Moderate High:		The Reach of STEP Head Start:
<p>► Economic Risk: Clinton County 35.3% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).</p> <p>► Academic Risk: Clinton County Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, 42.4% of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.</p>	<p>► Economic Risk: Lycoming County 26.8% of children under age five live in economically high-risk families (100% federal poverty level or below).</p> <p>► Academic Risk: Lycoming County Based on the PA Statewide Reading Proficiency Assessment, 27.8% of children are below proficient reading in 3rd grade.</p>	<p>► 29.9% of eligible children under age five are served in Clinton County.</p> <p>► 28.7% of eligible children under age five are served in Lycoming County.</p>



STEP Head Start PROGRAM GOALS

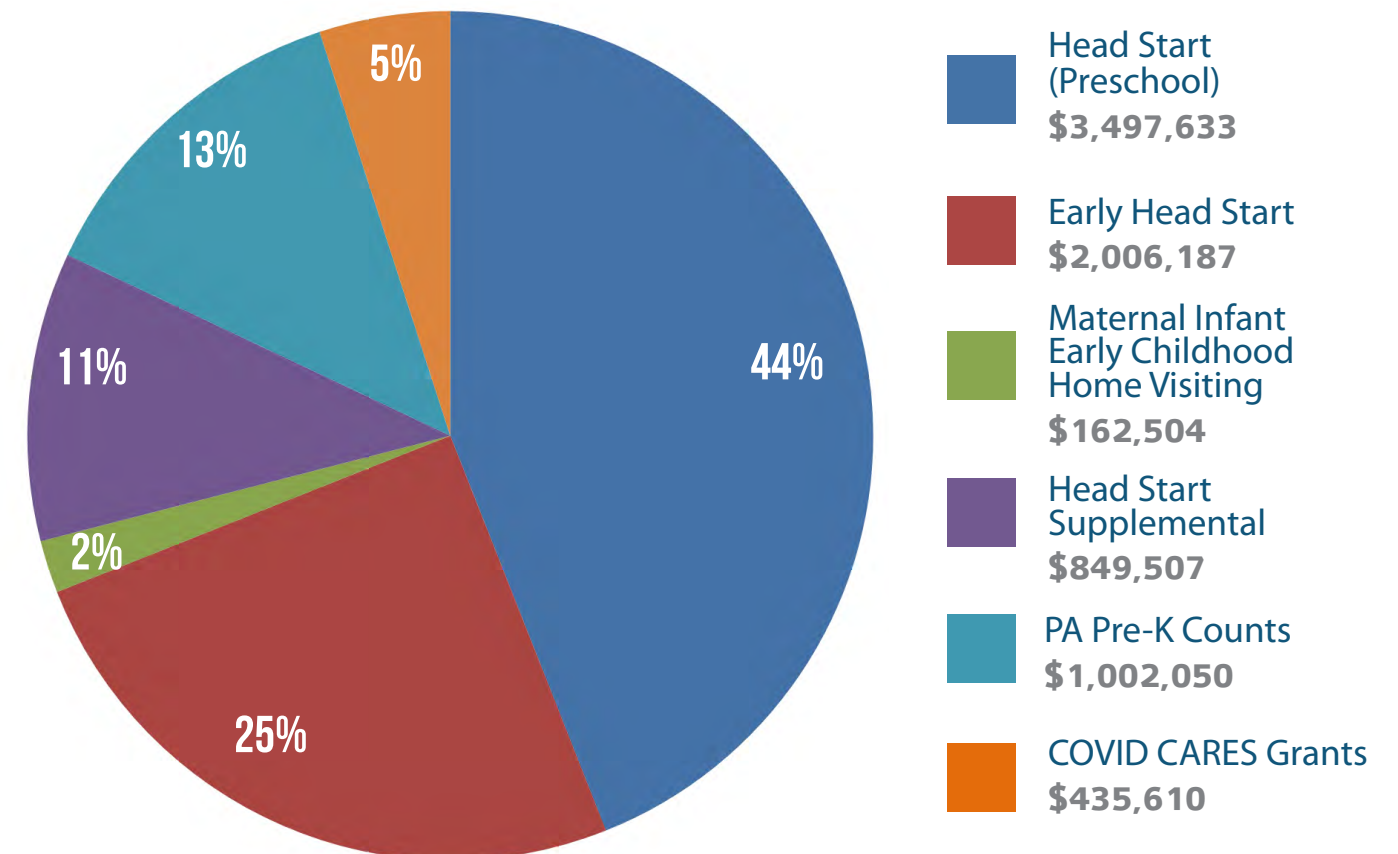
- 1 Increase capacity to achieve results.
- 2 Ensure facilities are located in areas to provide optimal service delivery.
- 3 Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.
- 4 Partnerships among providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
- 5 Ensure that Head Start facilities are prepared to address any emergency situation that may occur.
- 6 Head Start families will be strengthened.

STEP Head Start PHILOSOPHY

- 1 Children's educational achievement and growth are key to their success in life.
- 2 Children must be understood in the context of their family, community, and culture.
- 3 Children and their families must be well to do well.
- 4 Children's potential is best realized when they are healthy, well nourished, and nurtured, when their parents are active partners in their educational experiences, and when they are supported by their communities.
- 5 Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. We respect them and honor their love and care for their children.
- 6 Communities have a moral, ethical, and practical responsibility to help low-income children and families succeed.
- 7 Staff investment of time, energy, resources, care, and compassion fosters hope, growth, self-sufficiency, and social competence in children and their families.
- 8 Staff can inspire positive change. We are proud of our staff, of who they are as human beings, of their commitment to children, families, and the program, and the high quality of the work that they do.
- 9 Our program is enriched by our individual differences and the diversity of our children, families, staff, and communities.
- 10 Head Start is a sound investment in the future. We take seriously our responsibility as stewards of public funds.

STEP Early Learning 2021-2022 FISCAL EXPENDITURES

\$7,953,491



AUDIT REPORT

The June 3, 2022 Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 reported findings that were subsequently and adequately corrected.

The most recent Monitoring Review was in October 2019.

Unaudited Expenditures for Agency Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (7/1/2021-6/30/2022)

	Head Start (Preschool)	Early Head Start	COVID CARES Grants	Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation	Head Start Supplemental	PA Pre-K Counts
Expenditures						
Personnel - Wages	\$ 1,893,869	\$ 1,131,680	\$ 73,354	\$ 78,764	\$ 441,459	\$ 537,475
Personnel - Fringe Benefits and Taxes	598,170	357,960	12,446	25,846	147,872	182,132
Occupancy	411,376	246,756	261,385	19,736	175,001	131,769
Communication	44,759	25,765	2,008	2,310	10,130	7,129
Supplies & Equipment	194,923	70,870	58,652	19,359	34,835	53,374
Transportation	46,962	21,278	0	1,988	3,705	3,054
Contract Services	94,054	26,137	6,179	13,146	31,348	21,405
Other	213,520	125,741	21,586	1,355	5,157	65,712
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,497,633	\$ 2,006,187	\$ 435,610	\$ 162,504	\$ 849,507	\$ 1,002,050

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2021-2022 Federal and PA Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program

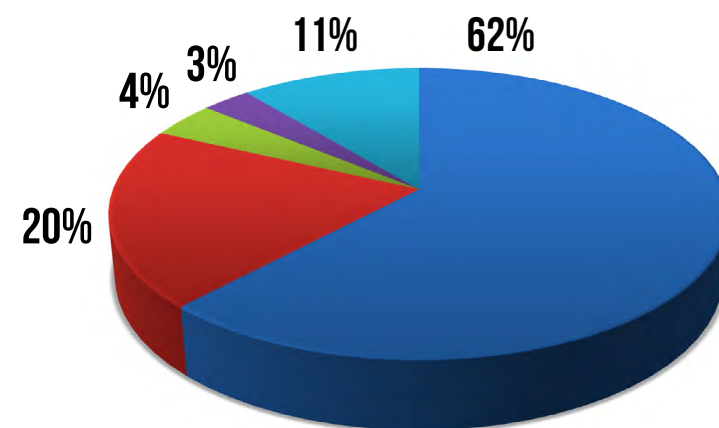
Preschool Head Start provides comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support services to children three and four years old, including those with disabilities, and their families during the school year.

- ▶ **237** preschool Head Start children benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2021-2022 program year.*
- ▶ **132** enrolled children were 4–5 years old and will transition to kindergarten in the fall.
- ▶ **122** enrolled children were 3–4 years old and will return to Head Start.
- ▶ **100%** of Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **227** Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **62** children with disabilities (**20.5%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services in Head Start.
 - **19** children were diagnosed for the first time during the 2021-2022 Head Start program year.
 - **31** children were referred to mental health services, and **0** of those children received mental health services outside of Head Start.
- ▶ **100%** of Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **91%** of children were up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
 - **100%** of children have continuous accessible dental care.
 - **91%** of children completed a dental exam.
 - **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, STEP Head Start primarily provided virtual learning and services in the 2021-2022 program year to children and their families; therefore, enrollment data is best represented as whole numbers and not percentages.

Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL *
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2021-2022 Early Head Start and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

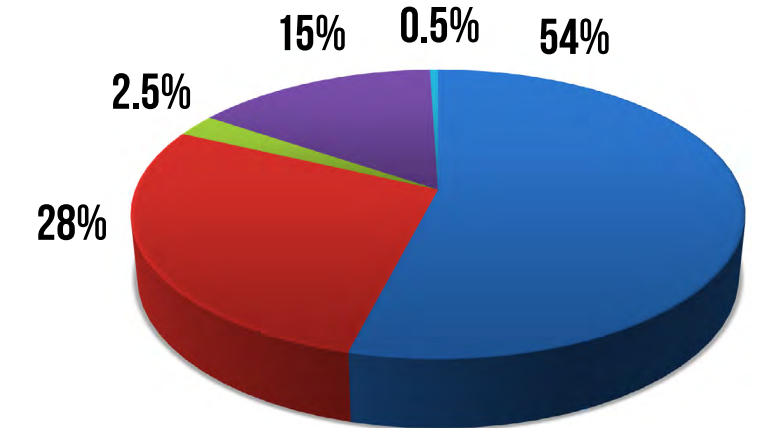
Early Head Start provides early, continuous, and comprehensive year-round child development and family support services to pregnant woman, infants and toddlers, including those with disabilities, and their families.

- ▶ **160** infants and toddlers benefited from comprehensive, individualized child development services during the 2021-2022 program year.*
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children and their families received regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **136** Early Head Start families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **24** children with disabilities (**15%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and treatment services. Only **2** children were diagnosed prior to the 2021-2022 Early Head Start program year.
- ▶ **100%** of Early Head Start children were linked with a source for ongoing, accessible medical and dental care:
 - **71%** of children are up to date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care.
 - **100%** of children have continuous accessible dental care.
 - **98%** of children are up to date on immunizations.

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Early Head Start - Enrollment by Eligibility

- Income below 100%*FPL
- Public Assistance
- Foster child
- Homeless
- Over income



* Federal Poverty Level

PROGRAM IMPACTS

2021-2022

PA Pre-K Counts

PA Pre-K Counts provides early learning and school readiness experiences to center-based classes of preschool children.

- ▶ **146** three- and four-year-old children benefited from a comprehensive, individualized educational program, including quality early learning experiences to foster social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth.*
- ▶ **124** Pre-K Counts families were supported in their roles as primary educators of their own children and offered opportunities for participation, decision making, and personal growth.
- ▶ **100%** of children are up to date on immunizations.
- ▶ **100%** of children received snack and lunch, meeting one-third of their daily nutritional requirement, and regular nutrition education.
- ▶ **15** children with disabilities (**10%** of enrollment) received inclusive education and early intervention services.

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2021-2022

Volunteers

Most of our volunteer hours are contributed by parents who practiced parenting and other child development skills, requested and received training on a wide variety of subjects, and participated in program planning and decision making.

- ▶ **3,908** volunteer hours were contributed to the preschool programs by **233** volunteers, including Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts parents.
- ▶ **4,100** volunteer hours were contributed to the Early Head Start program by **97** volunteers, including Early Head Start parents.



SCHOOL READINESS

Goals



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

Children will develop positive relationships with adults and peers, demonstrate self-regulation by managing emotions, internalize rules and routines, and display a sense of confidence and compliance.



PHYSICAL

Children will demonstrate an understanding of their environment by utilizing their perceptual motor and physical development skills.



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Children will demonstrate literacy and language skills by expanding their vocabulary, developing phonological awareness, increasing knowledge of print, and improving emergent writing skills in English and their home language.



APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Children will develop persistence, solve problems, and show curiosity.



COGNITIVE & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Children will develop reasoning, memory, problem solving, and thinking skills.

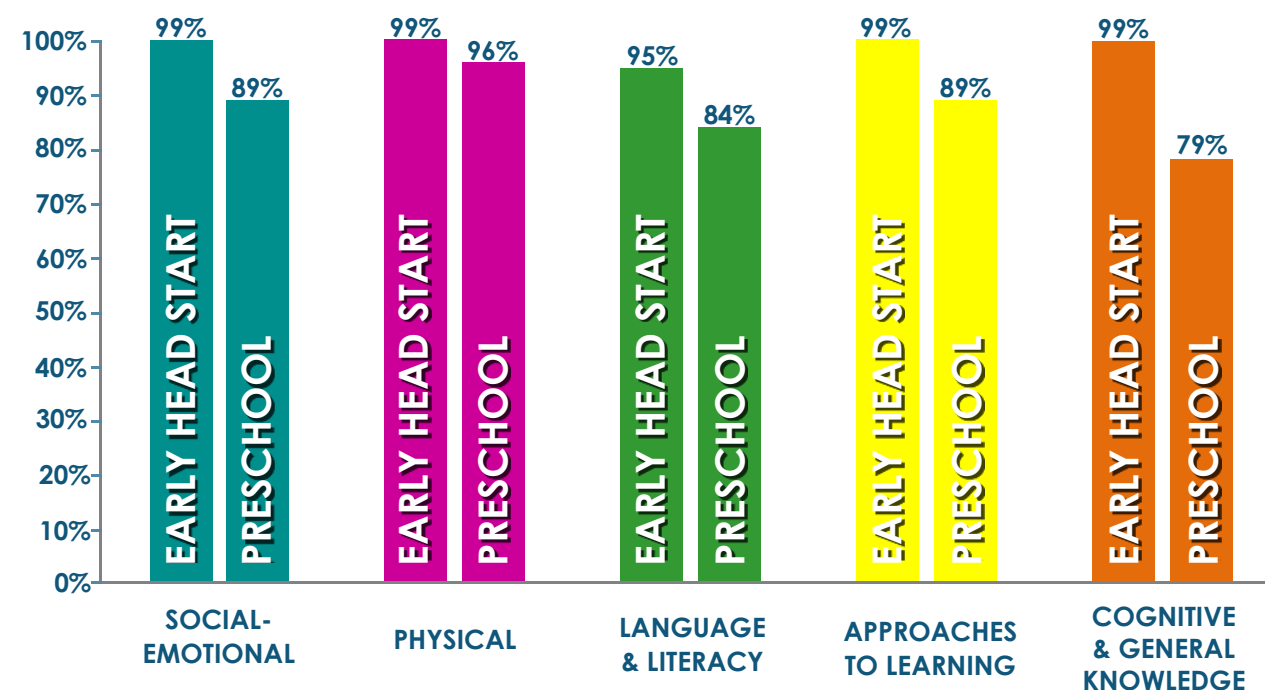
SCHOOL READINESS

2021-2022 Outcomes

Percentage of children birth through kindergarten entrance who met or exceeded School Readiness Goals

- ▶ Early Head Start (EHS): children birth through age 3
- ▶ Preschool includes Head Start and PA Pre-K Counts: children age 3 to kindergarten entrance

STEP HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES 2021-2022



SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

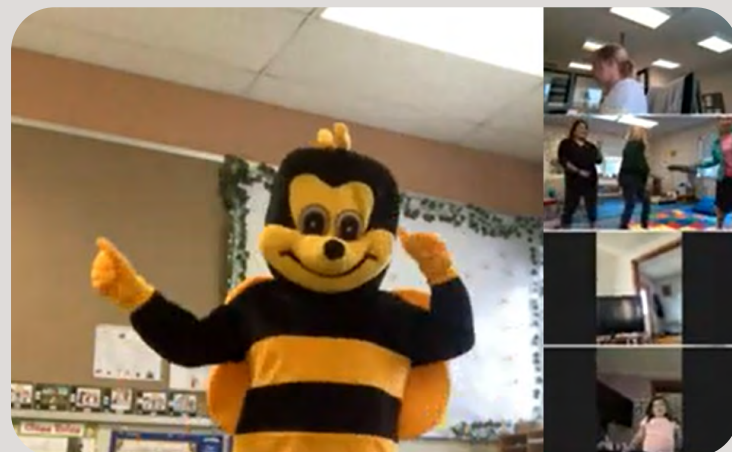
► PBIS Fall Kickoff - *Virtual Event*

STEP Head Start hosted its first ever **virtual** Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS) Fall Harvest Kickoff Event from October 11 through 14!

The event is the yearly kickoff for the PBIS program, which teaches children about emotions and coping skills in order to proactively encourage good behavior. Many of the interactive activities, including deep breathing exercises and pumpkin feeling faces, help children to practice PBIS strategies. Caregivers are encouraged to carry PBIS into their homes through rewards and various tools.

Prior to the week-long event, each child received a bag of materials to successfully participate in hands-on activities during the virtual event. Items included a pumpkin from Tebb's Farm, playdough, stickers, an age appropriate book, and beehives for practicing PBIS skills.

Head Start families and staff had the opportunity to log into Zoom each evening from 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM to celebrate children and families, teach them more about PBIS, provide community resources and presenters, and facilitate interactive parent-child activities.



► Early Head Start Family Fun Days

Every year STEP Early Head Start holds a Family Fun Day in each county of our service area for Home-Based families to engage with each other and Early Head Start staff.

Lycoming County's Family Fun Day was held on Friday, July 15 at the South Williamsport park complex. The theme was **Camp Early Head Start** and families participated in a scavenger hunt, painted their own rocks to take home, created bug fossils in scented play dough, decorated binoculars, pretended to make their own s'mores, played a game of marshmallow toss, and had their family photos taken at the campsite!

STEP Early Head Start in Clinton County held their Family Fun Day on Friday, July 22 at the Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven. Children and their families were greeted by Head Start's PBIS mascot, Phoebe, and had their photographs taken. **Summer fun** was the theme of the day and children enjoyed making gigantic bubbles, expressed their creativity with foam paint, made a splash with waterplay, and also enjoyed face painting, riding bikes, and playing on the playground.



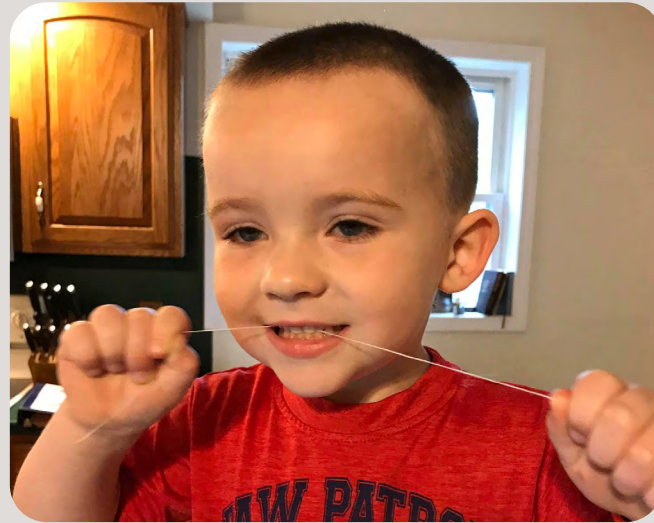
► Dental Hygiene Kits

In an effort to uphold health and safety best practices surrounding the COVID pandemic, STEP Head Start is not currently brushing teeth when children are in their care. However, there is an imperative need to still support dental hygiene!

STEP Head Start Health Specialist, Buffy Neese, ordered and sorted individual take home dental kits for all pre-enrolled and enrolled children in the Head Start program. With the assistance of education and support staff, approximately 430 dental kits were distributed across both Early Head Start and Preschool Head Start programs. Each kit included an age appropriate toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss in a clear plastic zipped tote bag for easy storage and safe keeping.

In addition, on October 13 and 14, STEP Head Start hosted the River Valley Mobile Dental Unit at the STEP Round Hills Campus in Williamsport. In total, 50 children were seen, and 12 children are scheduled for restorative dental care to address a total of 29 cavities.

STEP Head Start is dedicated to partnering with local resources and families to encourage the practice of good dental hygiene at a young age!



► Vision Screenings

Did you know that 1 in 4 children have a vision issue that needs attention before entering kindergarten?

To address this need, STEP Head Start is proactive with vision screening! **487** children had their vision screened during the 2021-2022 program year, and **124** children were referred to a vision specialist for follow up. Here are our results:

61 children received glasses or are actively doing patch therapy.

31 children are being monitored for possible future vision problems.

15 children left our program before their appointment dates.

3 parents refused.

10 children did not follow up.

► Week of the Young Child

STEP Head Start celebrated Week of the Young Child from April 2-8. The Week of the Young Child is an annual observance hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

STEP Head Start families and staff organized a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. The week's activities included Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.



Music Monday

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills - all while having fun and being active! STEP Head Start children had the opportunity to explore a variety of musical instruments including drums, guitar, keyboard, symbols, and the xylophone.



Tasty Tuesday

Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. Head Start encourages healthy nutrition and fitness habits. Some of the tasty treats enjoyed by Head Start children were smoothies, tacos, and frozen treats!



Work Together Wednesday

When children build together, they explore math and science concepts, and develop their social and early literacy skills. In one of our Head Start classrooms, children worked together to build a tower!



Artsy Thursday

Children develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. Children were encouraged to get creative with coloring, painting, and tracing.



Family Friday

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. We applaud family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. To celebrate Family Friday, children drew pictures of their families.



Success Through Engagement and Partnership

The Mission of STEP, Inc. is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

The Head Start program is a part of STEP's Early Learning Pathway to Success.



STEP does not discriminate in its enrollment, employment, or activities on the basis of age, sex, color, religion, ancestry, disability, or national origin.

For more information, to apply for enrollment, volunteer your time, or to make a contribution please contact STEP Head Start :

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www.stepcorp.org/step-pathways/early-learning/head-start.html

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