

# **ANNUAL REPORT, 2015**

## **EL HOGAR DEL NINO**

### **Educational Philosophy**

El Hogar Del Nino is a child-centered program. The components are designed to meet the needs of each child and to support and strengthen each family. We strongly believe that children reach their potential in an emotionally secure environment where they can develop at their own pace.

- Our program provides a nurturing, clean and safe environment where each child gains a positive sense of self.
- We believe that children learn best when information and activities are a meaningful part of their daily life in the classroom.
- We believe children's primary caregivers are the most important adults in a child's life and we actively seek to involve them in the life of their child at El Hogar Del Nino. We support and invite the varying constellations of families that our program serves.
- Our program focuses on the development of the whole child by providing daily activities to enhance their physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional, personal and creative growth.
- We intentionally plan a balance of learning opportunities: large group and individualized, physically active and restful, imaginative and concrete, outcome specific and open ended, sensory and intellectual, social and independent.
- Our framework for meeting the needs of all children originates with Creative Curriculum, and all of the components of that.
- We believe that children learn best in a play-based environment that is rich in open-ended, high quality interactions with teachers that encourages a spirit of investigation. The weekly unit of study identified in each lesson plan is built on the interest of the children. This allows curriculum goals and objectives to be aligned with each individual child's progress. These individualizations are inherent in each lesson plan, allowing teachers to meet the needs of each child on a continual basis.

The racial, ethnic and cultural differences of our families enhance the learning environment and provide opportunities to learn about our many cultural heritages and traditions. We expect the diverse racial, ethnic and cultural identities of children, parents, and staff to be supported, welcomed, and evident in our centers.

### **Parent Engagement**

Head Start focuses on parent engagement in an effort to close the achievement gap and produce positive child outcomes. EHDN acknowledges parents to be their child's first teacher, supports their efforts, and provides a welcoming and comfortable environment for mothers and fathers with various opportunities for involvement, including the Health Services Advisory Committee, Parent Policy Committee, Parent Policy Council, and volunteering in the classrooms. All parents are notified of all parent involvement activities.

EHDN Head Start staff build partnerships with parents and encourage them to develop family goals and attend parent events. These events include parent education meetings where parents learn about pedestrian safety, fire safety, and employment/job training programs; the Abriendo Puertas Program where parents learn about how children's learning styles. In addition, mental health/child behavior issues, family literacy, child abuse prevention, healthy meal preparation and good nutrition, community advocacy, parent technology training, and planning for transition to kindergarten. Additional activities and workshops included financial literacy, First Aid and CPR, GED, and ESL.

Other activities and events were designed to promote parent socializations and included Literacy Math and Science Games and History Nights, open houses, Abriendo Puertas, and parent recognition events.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Efforts:**

Kindergarten readiness is a high priority for our Head Start program. Head Start's approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school and families support their children's learning. El Hogar uses the Creative Curriculum/Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG), a research and play-based preschool curriculum. The curriculum helps us to collaborate with parents in establishing kindergarten readiness goals that support children's progress across five early childhood learning domains. These domains include (1) language and literacy (2) thinking skills and general knowledge, (3) approaches towards learning, (4) physical well-being and motor development, and (5) social and emotional development. All goals are aligned with the Head Start Framework, Illinois Early Learning Standards, and TSG.

EHDN measures school readiness four times a year using data from TSG. Based on the results of the 2015 preschool year, all preschoolers demonstrated gains across all learning domains and were prepared for kindergarten.

### **Early Head Start**

El Hogar Del Niño offers Early Head Start/Head Start and Child Care services for 5 children through three of the agency's Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) and for 12 children in two classrooms at the Loomis Center. We currently coordinate five homes located around Chicago's southwest side, which provide services to children ranging from six weeks to five years of age. The family childcare setting promotes small group sizes of 5–8 children within the home and offers opportunities for siblings to be cared for together. It also promotes an environment that is comfortable and feels like home, while supporting children's needs and their learning experiences to the fullest potential.

### **Statistical Data**

During 2014-2015, El Hogar Del Nino served 29 Early Head Start children in 26 families and 158 Head Start children in 152 families. The demographics in the area are changing and not as many eligible

families live in the catchment area as did in previous years. The program was able to serve all Head Start eligible families who applied but never reached full enrollment. The average enrollment was 85% of funded enrollment. Early Head Start was fully enrolled and EHDN hopes to expand the number of EHS children.

## **Finance Information**

<b>Actual Revenue</b>	<b>July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015</b>	
Head Start	867,297	
Early Head Start	91,302	
EHS HV RTL	98,945	
Childcare Illinois Action for Children	1,411,317	
	240,610	
USDA Nutrition	256,476	
ISBE	1,130,519	
Other	<u>224,930</u>	
Total		\$4,321,396
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015</b>	
Salary & Benefits	3,194,654	
Program Costs	649,182	
Operating Costs	343,140	
Other	<u>337,827</u>	
Total		\$4,524,803

<b>Proposed Budget : December 1, 2015 - November 30, 2016</b>			
		<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Head Start</b>		
Personnel	530,916	72,011	602,927
Fringe	98,659	6,982	105,641
Operating Costs	37,503	3,400	40,903
Professional Services	36,451	3,869	40,320
Travel & Transportation	3,500	255	3,755
Material & Supplies	30,308	5,663	35,971
Training	3,500	-	3,500
Parent Involvement	<u>9,800</u>	<u>1,020</u>	<u>10,820</u>
Total	750,637	93,200	843,837

The Independent Auditor completed an annual audit of the Financial Statements ending June 30, 2016. They did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance to be material weaknesses. In the auditor's opinion, the agency complied, in all material aspects, with the type of compliance requirements that could have a direct effect on each of their federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2015. The results of the auditor's tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

From 3/16/2014 to 3/26/2014, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a monitoring review of the City of Chicago Head Start and Early Head Start programs. As a delegate of the City of Chicago, El Hogar del Nino was a part of this review. Some classrooms were observed using the Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) review. Members of the monitoring team also visited the Loomis Site and reviewed Health and Safety and Finance. They found no noncompliance concerns.