



Transformations

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc.

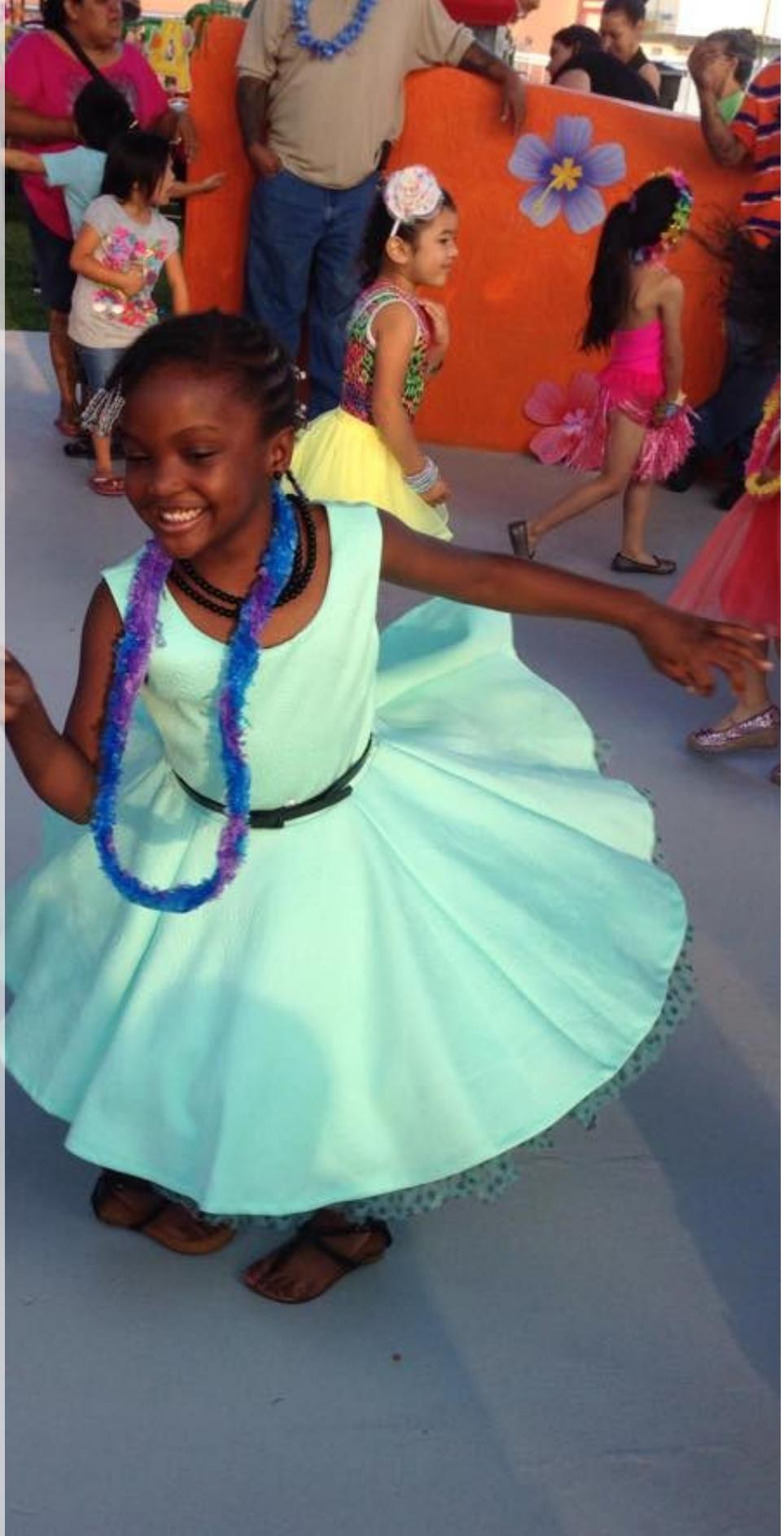
Annual Report 2014 – 2015

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Our Transformation

The team at Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is continuously improving our program and looking for new ways to enhance our curriculum, engage parents, and help our staff to grow. Ultimately, we want our students and families to be prepared for elementary school and beyond. We are in the business of transforming lives and helping our local community succeed and break the cycle of poverty.



Our Transformation

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is a nonprofit agency founded in 1987. Le Jardin has 28 years of experience in transforming the lives of low-income children and families in the southern regions of Miami-Dade County. When the agency began, we only served 20 children, currently we serve over 600 children annually from birth to five years of age. In addition to providing exceptional care to the children, we provide comprehensive services to the parents, such as case management, parental training, health services, and nutritional training. Our family workers assist the families by making referrals to educational, vocational, employment, housing, medical, dental and transportation providers. Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. also provides supplemental services to promote and support family and child health, and special education services to children with IEP/IFSP's.

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.

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. provides children and families with opportunities to learn, develop and increase their likelihood of success in the future, thereby giving them a "Head Start".

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Enriched by the diversity of our community, Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families. We provide high quality educational, recreational and cultural activities and comprehensive services in a safe, caring and nurturing environment. As a private not-for-profit corporation, Le Jardin seeks opportunities, partnerships and resources to meet changing community needs.

VALUE STATEMENT

As an organization, Le Jardin promotes the following values as our guide in all relationships:

Honesty through integrity, trust and accountability
Respect and sensitivity to diversity
Open-mindedness
Creativity
Open and clear communications
Professionalism
Caring and understanding

QUALITY STATEMENT

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is composed of a diverse team of professionals whom maximize resources to involve parents in a partnership that completes a circle of mutual support and to open the world to the inquisitive minds of children.

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dear friends of our organization,

Since joining the Le Jardin family, I've been thrilled to be a part of the transformation here. When I was elected in 2014 to be Chairman of the Board, I was proud and honored to accept the position. Le Jardin has a great team of personnel who work tirelessly for the best interest of children and families in need. I was ecstatic to bring in iPads to our classrooms to help our student better prepare to use the technologies of the future. We are looking forward to opening our very own Charter School in the coming years at the request of our parents who are so involved in the education of their children. I'd like to thank everyone that supports us as their charity of choice. It's heartening to know that there are so many willing to join on our mission to provide a Head Start to the children and families of Homestead and Florida City. We can best secure our future by making sure that the ones who will be leaders in the future are given the tools for success now.

Eugene "Red" McAllister

Message from the Executive Director

Cinco de Mayo 2015 was my 18th years anniversary as Executive Director of Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. During my tenure, Le Jardin has become a leading organization in Early Childhood Development. We have educated and developed young minds to become successful individuals and have empowered our families.

Le Jardin was founded to improve the quality of life for children and families; to provide high quality educational, recreational and cultural activities and comprehensive services in a safe, caring and nurturing environment. It is a pleasure and honor for me to serve as Executive Director and promote the mission of the organization.

This past year, Le Jardin has had major accomplishments, such as all centers received NAEYC accreditation, the implementation of the Early Children Hands on Science Curriculum (ECHOS), implementation of the IPADs as a supplement educational tool and improving the amphitheater and playgrounds. Additionally, staff development training is at an all time high.

Eduardo Berrones

Members of the Board of Directors

Eugene McAllister, Chairman: Retired Chief of Police DCPD

Luis Olarte, Vice Chair: Miami Global Colombian Lions Club

Norma Brieler, Secretary: Retired Head Start Administrator

Edward Weider, Treasurer: Enrolled Agent Dade South Accounting

Luz Gonzalez, Member: Former Head Start Parent

Edward Lavery, Member: Retired Banker

Lorna Escoffery, Member: President Escoffery Consulting Collaborative, Inc.

John Arias, Member: President/Owner JMT Logistics JM Transportation, Inc.

Daryl Greenfield, Member: Psychology & Pediatrics Professor University of Miami

Opal Winebrenner, Member

Omayra Philipson, Member: Parent Policy Committee Chairperson

Janet Horman, Member: Coordinator of Project HEAL with Branches



Members of the Parent Policy Committee

Omayra Philipson, Chairperson: Current Parent of the Program

Lolita Stinson, Vice Chair: Current Parent of the Program

Rosemary Cordero, Secretary: Current Parent of the Program

Maria Benites, Parliamentarian: Current Parent of the Program

Veronica Miranda, Treasurer: Current Parent of the Program

Carmelo Erazo, Alternate: Current Parent of the Program

David Belmontes, Community Representative: Former Child of the HS and local business owner of Homestead Signs and T-Shirts

Paulina Jeronimo, Member: Current Parent of the Program

Elvia Quijano, Member: Current Parent of the Program

Damaris Batista, Member: Current Parent of the Program



Fiscal Integrity

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. believes in perfect fiscal honesty. For several years we have received clean fiscal audits and are considered a low-risk auditee. Each year we search for grants to fund additional resources for the program and the children and families we serve. This year we implemented several fundraising campaigns such as a yard sale, car wash and sponsorship for events.

Revenue for August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015

Head Start	\$3,070,871
Early Head Start	\$398,612
USDA Child Care Food Program	\$458,105
Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$551,860
E-Rate	\$85,729
City of Homestead-CRA	\$25,000
MDCPS Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge	\$50,000
Other Contributions	\$8,868
Total Revenue	\$4,649,045





Transformations in Education

With the implementation of the ECHOS Curriculum (Early Childhood Hands-On Science), and other supplements such as iPads, we have been able to transform our school into a center that fosters a love for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Transformations in Education

At Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. we are passionate about our children and providing the finest education. We know that children are the future and that by providing children with the best education we are planting seeds for a much brighter future. Children deserve a healthy and nurturing atmosphere to grow and learn; at Le Jardin we fulfill our mission by giving a Head Start to those that need it the most.

All children receive high quality, responsive, and individualized care and education from skilled and knowledgeable teaching staff. We foster environments where children feel secure and respected, are encouraged to actively explore and create, and where they are consistently challenged and encouraged to build on and add to their knowledge base.

Le Jardin initiated a major change with its instructional focus and practices with the addition of the Museum of Science's ECHOS Curriculum. A change needed to be made in order to provide a seamless and connected learning program. Le Jardin revamped its curriculum so that the instructional goals were integrated with science concepts. Goals for cognitive development, social and emotional skills were taught through the monthly theme topic. Planning began in August for this major change and continued throughout the school year. Teachers were trained by the Miami Science Museum staff on the ECHOS curriculum. Even Early Head Start students became involved in a Baby ECHOS program.

Teachers played a major role in planning the activities during their Professional Planning Communities' meetings throughout the school year. A collaborative effort ensured school-wide implementation with teachers working towards similar higher order thinking skills.

Le Jardin began with the theme, "Think Like a Scientist" in August and continued with science themes throughout the year with a new concepts each month.

Kellogg's Grant Recipient

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. was selected by the Miami Science Museum's ECHOS Curriculum Coordinators to fund ECHOS learning materials and kits by the Kellogg's Grant. We were one of three selected to receive these funds. The grant covered the supplies for our Center 2 location, and we chose to purchase the materials in order to implement this science-based curriculum across all of our other centers.



Classroom Enrollment

As the table below displays, Le Jardin remains below the maximum capacity per center. This ensures that the children have adequate space to play, learn and explore. All classrooms maintain a ratio of one teaching staff per ten children; Head Start classrooms include twenty children, one teacher and one teacher assistant. Early Head Start classrooms include eight children with two teachers.

Center	Capacity by DCF	Actual Capacity
One	126	100
Two	276	252
Three	42	40
Five	120	120
Total	564	512



NAEYC Accreditation

All four of our childcare centers are NAEYC accredited, which is the highest level of accreditation that can be obtained by an early childhood educational facility. Average scores were above 95% for our locations indicating the quality of our educators and our learning environment. In addition to receiving this prestigious title, Le Jardin benefited from a year long transformation process that led to program improvement across all component areas.



Transformations in our Educators

100% of our Head Start Teachers now have a Bachelor's degree or higher. This is an improvement from last year where 21 of our HS Teachers had a Bachelor's degree and 3 had an Associate's degree. In addition, 6 of our HS Teachers have acquired a Master's degree.

Last year, 10 of our Head Start Teacher Assistants had an Associate's degree and 14 had a NCDA. However this year 1 HS Teacher Assistant obtained a Bachelor's degree, 10 have an Associate's degree and 13 still have the NCDA credential.

Le Jardin strongly encourages the continuation of education and the continuous improvement of our educator's professional development.

Educator Title	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Associate's Degree	National Child Development Associate Certification
Head Start Teacher	6	18	-	-
Head Start Teacher Assistant	-	1	10	13





100% of our Early Head Start teachers continue to hold a National Child Development Associate Credential specializing in Infants and Toddlers

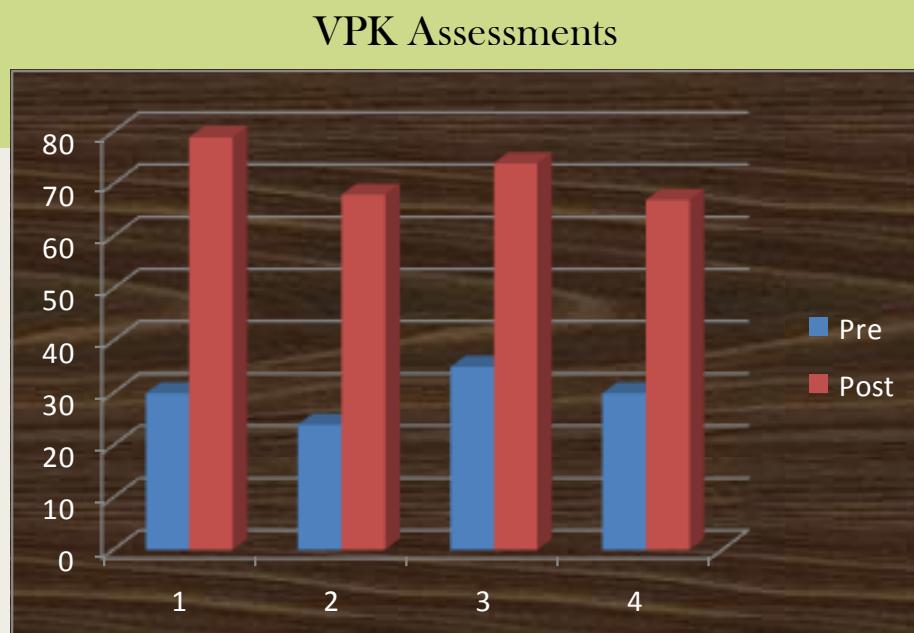
Transformations in the Quality of Education

CLASS training was conducted throughout the school year during Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings which took place once a week in each center. In addition, the areas of Instructional Support and Language Modeling were added to the lesson plan forms so that instructional staff includes these strategies in their weekly plans.

High Scope strategies and concepts were included through videos, and face-to-face trainings. Participation in NAEYC's accreditation process led to increased understanding of the High Scope curriculum.

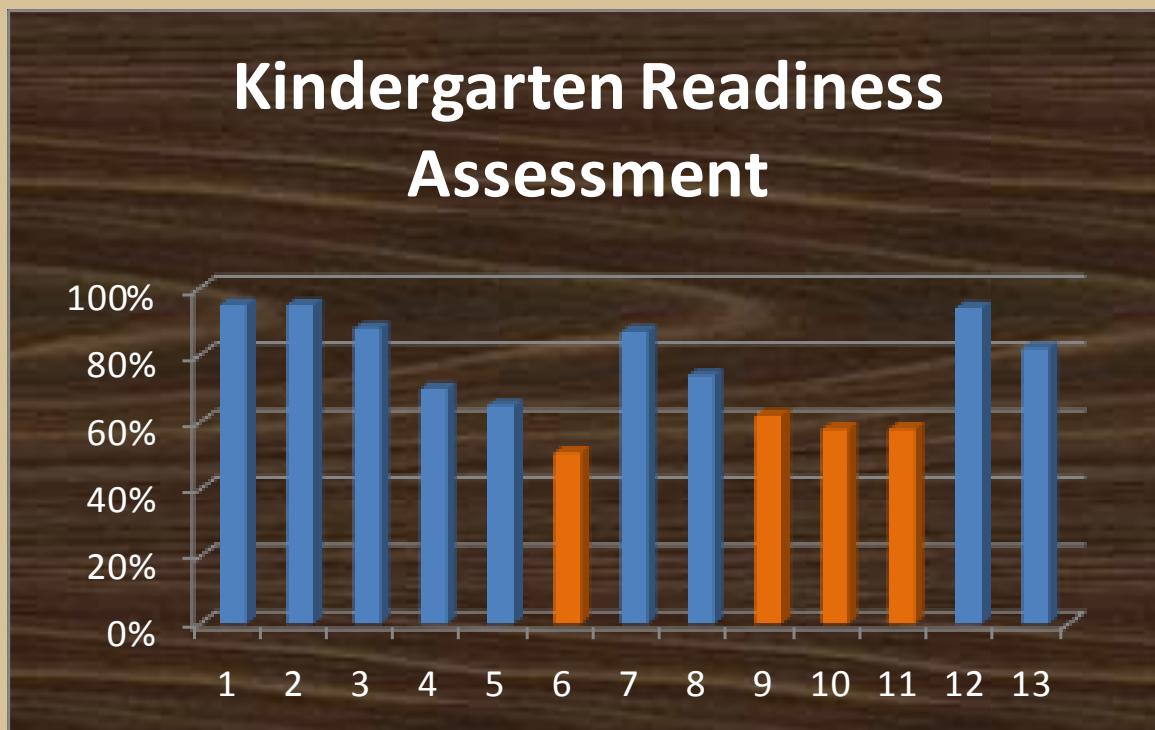
Each week, a focus plan with corresponding activities with all curriculum areas represented was e-mailed to instructional staff. Curriculum and instructional staff worked cooperatively to produce this plan. This streamlining was imperative as teaching staff was challenged with greater expectations in academic quality. Streamlining of goals and objectives resulted in progress made from first assessment period to the second assessment period as demonstrated in the chart below.

The blue indicates the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations during the first assessment period and the red indicates the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations in the second assessment period.



In order to become proficient readers, students must learn to recognize and name the letters of the alphabet. Students must also learn which letters and letter combinations are used to represent the sounds of the English language. Students must move to blending phonemes (sounds) into word segments then words. These skills are critical components of successful reading. Identifying a child's difficulties with letters and sounds at a young age may prevent reading difficulties as they enter school.

Teachers developed intervention plans and strategies for individual children according to assessment results. The bar graph chart below shows the percentage of children making progress between first and second assessment periods. The bars in blue reflect results for skills that are more fundamental for children while the orange bars reflect skills that are more difficult and are still in progress.

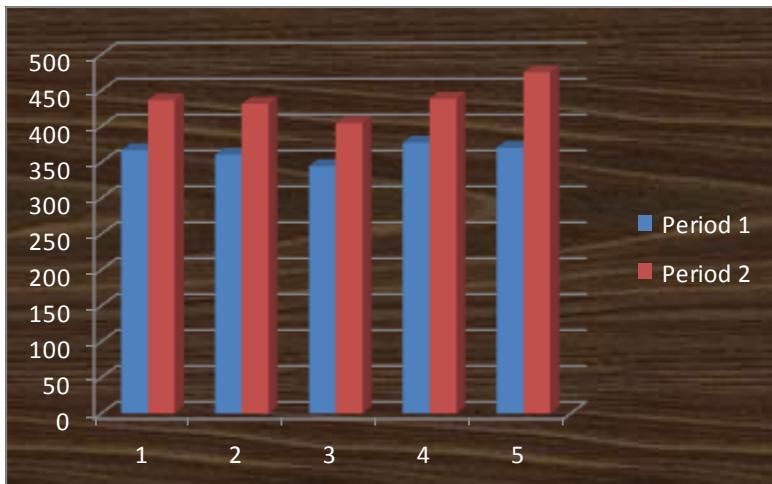


1. Upper Case Letter Recognition
2. Lower Case Letter Recognition
3. Produce Sound for Individual Letters
4. Blend Compound Words
5. Blend Onset and Rime
6. Blend Individual Phonemes
7. Recognize Numbers 1-30
8. Blend Compound Word Segments
9. Deletion-Compound Words
10. Deletion Initial Sound
11. Deletion Final Sound
12. Recognize Colors
13. Recognize Color Words

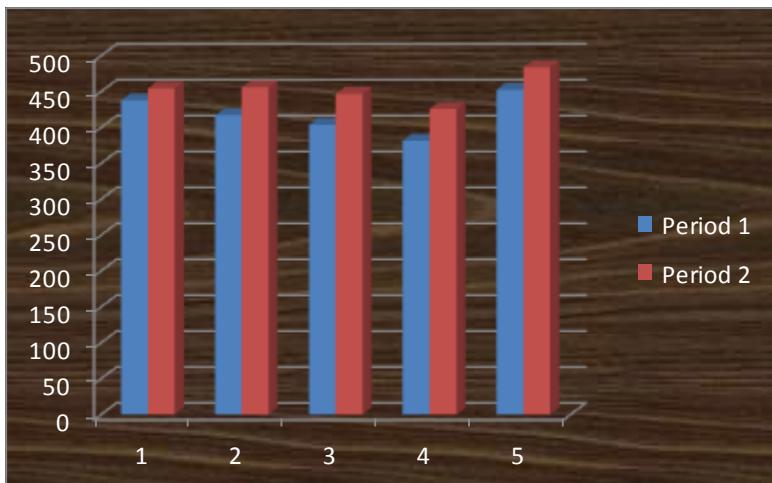
Parents are able to access the Galileo portal for individual child outcomes reports at any time from home. Instructional staff met with parents at least four times a year to review Galileo results and ensure that parents learn how to maneuver the Galileo portal. Parents were able to reinforce areas of concern with children at home as recommended by their teacher and the results from the reports.



EHS Galileo Outcome Report Ages 8–18 months

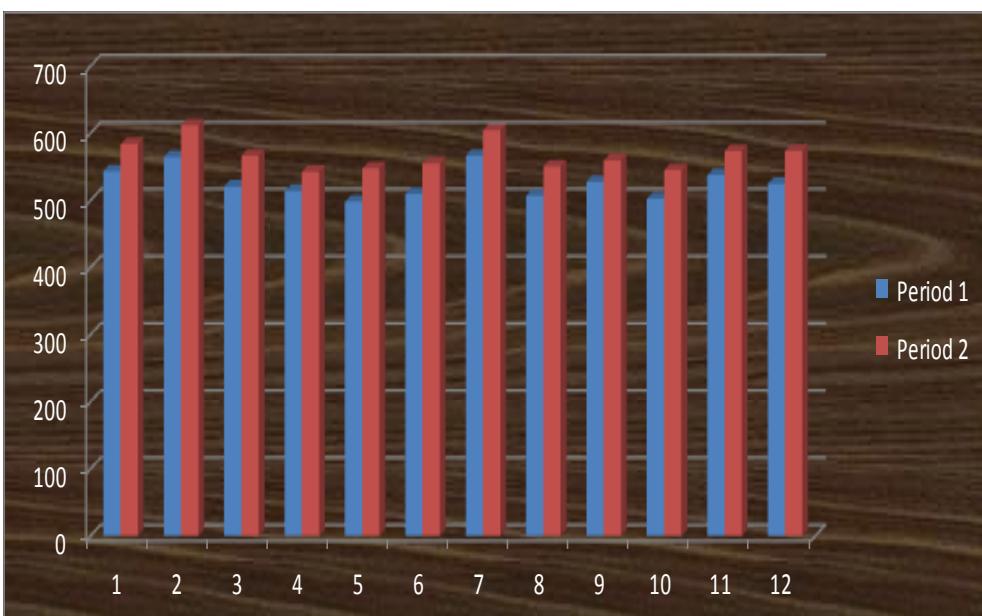


EHS Galileo Outcome Report Ages 18–24 months



1. Approaches to Learning
2. Cognitive Development and General Knowledge
3. Language and Communication
4. Physical Development and Health
5. Social and Emotional Development

HS Galileo Outcome Report Ages 3–5 years



1. Approaches to Learning
2. Creative Arts
3. Early Math
4. English Language Acquisition
5. Language
6. Literacy
7. Logic and Reasoning
8. Nature and Science
9. Physical Development and Health
10. Social and Emotional Development
11. Social Studies
12. Galileo School Readiness



Transformations in our Families

Our Family Services Department plays a vital role in the transformation of lives in the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. They establish goals with the families and guide them on the path to success; breaking the cycle of poverty.

Transformations in our Families

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. knows that the family of a child is their first teacher. We strive to teach, assist and encourage transformation in our families for themselves as well as for their children. Our Family Services Component works very closely with families to guide them toward reaching their own personal and professional goals. We provide referrals, training classes, on-site computers, nutrition information and so much more. Children look up to their parents and so in addition to giving our students a Head Start we give our families the same opportunity.

Families that transition out of our program are better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead in the public school system and have a competitive advantage in the workforce. We teach families to advocate for their children and themselves through trainings, Policy Committee Meetings, and one-on-one resources and guiding.

Our family services team assesses families to gather information on how we can best help them. We then provide Social Services in-house or provide referrals to community partners to assist with hardships or needed services. The information on the assessments help our team target the most appropriate workshops and trainings which are then brought on site for parents to attend. Parents receive trainings on parenting, nutrition, finances and budgeting, health, and more.

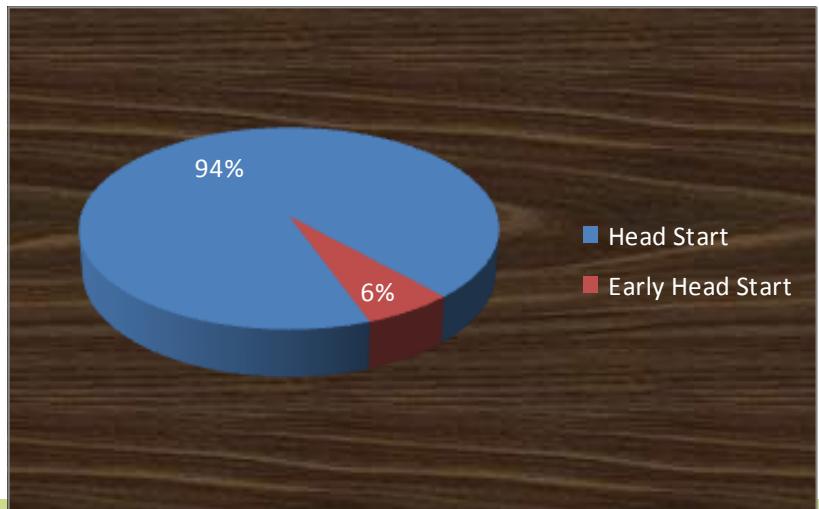
This year Le Jardin was selected by Miami -Dade County Public Schools for the Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge Family Empowerment Grant. This grant allowed us to increase the resources for parents of children Title I Schools in Homestead and Florida City. We are constantly on the lookout for grants and opportunities to assist us in the transformation of lives through educating the parents of our program.



As a part of the Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge Family Empowerment Grant. Le Jardin took several parents to a local store to search for books. During the visit, our Early Childhood Development Coordinator read to the children books that the children selected and the parents were able to purchase books of their choosing free of charge on behalf of the grant. Parents and children greatly enjoyed their time at the store and the employees were thrilled to help their local community search for the best books for each parent and child.

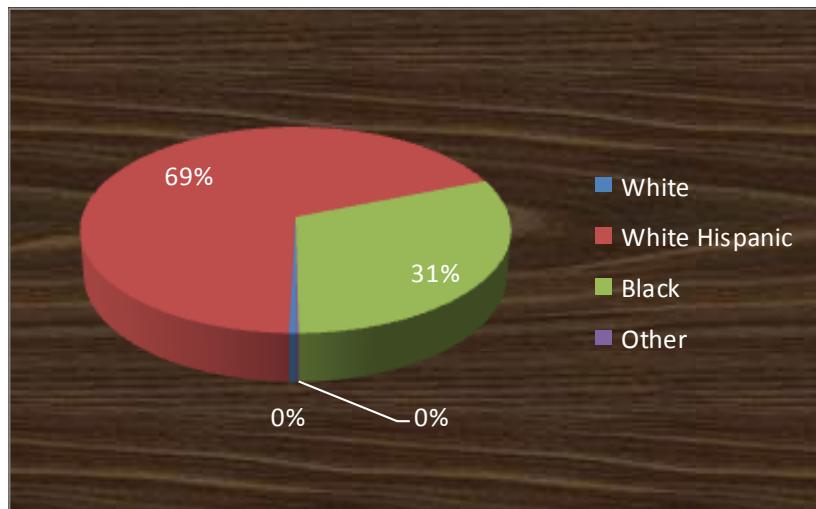
Child Demographics

Head Start	480
Early Head Start	32
Total	512

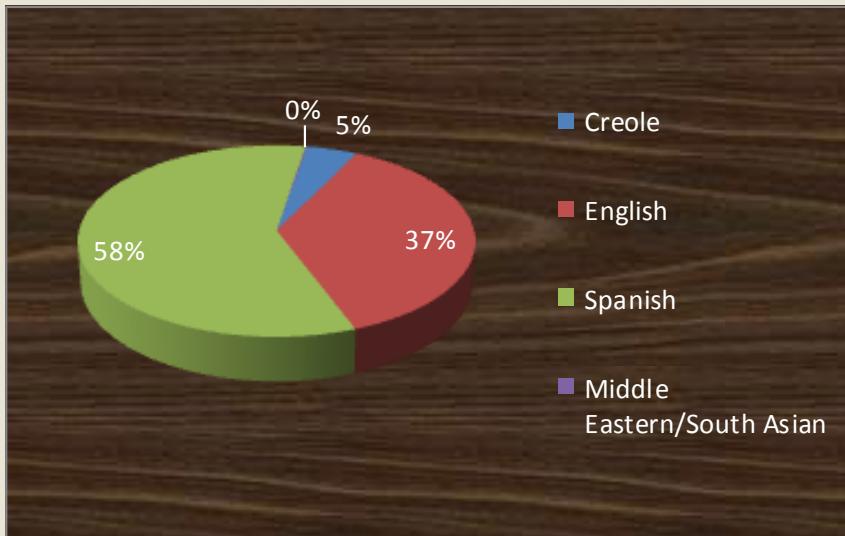


Le Jardin is a true reflection of the communities in which serves. Although race is designated as White, White Hispanic, Black or Other there is a vast diversity between the families at our centers. We have families from all over including South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. This diverse population exposes children to various cultures and languages which is reflected in our multicultural classroom lessons. We aim to provide a true reflection of what the children will see outside of the school walls.

Race	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
White	2	0	2
White Hispanic	329	18	347
Black	148	14	162
Other	1	0	1

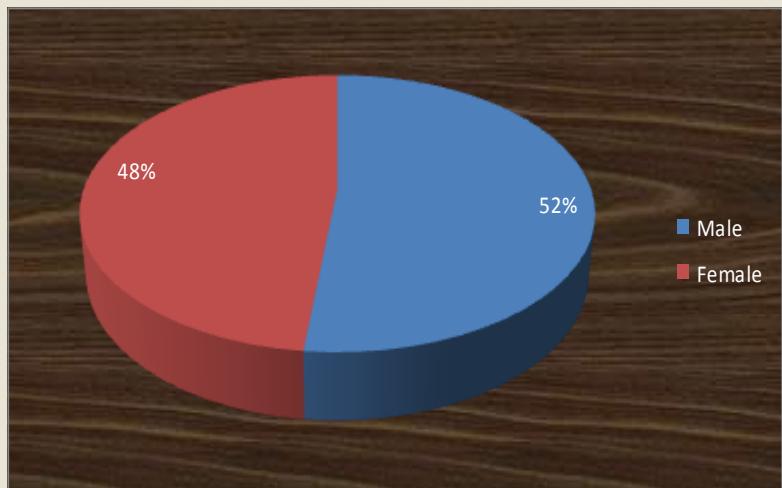


Language	Head Start	Early Head Start	Total
Creole	23	3	26
English	192	18	210
Spanish	309	24	333
Middle Eastern/South Asian	1	0	1



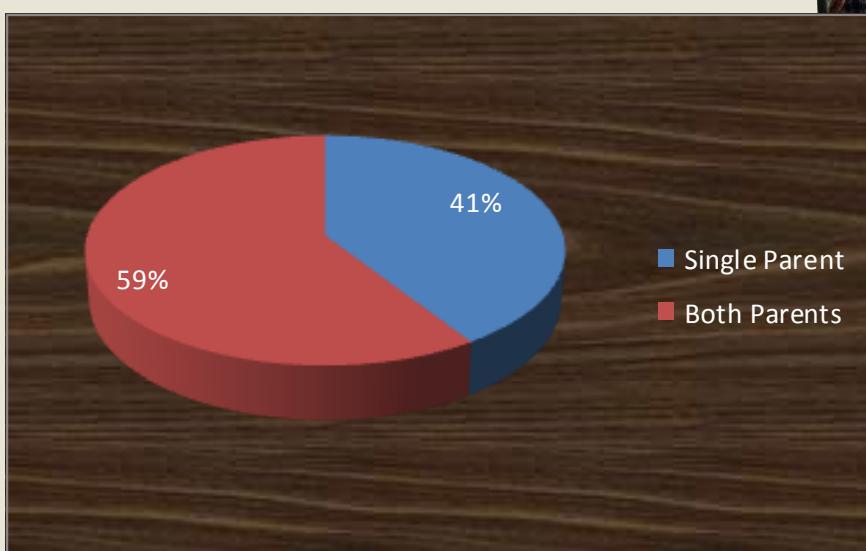
Le Jardin actively recruits within the community without an exception to race or gender. A snap shot of our program will show that gender is almost evenly split between male and female students.

Gender	Male	Female
Head Start	246	234
Early Head Start	19	13
Total	265	247



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

Parental Status	Single Parent	Both Parents
Head Start	192	288
Early Head Start	17	15
Total	209	303



We are transforming the way fathers see their children. Le Jardin has an active father initiative program. It is of upmost importance for fathers and father-figures to be actively involved in their children lives. In some cultures the father does not take an active role in the raising of children and are unaware of the benefits it provides to their child's development. Through focused activities geared for fathers like the Daddy Daughter Dance, and fathers reading in the classrooms, we have been able to successfully promote father involvement within our program. We have had well over 70 father-figures participate in our father involvement activities.





This year Le Jardin enrolled our first infant into the Early Head Start program. This brought several changes to all the component areas of the agency. We were very excited to meet with the mother during her pregnancy and after the baby was born to ensure the best start in life for this little man. Just one more way that Le Jardin is transforming our program for the betterment of our local community.



Transformations in Nutrition

Nutrition is a vital element in the transformation of a child's life and therefore in order to see transformation in our children's lives we have to help children and families make healthy food choices.



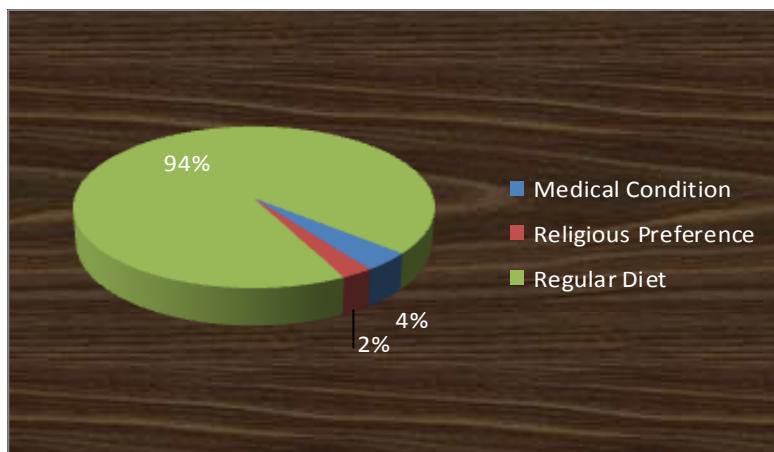
Transformations in Nutrition

Nutrition is a very important component to a child's development. At Le Jardin we provide our children with breakfast, lunch and snack daily free of charge to the parents. 100% of the children are on free lunch status as per the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). We find it extremely important to serve the children the high quality meals that are low in sodium and offer several choices across several different cultures. We also work with a registered dietitian to create specialized meal plans for children that have certain circumstances such as a food allergy or religious preferences.

Le Jardin also works to decrease obesity in the children that attend our program through specialized meal plans and exercise through structured play on the playground.

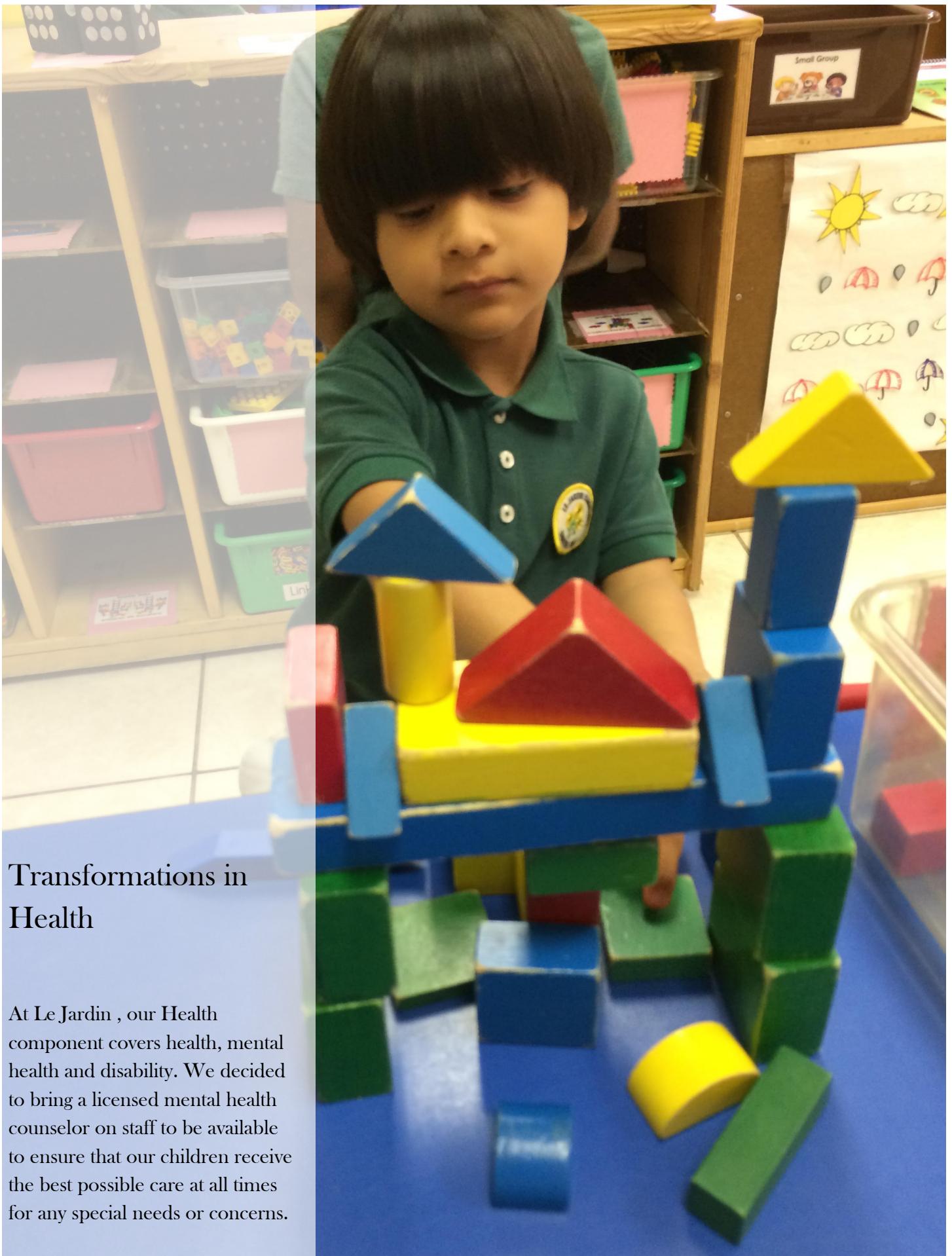
We also provide training to our parents on nutrition so that they can make the most educated choices for their health and the health of their children. Each month our Nutrition Manager send home healthy meal projects as home activities for parents to do with their children while also learning about nutrition. Our monthly newsletter has tips for parents to eat healthy while on a budget.

The chart below shows the number of children that have special diets at Le Jardin. The majority of students with special diets are as a result of medical conditions such as food allergies. We also work with parents and the registered dietitian to ensure children with religious preferences also receive the best nutrition while respecting their beliefs and cultures.



Medical Condition	20
Religious Preference	13
Total	33





Transformations in

Health

At Le Jardin , our Health component covers health, mental health and disability. We decided to bring a licensed mental health counselor on staff to be available to ensure that our children receive the best possible care at all times for any special needs or concerns.

Transformations in Health

The Health Component of Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. encompasses the areas of health, mental health and disability services. This year we focused on improving our Health component by increasing the qualifications for health staff and hiring a licensed mental health counselor full-time. The transformations in this program have been very evident as the amount of children with a disability enrolled in our Head Start program went from 5% last year to 9% this year.

The health team initiated other healthy programs such as a partnership with Walgreens to provide free flu shots to the parents and staff on site. Not only does Le Jardin assist children with preventive health care but we also assist their parents in promoting healthy living.

Early Head Start students participated in an Oral Health Screening Survey. The data collected from the screenings was used to guide the planning, implementation and evaluations of programs to prevent and control disease in the public.

In an attempt to improve the health of our staff, the health component also created a “Weight Loss Challenge” in which any staff that wished to participate could join the competition. Several employees participated in the challenge and not only lost several pounds, but also learned healthy habits to keep the weight off.

At Le Jardin we aim to transform the lives of our children, families and our staff through education about health, mental health and disabilities.

Le Jardin created a partnership with Pediatrician Dr. Andres Rodriguez, to volunteer his services once a month to provide free physical exams to children with expired health documents and children who do not qualify for medical insurance. Dr. Rodriguez also conducted parent trainings on topics related to child development, health and more. By establishing this partnership, Le Jardin Community Center was able to maintain the most updated health documents, provide medical services to children who do not have healthcare coverage and educate the parents of the children we serve. We are very grateful to Dr. Rodriguez for his volunteer services to the children and families of Le Jardin.



Children with special needs in Head Start:

Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) are provided to children with identified developmental delays. Last year Le Jardin had 25 children with identified disabilities. This year we have increased the number of children that we served with disabilities to 43. In terms of percentage, we have increased the number of children we serve with disabilities from 5% to 9%.

Through evaluation and screening, Le Jardin was able to increase the number of suspected children with disabilities from 18 last year to 33 this school year. All 33 children were referred to FDLRS for further evaluation. Of the 33, 12 are pending screenings.

Type of service	Number of children
½ day speech and language	6
½ day reverse mainstream	12
½ LEAP	2
Consult	6
Walk in therapy	17



Children with special needs in Early Head Start:

Our team found an increase in children with identified disabilities from 9 children last year to 21 children this year. The increase in identified disabilities resulted in having 28% of the children in our program with disabilities last year to 65% children with disabilities this year. An increase of 37%.

Early prevention is key in assisting children with special needs, not only in linking them to the appropriate services but also to assist them with appropriate development.





As part of professional development our staff was provided a Mental Health training on the topic of Autism conducted by the University of Miami. The training enhanced the knowledge of our staff by teaching them how to identify symptoms of Autism. They also learned a variety of different teaching strategies to assist them in the classroom while working with children who have been diagnosed with Autism.



Our Partners

We rely on the support from several community partners to successfully transform lives in Homestead and Florida City. We work with several different organizations and individuals to ensure that our children receive the best possible services we can offer. Our partners help us through book donations, referrals for therapy or other services, legal counsel for our parents, free training, and so much more. We greatly appreciate our community partners. Together we are transforming lives.

Community Partners

- ◆ Miami Colombian Lions Club
- ◆ Blaylock Oil Company
- ◆ St. Philips Episcopal Church and School
- ◆ Westminster Christian School
- ◆ Councilwoman Patricia Fairclough
- ◆ Vice Mayor Steve Shelley
- ◆ 1st National Bank
- ◆ Brown and Brown Insurance
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 252
- ◆ MDCPS Title I Migrant Program
- ◆ Kaplan Early Learning Supplies
- ◆ Allied Paper
- ◆ Halmac Construction
- ◆ Greater Miami Caterers
- ◆ enFamilia
- ◆ Silver Palm United Methodist Church
- ◆ WIC Program
- ◆ Perfect Therapy 4 Kidz/Perfect Speech
- ◆ Arley Therapy
- ◆ Friendly Hands, Inc.
- ◆ A.T. Services
- ◆ The Birthing Center
- ◆ Florida Center for Allergy & Asthma Care
- ◆ ABC Pediatric Rehab
- ◆ Optimize Today's Wellness
- ◆ Sunshine Health Network
- ◆ Magic Mile Rehab
- ◆ Express it Speech and Language Rehab



The Annual Report of the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs at
Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. for the 2014–2015 Program Year.

Please visit our website at www.lejardinccinc.org

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

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

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Center 2 License # C11MD0422
Center 3 License #C11MD1855
Center 5 License # C11MD2141



Early Learning Coalition
of Miami-Dade/Monroe



Head
Start

