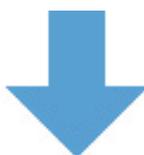


# OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING

## High quality early care and education



Improves academic and health outcomes for children



Reduces public costs



Strengthens the economy

yet



**only 13%** of children under the age of five participate in publicly-funded high quality early care and education programs

## Our Priorities

### Increase access to high-quality early care and education services



**Build supply for diverse, quality programs**



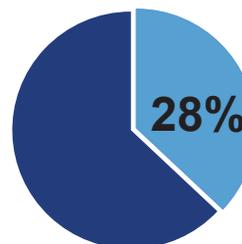
**Make services available to at-risk families**

**100%** of family child care homes now required to have annual inspections

**10%** increase in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs

**25%** increase in programs offering Pre-K Counts

**129,000** children received Child Care Works assistance monthly (June 2016)



**28%** were enrolled in Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs

**1,000 new scholarships** available to early childhood educators through the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship program

**38,200 unique searches** for early learning programs on updated findchildcare.pa.gov since October 2016

### Make government work better for families and providers

**50%** reduction in paperwork for families to re-determine eligibility for Child Care Works

**80%** reduction in steps for families to search for early learning programs online

**66%** reduction in paperwork for early learning professionals to apply for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance

### Looking ahead

Keystone STARS Re-visioning

Aligning OCDEL Services



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

# PENNSYLVANIA'S PROGRAMS

**Evidence-Based Home Visiting Family Support Programs** have a family-centered focus, strength-based approach that works with both the child and parent. Studies of various home visiting programs have shown positive impacts on children's cognitive development and behavior, higher grade point averages and achievement scores at age nine, and higher graduation rates from high school.<sup>1</sup> Ninety-six percent of children screened who participated in a Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)-funded program in Pennsylvania in FFY 2015-16 showed at least age-appropriate development in general cognitive and communications skills after 18 months in the program.<sup>2</sup> **In 2015-16, 17,955 infants and toddlers received services through Nurse-Family Partnership, Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, or Parents as Teachers<sup>3</sup> through local, state and federal funding.**

**Early Intervention** serves young children with disabilities/developmental delays and their families. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in a child's early years and promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, early childhood educators, and others involved in the child's life. Seventy-eight percent of infants/toddlers and 89 percent of preschoolers receiving Early Intervention services made more progress towards acquisition and use of knowledge skills than anticipated through typical development alone in 2015-16. Approximately **38,000** children received birth to three early intervention services and **52,811** children received preschool early intervention services in 2015-16.

Through **Child Care Certification**, the Department of Human Services regulates family child care homes, group child care, and child care centers to ensure they provide safe child care. There were approximately **7,500** regulated child care programs in December 2016.

**Child Care Works** provides low-income working families with access to child care, making them more likely to retain employment and be more productive at work. Families must provide documentation that they meet work and educational requirements for eligibility. More than half (56 percent) of children receiving Child Care Works were enrolled in a Keystone STARS program in June 2016. More than **129,000 children from birth – school age** received Child Care Works in June 2016.

**Keystone STARS** provides families a tool to gauge the quality of early care and education programs and is proven to increase the quality of child care based on an independent study. Child care and Head Start programs earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 level by meeting quality standards for teacher qualifications, learning environment, and program management. After participating in high-quality, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 programs, the percentage of four-year olds with proficient academic and social skills doubled to 81 percent in 2012-13. Approximately **166,000** children from birth through school-age were served in Keystone STARS in 2015-16.

**Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts** provides high quality pre-kindergarten education for at-risk three- and four-year olds in Pennsylvania. The percentage of four-year-olds with proficient academic and social skills tripled to 82 percent after participating in Pre-K Counts programs in 2012-13. In 2015-16, approximately **17,115** children were served in Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

**Head Start** provides comprehensive early learning services to at-risk children and families, prioritizing enrollment to families at 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level or other categorical eligibility criteria. In addition to educational programming, Head Start offers health/nutrition services, support to families, and a strong parent involvement component. The percentage of four-year-olds with proficient academic and social skills more than tripled to 76 percent after participating in Head Start Supplemental Assistance Programs in 2012-13. In fact, there was a six-fold increase in the percentage of children with proficient mathematical thinking skills. In 2015-16, **33,214 children** received Head Start services through state and federal funding.

**Source:** Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

---

<sup>1</sup> Research Spotlight on Success: Healthy Families America Promotes Child Health and Development, Healthy Families America, 2008, [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org); David L. Olds, Harriet Kitzman, Carole Hanks, et al., "Effects of Nurse-Home Visiting on Maternal and Child Functioning: Age Nine Follow-Up of a Randomized Trial," *Pediatrics* 120, no. 4 (2007): 832–845.

<sup>2</sup> 323 families surveyed, FY 2015

<sup>3</sup> Parents as Teachers (PAT) serves children up to kindergarten entry. 3,703 from three to kindergarten age received PAT services in 2015-16.