

2019-2020

Head Start Annual Report



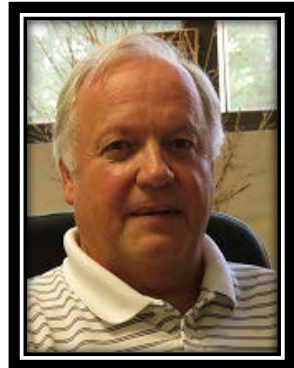
DONATE Time, Money, Goods to help our families & communities. <https://www.hranbct.org/Donate/>

Below: HRA Board of Directors

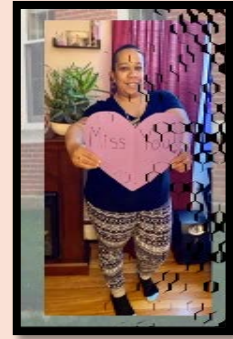
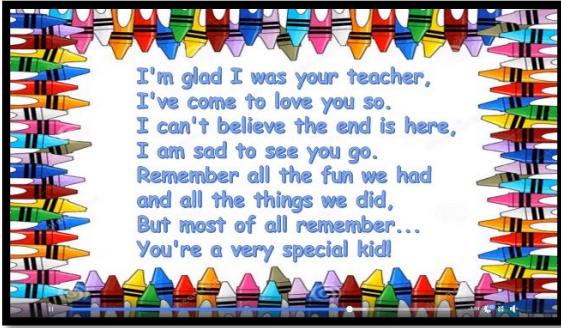


Right:

Interim
Executive Director
Richard Knoll
MHSA



2020 PHOTOS



From *Ms. Karen*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

Goodbye My Beautiful Little Stars
I loved being your teacher.





Key Findings from Child Assessment Data

HRA Head Start uses an individualized observation and planning process for each child. Staff and families assess each child's development and identify areas for improvement across all domains of learning. The management and teaching team obtain information from parent interviews, child observations, Teaching Strategies Gold and if applicable, from the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Child Assessment

Overall Assessment

We collect assessment data for every child enrolled in our early childhood programs at three checkpoints throughout the year. The data collected this year has shown an improvement of nearly 20% in all areas of development of students moving from below age-level expectations to meeting or exceeding age-level expectations. The greatest improvements from the Fall to Winter assessment periods were seen in the physical and mathematics domain. As in previous years, physical development continues to be the area demonstrating the greatest strength. The large improvement has been seen in the mathematics domain can be attributed to an increased awareness of mathematics objectives and improvements in the implementation of intentional teaching experiences provided to students.

The data in the chart below is a Teaching Strategies **GOLD** "snapshot" report, converted from the report's table into a bar graph to compare the 7 areas of development. *These results indicate the areas that need the most improvement are Mathematics and Literacy Development.*

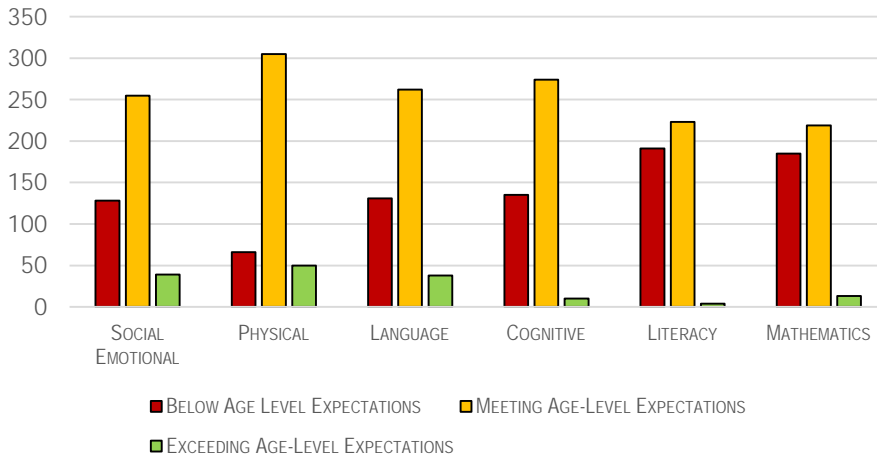
We also break down our data into separate charts for children entering kindergarten (4 year olds) and children who are not yet entering kindergarten (3 year olds) because their developmental outcomes tend to vary. However, mathematics development is the weakest area across both age groups. The three year olds need the most improvement in the domains of language, literacy and mathematics development while the four year olds need the most improvement in the domains of mathematics, language and cognitive development.

Child Assessment System

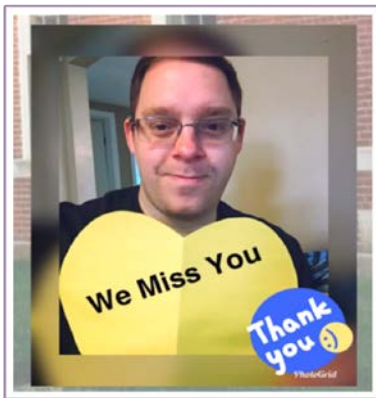
The management and teaching team observe and assess the development of our children at three check points during the program year using Teaching Strategies **GOLD**. This is an observational assessment that links our curriculum to our lesson planning. By analyzing data and evaluating outcomes, teachers develop learning experience plans to achieve school readiness goals.



Preschool Child Outcomes by Areas of Development Winter 2019-2020 Checkpoint



The data in the above chart is a Teaching Strategies GOLD "snapshot" report, converted from the report's table into a bar graph to compare the 7 areas of development. These results indicate the areas that need the most improvement are Mathematics and Literacy Development.



HRA Leadership Announcements

We would like to extend our best wishes to Christopher Badenhop as he grows from his position as HRA Education and Family Manager to School Readiness Liaison for the Consolidated School District of New Britain. We wish him the best and look forward to working with him in this new capacity.

- Carrie Babineau is the new Health and Nutrition Manager replacing Joan Pina who retired last year.
- Amanda Doty who returns to HRA as Education and Family Services Manager, replacing Ana Erazo.



Pyramid Curriculum Model

HRA Head Start uses the Pyramid Model to increase social and emotional learning within the curriculum. This model implemented in select schools throughout Connecticut in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood. The Pyramid Model provides a framework of environments supportive of emotional learning, **connects parents** with the education process, creates interventions to reduce behavior issues, and encourages relationship building and classroom community. Children learn **emotional literacy** and problem solving in order to give the vocabulary and awareness that empowers children to identify and communicate their emotional needs and resolve conflict peacefully. The Pyramid Model framework provides tangible methods to implement **Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS)** to encourage appropriate social behavior and reduce challenging behaviors that can interfere with learning and relationship building. The Pyramid Model emphasizes developing positive relationships with peers, teachers, and family. **For more information, please see the CT Office of Early of Childhood Pyramid Model**

<https://www.ctoec.org/pyramid-model/>

HEAD START PROGRAMS
FISCAL YEAR 18-19

Expenditures	PIY	FY 19 Total	Funding							
			Fed	State	School	Other		Other	In-Kind	
			HS	HS	Readiness	USDA	Fees	Programs		Revenue
Salaries	2,458,855.00	2,440,953	1,524,120	177,607	608,079	34,052	97,095	-	-	-
Benefits	886,843.00	882,362	551,088	64,320	219,581	12,312	35,061	-	-	-
Travel and Transportation	109,652.00	91,404	91,404	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	36,870.00	38,327	21,327	2,591	11,715	2,694	-	-	-	-
Contractual	498,200.00	532,163	140,566	13,809	66,624	311,164	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	1,042,554.00	965,663	386,975	48,594	152,834	43,244	-	-	-	334,016
Total	5,012,974	4,950,872	2,715,480	306,921	1,058,833	403,466	132,156	-	-	334,016
Prior year		5,012,974	2,714,324	347,312	1,058,827	472,316	105,208	-	-	315,187



Important Update on HRA's COVID-19 Response

Dear Friends of HRA,

HRA continues to take the health and well-being of our community, our clients and our staff very seriously. Like others, we are closely monitoring the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and continuously reviewing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Connecticut's Department of Public Health.

HRA's programs and services continue to be offered in support of our community to the best of our ability and many of our facilities remain closed to the general public. HRA has established a reopening committee and has developed a phased reopening plan beginning with some Early Childhood classrooms during the month of July. Over the next few weeks, HRA will continue to prepare our facilities for reopening following Federal, State, and Local Guidelines.

Since our formal closure on March 18th, 2020, HRA has:

- Served over 5,328 individuals from 2,604 households.
- Completed over 530 Federal and State Income Tax Returns through our Virtual VITA platform.
- Completed over 780 Energy Assistance Applications. Over \$3.0 Million awarded in assistance for the 2019-2020 season.
- Served over 1,200 families per month, at an average of 300 families per week, at the New Britain Food and Resource Center.

Here are some new rules that will go into effect when facilities and programs begin reopening:

- If you are experiencing any Flu-like Symptoms, please do not visit any HRA facility. Staff members will continue to be available remotely for all programs and services.
- In-Person Services will be provided by **appointment only** for those who are unable to interact with us remotely.
- Masks will be required for all Staff, Clients and Visitors entering any HRA facility for In-Person Services. Disposable Masks will be available for those who may have forgotten one.
- Hand Sanitizer stations will be available at all entry and exit ways at each facility.
- Social Distancing Measures are now in-place. Signage and markers will be present at each location. Locations will be limited to how many people can enter at any time.

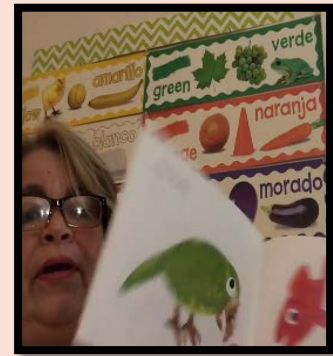
Additional Updates:

- HRA's Early Childhood Program will begin opening classrooms, in limited capacity, during the month of July as part of HRA's first phase.
- HRA's New Britain Food and Resource Center (Food Pantry) will continue to distribute food to families in need using the "Grab and Go" method.
- HRA's FREE Income Tax Assistance Program continues to offer Virtual Services. Limited In-Person options are also available. Visit www.hranbct.org/VITA or call the VITA team at 860-225-1084 for more information on these options.
- HRA's Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program is now in operation for the summer.
- HRA also continues to operate other Essential Services and programs during this time such as Energy Assistance, Financial Coaching, Case Management Services, Health and Wellness Services and Employment and Training services.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. For more information on HRA's Programs and Services please visit us on the web at www.hranbct.org.



479 pre-school aged children are better prepared to start kindergarten after participating in HRA's Head Start Program of Excellence.



HRA Caring and Communicating During COVID-19

On March 13, 2020 HRA Head Start closed its doors. Governor Ned Lamont had issued an executive order, the "Declaration of Civil Preparedness and Public Health Emergencies" declaring a state of emergency and shutting down much of the state. Initially, like all of us, staff believed that this would be a temporary precaution that would last a couple weeks. Soon, it was clear that this would not be the case. More Executive Orders followed, initiating a long-term statewide quarantine that would include the closure of schools, stores, and public buildings.

While we all watched and waited in our homes wondering what our next steps would be, HRA family service workers, teachers, and administration were taking care of our families. Staff spent hours calling each family, informing them of how COVID-19 policies would affect them, connecting them with community resources for food, housing assistance, and mental health. Family service workers evaluated family crisis levels, administered the Office of Early Childhood's Food Security Survey, provided staff and families with phones, technology, and materials needed for homeschooling and staff meetings.

Teachers, Assistants, and Family Service Workers collaborated on a plan to get children the tools they would need to succeed. They provided remote education opportunities through the Padlit app twice a week, online activities including staff story readings, and video conferencing via ZOOM twice a week in addition to connecting families with education resources. Staff connected with each other weekly to assure that they were receiving up to date information and had the resources they needed to continue to connect with families assessing their needs, connecting them with resources, and updating them on COVID-19 resources and policy.



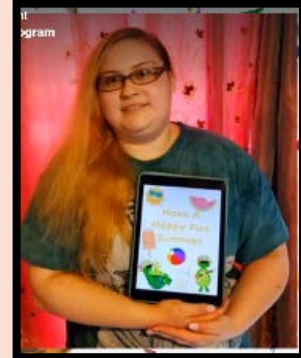
2020 PHOTOS



From *Ms. Ana*

Good byes are not forever
Good byes are not the end
They simply mean
I'll miss you
Until we meet again

I want to tell you that I am so sad knowing that at the end of the year I am not going to see some of you again. So I wish all of you be successful and happy in life. For the students who are going to see in the new year, I can see you by the summer.



Our Virtual End of Year Celebration!
Posted by HRA Early Childhood Program
887 Views

From *Ms. Zahia*

Summer, summer time is here,
We learned so much in this school year!
You are a special child,
Remember all the times we smiled,
I've loved the time I've spent with you
I wish you luck in all you do!

Our Virtual End of Year Celebration!
Posted by HRA Early Childhood Program
887 Views

Eliah
Jeyann
Tip
Jonathan
Kozlin
Arash
Glen
Carlier
Christopher
Jordan
Gaden

Aziza
Lakisha
Jocelyn
Jana

You have left footprints on all hearts
and you will always have a special space
in our hearts. Thank you all for a great year!