



FACES OF LE JARDIN COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

Our Children, Our Families, Our Classrooms

Annual Report 2012-2013



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INTRODUCTION



About Le Jardin Community Center, Inc.

The mission of Le Jardin is to improve the quality of life for children and families in our local communities. We provide comprehensive, high-quality educational, recreational and cultural activities in a safe, caring and nurturing environment. A strong curriculum is used to develop social and cognitive skills, as well as to promote self-esteem, self-awareness and ethnic pride. Le Jardin fosters a developmental foundation that enhances the transition into the elementary school system.

Message from the Chairman of the Board

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as Chairman of the Board for the past year. Working and representing such a fine group of professionals for the betterment of Le Jardin Community Center has been a labor of love.

During my tenure as a board member and Chairman, I am proud of the financial accomplishments that have made Le Jardin a very viable and financially sound organization. I am particularly proud of the accomplishments from the Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and Administrative Staff. Their dedication has been essential to the growth of this great organization.

Le Jardin Community Center will continue to grow and serve more children due to the resources that the organization has developed over the years.

The Board of Directors will continue to interpret desires for growth and will guide this organization, with the best of intentions in helping the community needs of South Miami-Dade County. I look forward to serving Le Jardin as Chairman of the Board for the next year.

Edward Lavery
Chairman of the Board of Directors
for Le Jardin Community Center, Inc.

Message from the Executive Director

I have represented Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. for 17 years as the Executive Director. It continues to be an honor and a privilege empowering the children and families of our local communities. We have faced numerous challenges throughout our journeys, however our organization which promotes honesty, trust, and accountability has always found a way to pull through despite tough economic times. Le Jardin continues to grow and create jobs for local residents while enhancing our South Miami-Dade Communities. In an effort to expand our services we are now making plans to expand our organization through the creation of a Charter School. Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is proud of its accomplishments and together we will continue to advocate for low-income children and families in Homestead.

Eduardo Berrones,
Executive Director of Le Jardin Community Center, Inc.

Members of the Board of Directors

Edward Lavery, Chairman of the Board
Eugene McAllister, Vice Chair
Norma Brieler, Secretary
Edward Weider, Treasurer

Luz Gonzalez
Diane Gutierrez
Luis Olarte
David Cajiao
John Arias

Manuel Ramos MD, MBA
Paola Usquelis
Opal Winebrenner
Nikenson Charles

Members of the Policy Committee

Nikenson Charles, Chairperson/Board Representative
Carmen Hernandez, Vice Chairperson
Eloisa Perez, Secretary
Emmanuel Norestin, Alternate Representative
Juana Ochoa, Treasurer
Paulina Jeronimo, Center I Vice Chair
Carmelo Erazo, Parliamentarian
Barbara Otero, Community Representative
Erica Luna, Center I Chair
Estela Francisco, Center I Alternate
Maria Irizarry, Policy Facilitator



OUR CHILDREN

Le Jardin is passionate about our children.

We invite you to learn all about our Head Start and Early Head Start students.



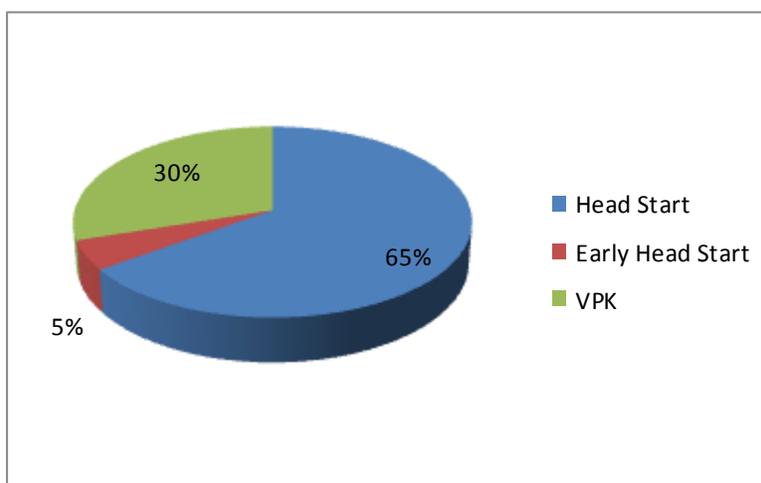
Enrollment



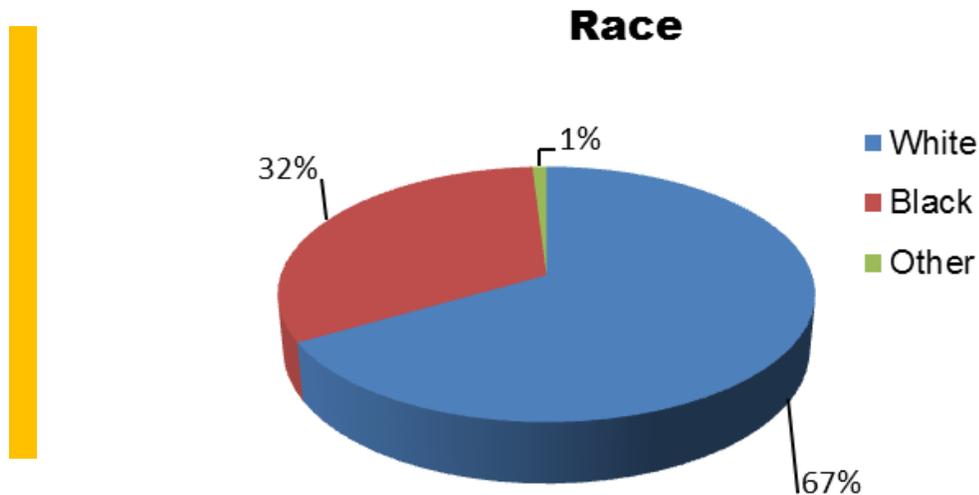
How many of our children are Head Start, Early Head Start and VPK?

Head Start	480
Early Head Start	32
VPK	221

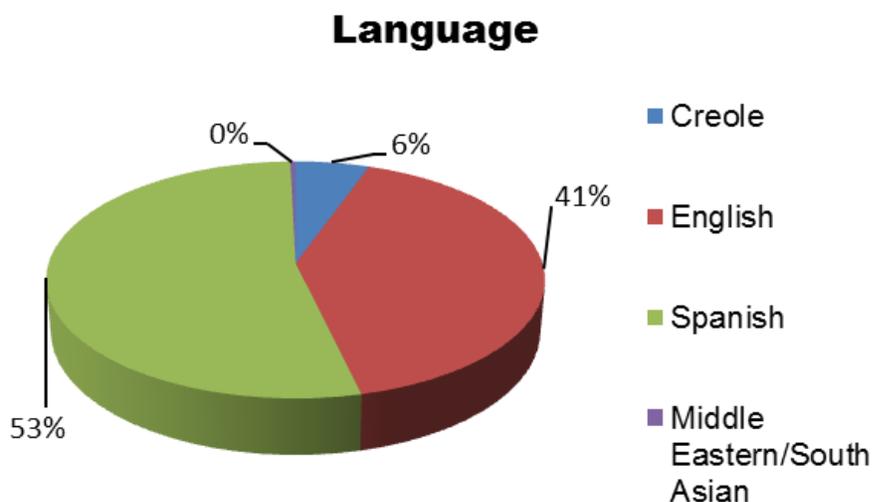
Some of the VPK children are also in Head Start.



Population Demographics for Our Children



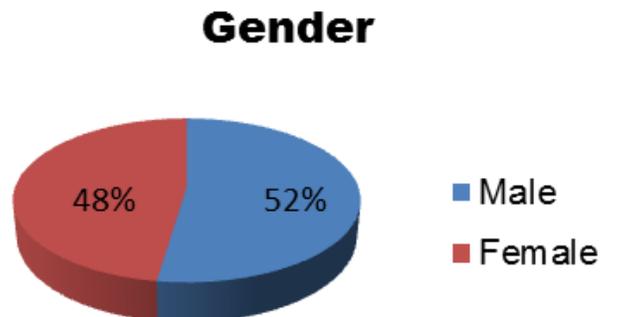
Le Jardin is a true reflection of the communities in which it is based. Although race is designated as only White Hispanic, Black or Other there is a vast diversity between the families at our centers. We have people from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean as well as a few from the Middle East. This diverse population exposes children to various cultures and languages. Again, a true reflection of what they see outside the school walls.





Le Jardin actively recruits within the community without an exception to race or gender. A snapshot of our program will show that gender is almost evenly split between male and female students.

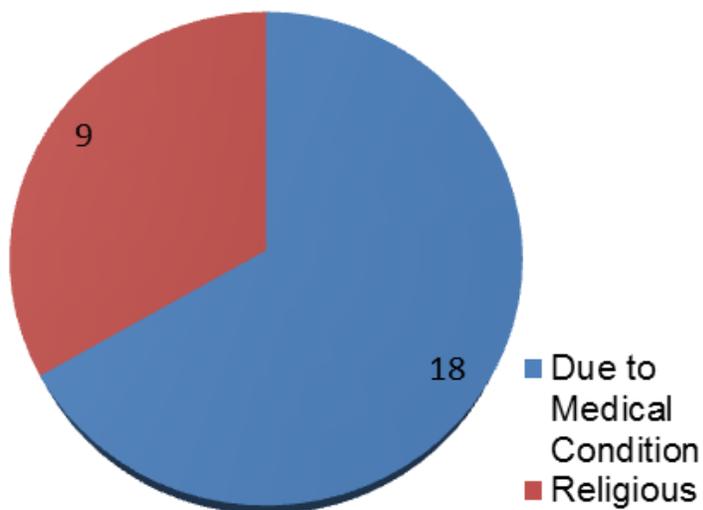
<u>Gender</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
HS	250	230
EHS	18	14
Total	268	244



Nutrition



Special Diets

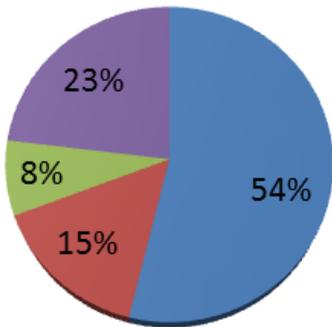


At Le Jardin we take special care to feed our children what's best for their individual needs.

27 of our 512 children are on special diets.

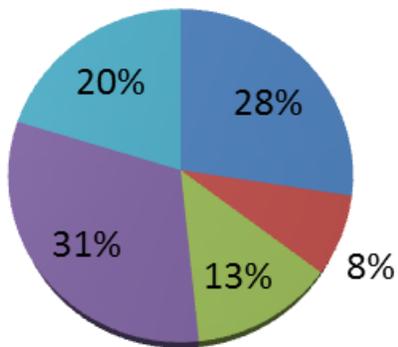
Disability Services

EARLY HEAD START DISABILITY CONCERNS



- CONCERNS RESOLVED
- PARENTS REFUSED SERVICE
- PENDING LEA SERVICES
- PENDING FURTHER ASSESSMENT

HEAD START DISABILITY CONCERNS

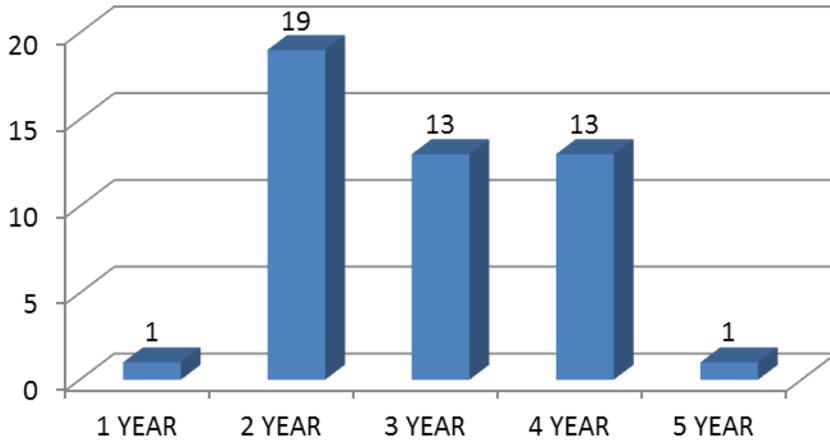


- RESOLVED
- PARENT REFUSED SERVICE
- PENDING LEA STAFFING
- PENDING FURTHER ASSESSMENT
- IEPS IN EFFECT



Health and Mental Health

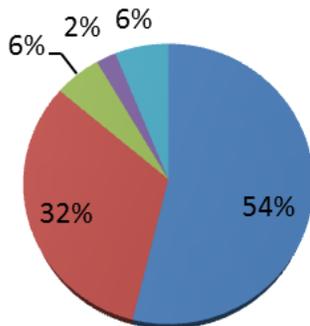
CHILD AGE AT DIAGNOSIS BY LEA



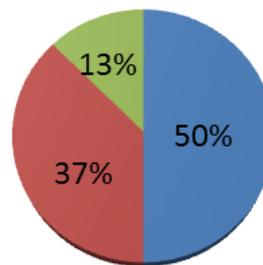
The chart to the left shows the child age of diagnosis by Local Education Agency or LEA; Early Steps and Miami Dade County

70 Head Start Children were found to have concerns in the area of mental health. 4 Early Head Start Children were found to have concerns in the area of mental health. All children received services in the classroom setting from the staff and Licensed Mental Health Consultant.

HEAD START MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



EARLY HEAD START MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



- DECA PLANS
- RESOLVED
- REFUSED
- RECEIVED CRISIS INTERVENTION
- REFERRED FOR FURTHER SERVICES

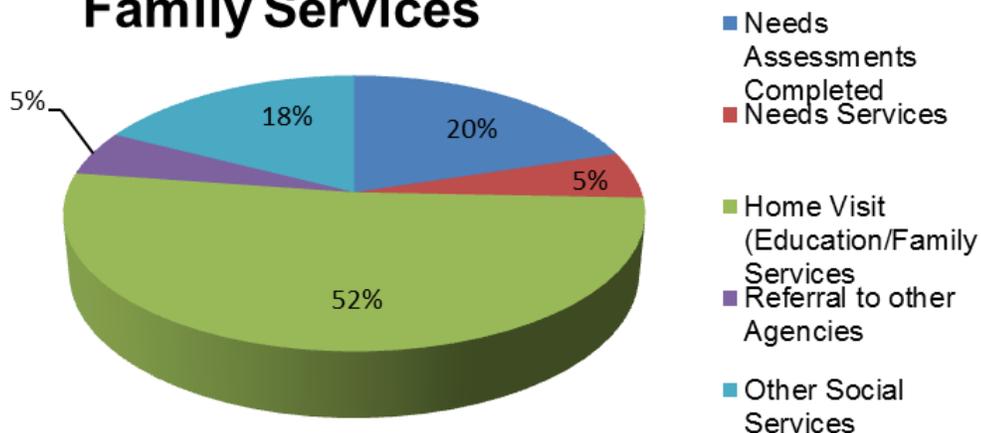
OUR FAMILIES



Demographics of Family Needs

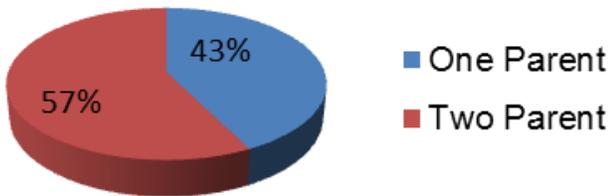
The family service chart below shows the assessments we do with our families to gather information on how we can help families. We then provide Social Services in house or provide referrals to community partners to assist with hardships or needed

Family Services



Demographics of our Families

Parental Status



<u>Parental Status</u>	<u>One Parent</u>	<u>Two Parent</u>
HS	199	281
EHS	9	23
Total	208	304



Almost half of our students come from a single parent home. This begins to show the hardship that is faced within our community.

Parent Involvement

Approximately 90-100 different parents attended our monthly parent meetings at the centers covering topics such as Early Literacy, Mental Health, Child Abuse and Breast cancer.

Over 20% of all fathers and/or father figures attended our father involvement activities.



In-Kind Donations

Our parents donate approximately 202 hours per month to support us. Our top parent volunteer donates over 400 hours every month.

We are very thankful to have such committed parents and volunteers.



OUR CLASSROOMS



Education

Our Curriculum

The early years are the learning years. A child's ability to be attentive and to follow directions emerges in the early years. Structured early learning fosters these abilities for later success in school and in life. The most important growth and development in the brain happens by the age of five.

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. uses High Scope Curriculum in our Head Start program. High Scope is based on the children's interests and utilizes a hands-on approach through real-life materials.

High Scope Curriculum with VPK Standards is used for our four-year-olds in the VPK Program. VPK includes pre, mid and post assessments to demonstrate development.

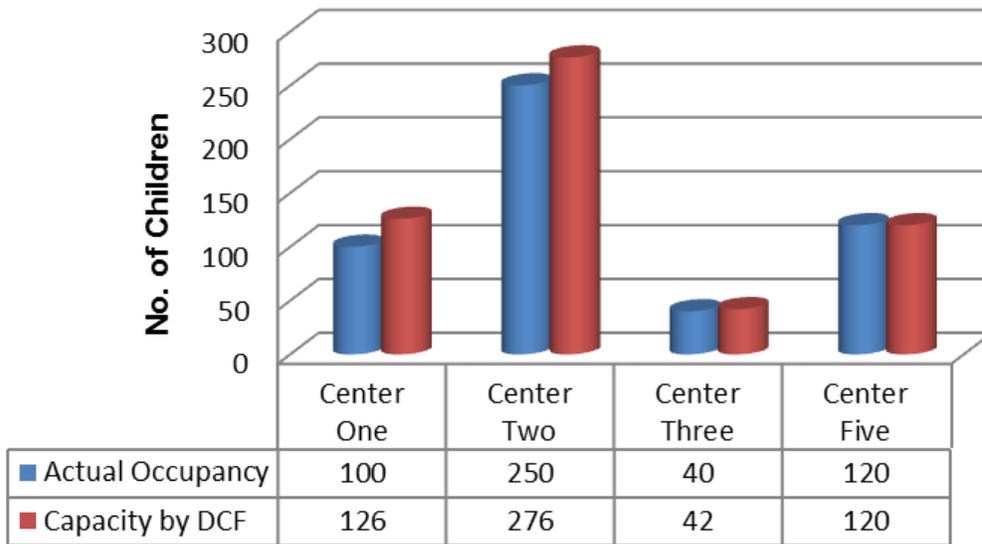
Early Head Start utilizes Creative Curriculum for infant and toddler, concentrating at specific age levels.

Pre-K prepares children to be ready for school. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs develop better language skills, score higher in school-readiness tests and have better social skills and fewer behavioral problems once they enter school. They are also better prepared for Kindergarten, especially in the areas of pre-reading, pre-math and social skills.



Classroom Occupancy compared to DCF License Limits on Capacity

Actual Occupancy and DCF License



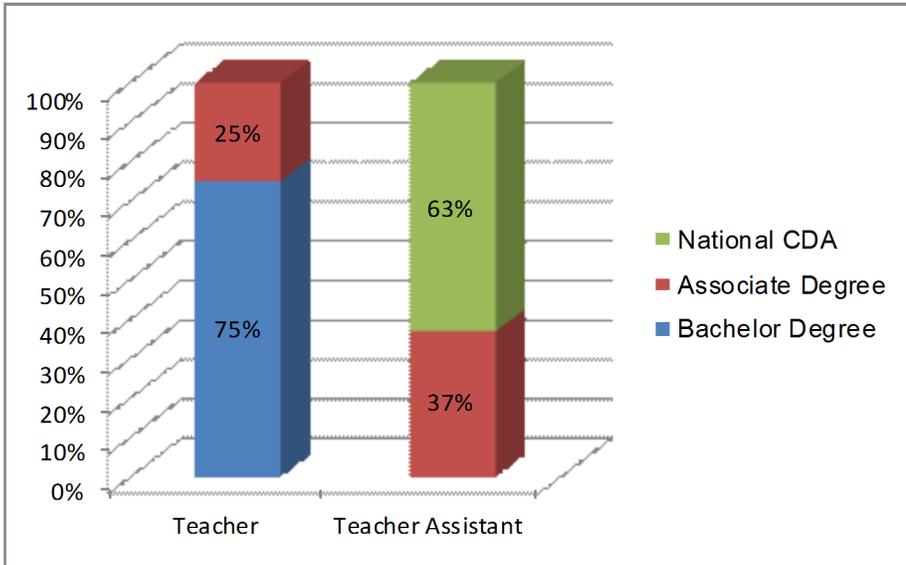
As the graph above clearly displays, Le Jardin has chosen to remain below the capacity maximum according to the DCF requirements.

This allows our teaching staff to really focus on the individual needs of each child.



Staff Credentials

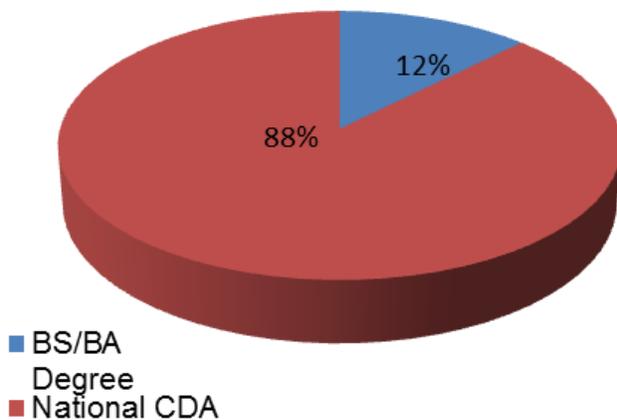
At Le Jardin we pride ourselves on having only the most qualified staff



Out of the 24 Head Start teachers, 18 have obtained a BS/BA degree, which over exceeds the 2013 National Head Start mandate. For those 6 teachers who have obtained an AS/AA degree, all 6 are enrolled in a BS/BA

100% of the Head Start teacher assistants meet the National Head Start CDA mandate. Out of the 24 teacher assistants, 15 have a National CDA in preschool and 9 have an AS/AA degree. Out of the 9 teacher assistants who have an AS/AA degree, 8 are pursuing a BS/BA degree.

Early Head Start Caregiver



100 percent of all caregivers have obtained a National CDA in Infant and Toddlers meeting the National Head Start mandate. One caregiver has obtained a BS degree in early childhood. Out of the remaining 7 caregivers, 5 are enrolled in an AS/AA



OUR PROGRAM

This is how we do what we do

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is constantly seeking ways to improve our program through staff training, partnerships with the community and maintaining a strong philosophy of integrity and accountability.

Financial Highlights

Le Jardin Community Center uses a strict ethical code and follows all policies and procedures in financial matters. We are determined to run our nonprofit as a business.

Revenue for August 1, 2012 — July 31, 2013

Head Start	\$3,021,600
Early Head Start	\$393,165
USDA Child Care Food Program	\$462,668
Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$545,480
ERATE	\$70,515
Other Contributions	\$83,623
Total Revenue	\$4,577,051



Projected Funding for August 1, 2013 — July 31, 2014

Head Start	\$3,021,600
Early Head Start	\$393,165
USDA Child Care Food Program	\$471,921
Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$556,389
ERATE	\$71,325
Cit of Homestead-CRA	\$20,000
Other Contributions	\$136,253
Total Revenue	\$4,670,653

Professional Development

Staff professional development is important at Le Jardin. We believe in giving our employees the tools they need to help our children succeed.

In order to continuously offer above average education, the staff at Le Jardin attends over 15 hours of training a month. Some of the trainings our staff attend are:

- 20 hours of yearly Pre Service Training provided by CAHS
- ERSEA
- CLASS
- Monitoring and Compliance
- Lesson Planning
- Health and Safety
- Creative Curriculum Ideas
- Bully-proofing
- Nutritional Training



Our staff also receives an annual personalized professional development plan which caters to the individual wants and needs of the employee. Empowering them to reach their full potential.

Community Partners

Le Jardin uses several partners to assist and provide services to our families free of charge.

- Lion Club of Florida District 35 N
- Novo Nordisk, Inc.
- Goya Foods
- Barry University College of Health and Sciences
- Chrysalis Center – Mental Health Services
- D & D Psych – Mental Health Services
- En Familia –Support group for families, victim of abuse and parenting classes
- Florida International University – Center for Children and Families
- Perfect Speech- Speech, Language, OT and Physical Therapy
- The Birthing Center-Licensed Midwife for women health services
- University of Miami- School of Medicine
- We Care – Local community based organization variety of services
- Community medical Group – Primary medical Home
- Florida Center for Allergy & Asthma Care – Allergy & Asthma Specialist
- EDGE – Early Development of Global Education (Global Responsibility)
- Deb Tech- Educational training services to staff and parents; classroom support
- Silver Palm United Methodist Church- faith based services and family counseling
- Art South





Early Learning Coalition
of Miami-Dade/Monroe



Head Start

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



USDA



For More Information

This was an Annual Report of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs at Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. for the 2012-2013 School Year.

Please visit our website at www.lejardincinc.org

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LeJardinCommunityCenter

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/LeJardinCC

For additional information about Head Start please visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/about>

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