



Annual Report

2019-20



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EDUCAREWESTDUPAGE.ORG

Welcome to Educare West DuPage



Educare West DuPage serves 198 children from birth to five years old and their families in a model early learning school. Educare's **comprehensive program** incorporates what science says young children need to flourish. Our immersive two-way dual language program gives young children a strong foundation in English and Spanish.

We partner with families to build strong bonds, better understand children's developmental needs, and connect them to resources to pursue their own goals.



Educare West DuPage supports its high-quality staff by offering ongoing professional learning to ensure teachers and family engagement staff continue to develop and enhance their skills.

We partner with community organizations to expand opportunities for children, families, and staff.

Educare West DuPage is a public-private partnership, funded through a mix of federal Head Start and Early Head Start funding; Illinois Prevention Initiative, Preschool For All, Preschool For All Extension, and child care funds; and private grants and donations.

ENGAGING FAMILIES

- ◇ Educare believes that parents are their children's first and most important teachers.
- ◇ We partner with parents so they can build strong bonds with their children, understand children's developmental and social-emotional needs, and access resources to pursue their own goals.
- ◇ We connect with parents to provide activities, materials, and information they can use to support and advocate for their children's learning.



PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- ◇ We partner with West Chicago School District 33 to support learners with special needs and enable smooth transitions to kindergarten.
- ◇ We work with West Chicago Community High School to provide education and support for pregnant students.
- ◇ We are an internship site for students at the College of DuPage and other local colleges.
- ◇ We partner with local and national organizations to provide enrichment activities for children, professional learning for staff, and parent education.



SUPPORTING STAFF

- ◇ We offer ongoing professional learning to ensure that classroom and family engagement staff continue to develop and enhance their skills and stay current in research-based best practices.
- ◇ Master Teachers serve as curriculum and practice coaches for classroom teachers, and Family Engagement Supervisors coach family engagement staff.
- ◇ We support all staff in setting and achieving professional goals, including learning groups for staff who are working to earn Child Development Associate credentials.



During the 2019-2020 school year, Educare West DuPage served...



86

Children ages 0-3*

in Early Head Start and Illinois Prevention Initiative programs

52

in Infant or Toddler center-based
classrooms

34

in home-based programs

*Cumulative enrollment includes number of children served throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year, enrollees who filled those empty spaces, and children who moved from home-based to center-based program (non-duplicated)

During the 2019-2020 school year, Educare West DuPage served...

108

Children ages 3-5*

in its **full-day, year-round** center-based Pre-K program
funded through Head Start, Preschool for All (PFA),
and Preschool for All Extension (PFAE)



*Cumulative enrollment includes number of children served throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year, enrollees who filled those empty spaces, and children who moved from home-based to center-based program (non-duplicated)

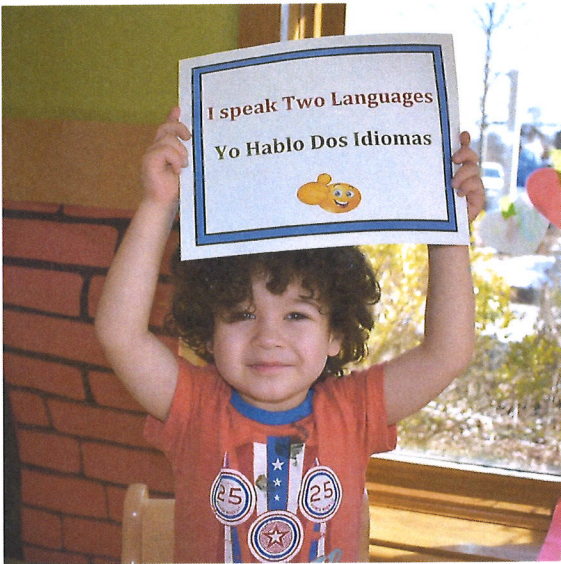
Educare West DuPage by the Numbers

Serving children with the greatest need

	Birth to Three	Pre-K	Total
Income below 100% of poverty line	68 (79%)	61 (56%)	129 (66%)
Foster children	2 (2%)	3 (3%)	5 (3%)
Children experiencing homelessness	15 (17%)	16 (15%)	31 (16%)
Children for whom EWD received a child care subsidy	45 (52%)	45 (42%)	90 (46%)
Children in single-parent families	63 (73%)	80 (74%)	143 (74%)



In the 2019-20 school year, more than half of Birth-to-three families (51.2%) and 100% of Pre-K families received at least one family service with Educare West DuPage's support.



Educare West DuPage provides a two-way dual language classroom environment for all children, with all aspects of learning and care in both English and Spanish. This approach supports the **79% of birth-to-three children and 66% of Pre-K children whose primary home language is Spanish**, and children of all language backgrounds who benefit throughout their lives from becoming bilingual in early childhood.

Educare West DuPage facilitates collaborations among families, teachers, and School District 33 to provide learning and care that meet the needs of children with diverse abilities. In 2019-20, **10 birth-to-three children (12%) had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**, and **17 Pre-K children (16%) had an Individualized Education Program (IEP)**, meaning they were determined eligible to receive special education services.



Educare West DuPage has partnered with Buffett Foundation Acceleration Grant programs to support diversity. The **Early Science Initiative** provides culturally relevant science experiences for children and families. The **Mindfulness & Mastery** grant supports implementation of mental health resources for staff, activities such as yoga, and a social-emotional curriculum, PATHS, that gives children tools to embrace differences and resolve conflicts.

Prior to school closure in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Educare West DuPage had

89% average monthly attendance in the 0-3 program

and

88% average monthly attendance in the Pre-K program.

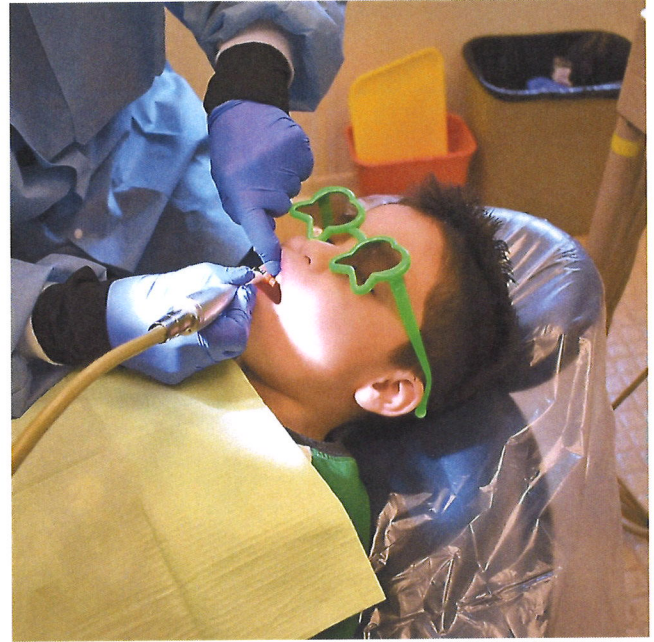


*All children, in both the 0-3 and Pre-K programs, received **10.5 hours of daily instruction** and **215 days of instruction** over a 46-week period.*

While Educare West DuPage was closed to in-person learning due to COVID-19, teachers **provided lessons for families to do together at home**, engaged children in **group and individual video meetings**, and **collaborated with parents via a phone app** to support children's learning. Educare West DuPage helped families acquire technological resources as well as basic needs and provided frequent, individualized support from Family Engagement staff.

Educare West DuPage's Family Engagement staff improved health outcomes for families

- ◇ The percentage of birth-to-three children with a primary medical provider rose from 29% at the beginning of the enrollment year to 37% at the end of the enrollment year.
- ◇ The percentage of birth-to-three children with a primary dental provider rose from 9% at the beginning of the enrollment year to 35% at the end of the enrollment year.
- ◇ The percentage of Pre-K children with a primary dental provider rose from 58% at the beginning of the enrollment year to 74% at the end of the enrollment year.



100% of Pre-K children had health insurance and primary medical providers throughout the enrollment year.

100% of Pre-K children and 90% of birth-to-three children had up-to-date immunizations or all possible immunizations to date throughout the enrollment year.

Engaging With Families

Supporting parents as their children's primary teachers and lifelong advocates

- ◇ Workshops and trainings held throughout the year, virtually and in person, in English and Spanish
- ◇ Parent meetings at the classroom level to create a safe, inviting environment for parents to engage with each other
- ◇ Two sessions per year of *Abriendo Puertas* family education course
- ◇ In partnership with TEACH, English as a Second Language courses for parents
- ◇ Intensive one-on-one support for pregnant mothers, including pregnant teens, and for their partners and families



“Everyone is always very helpful and understanding. You always feel like you matter.”

- Educare West
DuPage parent

Engaging With Families

Parents as key participants in the Educare West DuPage community

- ◇ Giving parents key voices in school policies through the Policy Council, Health Services Advisory Committee, and hiring committees
- ◇ Constant communication, including sharing of photos and home learning activities
- ◇ Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and school
- ◇ Personalized relationship-building and goal-setting with Family Engagement Specialists
- ◇ Research-based *Touchpoints* curriculum for family engagement and parenting support



Parent Ambassadors

Three EWD parents are currently participating in the Parent Ambassador Acceleration Grant, funded by the Buffett Foundation, and the Illinois Head Start Parent Ambassador program.

These Parent Ambassadors traveled to the Illinois State Capitol and met with State and Federal Congresspeople to advocate for high-quality early childhood education programs.

Developing and Sustaining Staff



- ◇ Schoolwide professional development activities, virtual and in person, for all staff
- ◇ Field-relevant training for Family Engagement Specialists such as Doula training and Infant Massage
- ◇ Two staff members earned Child Development Associate credentials for the first time; three renewed
- ◇ Opportunities for promotion and advancement within the Educare West DuPage organization
- ◇ Staff-led mental health and wellness activities
- ◇ Individualized support for well-being and professional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic

CONSTRUCT COACHING

In collaboration with the Construct Coaching Acceleration Grant funded by the Buffett Foundation, Educare West DuPage uses the Construct Coaching curriculum to support teachers. Master Teachers use classroom observations, assessment results, and individualized conferencing to coach teachers toward more effective practice while supporting their well-being and professional growth.



“The teachers really take time to teach the kids self-respect and [respect] for others. They really care for our children.” - Educare West DuPage parent

High-Quality Program for Learning and Growth



- ◇ Excellent ratios of teachers to children: 3 per room of 8 children in birth to three, and 3 per room of 17 children in Pre-K
- ◇ Children stay with the same teaching team from birth to age three, and again throughout Pre-K, in a continuity of care model
- ◇ At least one designated English-speaking teacher and at least one designated Spanish-speaking teacher per classroom team, to provide instruction and care in each target language
- ◇ New playground equipment and classroom loft structures added to our overall safe and child-scaled learning environment

“My child is allowed to grow and learn at her own pace with wonderful staff in a safe environment.” - Educare West DuPage parent



- ◇ The *Creative Curriculum* and its linked assessment system, *Teaching Strategies GOLD*, provide a framework for age-appropriate instruction and growth measurement
- ◇ The *PATHS* social-emotional curriculum guides teachers and students in recognizing and managing emotions and in equitably resolving conflict
- ◇ The *Early Science Initiative* supports engagement of young children in science experiences
- ◇ *Handwriting Without Tears* uses games, music, and art to develop writing skills for kindergarten readiness

2019-20 Program Goals

Educare West DuPage's three program goals, developed in March 2018 and continued through the current school year, are the foundation for programs and initiatives and help us measure progress during the school year and grant period. These broad, strategic, long-term goals respond to needs identified in our Community Assessment and align with our school readiness goals and strategic plan. In our annual Self-Assessment and throughout the year, staff and leaders develop specific activities to ensure progress toward Program Goals. Progress is reported to the Board of Directors and the Policy Council monthly.

Program Goal 1: Provide high quality instruction, informed by data, to help all children achieve academic success and social competence by kindergarten, so that they will be successful in school and life.



Program Goal 2: Engage families in their child's developmental and educational growth while also supporting them in their personal and family goals, so that they can be fully engaged partners in their child's education.

Program Goal 3: Develop and improve, to a high degree of effectiveness and efficiency, ongoing monitoring tools and management systems across all service areas.



Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Information

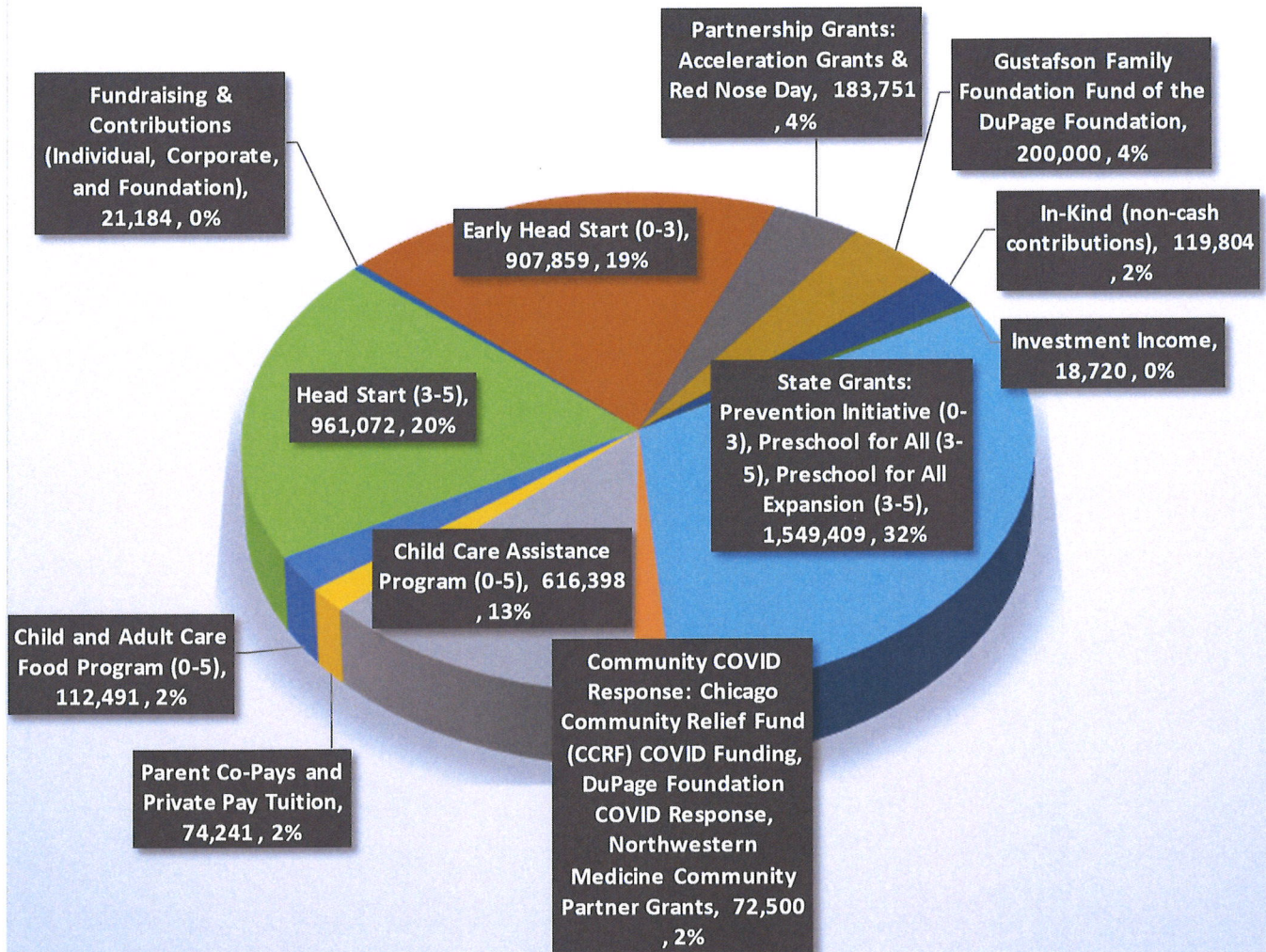
For Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020

The Educare West DuPage Head Start program blends multiple funding streams (federal, state, and local) to provide comprehensive high quality early learning program to 102 children enrolled in the Head Start program and their families. In addition to Head Start, Educare West DuPage serves 80 children on its birth to 3-year-old program, and an additional 10 pregnant moms by using blended funding streams in much the same way as the Head Start program. Educare West DuPage receives funding from the Illinois State Board of Education for both the 3-5 year-old program, as well as the birth to 3-year-old program, through Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion grants. Due to the nature of 2020, Educare West DuPage sought opportunities to work with community foundations and organizations in an effort to respond to the COVID pandemic in a meaningful way for students, families, and staff.

Total funds received for fiscal year 2020 included \$200,000 from the Gustafson Family Foundation Fund of the DuPage Foundation which was pledged and later changed to a grant agreement with the same terms when Educare West DuPage opened with a promise to give \$200,000 a year for 10 years. The pledge/grant agreement was recorded in the year the promise was made as result at that time the \$2,000,000 was recorded in Educare West DuPage's financials.

The total funding for fiscal year 2020 was \$4.65 million as shown in Educare West DuPage's audited financials for fiscal year 2020; this does not include the Gustafson Family Foundation Fund of the DuPage Foundation which was temporarily restricted until received and was already recorded when the initial promise was made, or Red Nose Day funding that was released from restriction upon spending. Educare West DuPage's most recent audited financials were given an unmodified audit opinion.

Fiscal Year 2020 Public Support & Revenue



Fiscal Year 2020 Actual Expenditures

