



# LCCAA Head Start School Readiness Outcomes Report 2015



YEARS  
*of* OPPORTUNITY  
HEAD START | 1965-2015

# Fifty Years of Head Start

Head Start has served more than 30 million children since 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson declared war on poverty.

President Johnson's declaration was fueled, in part, by emerging research on the effects of poverty and the impacts of education.

Head Start was designed to break the cycle of poverty by meeting the needs of low-income preschool children.



In the summer of 1965, the Office of Economic Opportunity launched an 8-week Project Head Start. Lorain County Community Action Agency's program began the following year.

From the beginning, Head Start has been a comprehensive program addressing the emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs of children and their families.

In 1970, the Parent Policy Council was introduced as a requirement. Numerous LCCAA Head Start families have pointed to their involvement in the Policy Council as a source of empowerment for them that complemented their children's growing confidence during the Head Start program.

In 1994, the program expanded to include Early Head Start to serve pregnant women and children from birth to age 3. The 1998 Congressional reauthorization of Head Start included a mandate to study the impact of the program on children's school success in Kindergarten and beyond. These studies consistently found significant impact through third grade.

Most recently, Head Start was reauthorized by Congress in 2007 with increased education requirements for teachers designed to encourage lifelong learners to continue to create lifelong learners. Today, Head Start serves more than a million children and their families each year in all U.S. states and territories. Lorain County's program serves just over 1,000 families annually.



## Eligibility Snapshot\*

- Family income 130% FPL
- TANF or SSI recipients
- Children in foster care
- Homeless children
- Children with disabilities

*\*This is a partial list of criteria. Call LCCAA to find out if your family qualifies*



# Lorain County CAA Head Start

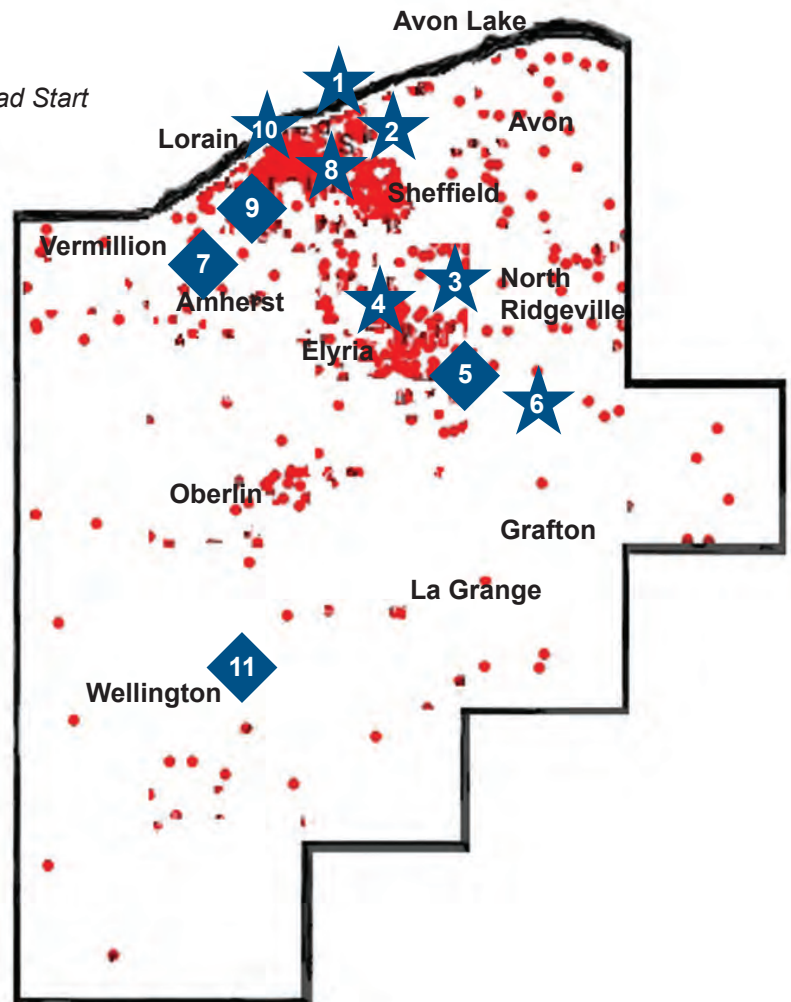
Lorain County Community Action Head Start meets children and families where they are by taking care to locate its Head Start Centers and Collaborative Partners where needs are the greatest. On the map below, each red dot indicates 50 people living in poverty. LCCAA also considers pockets of poverty in areas that are harder to reach due to the area's lack of public transit and conducts a community needs assessment annually.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty as living on an income of \$23,550 annually for a family of four. For most Community Action programs, including Head Start, families are eligible for help even when they exceed that amount. Another measure of need, the Self-Sufficiency Standard, has found that much more than \$23,550 is needed to live without assistance in most areas.

- ▶ 4 directly operated centers
- ▶ 11 collaborative centers
- ▶ 987 enrolled in Head Start
- ▶ 40 enrolled in Early Head Start
- ▶ 24 classrooms staffed with teams of two teachers
- ▶ Early Head Start children receive up to 40 hours a week of instruction and care
- ▶ Head Start includes full and part day options
- ▶ Head Start includes 4 and 5 day program options
- ▶ Head Start students receive 14 to 30 hours of instruction each week
- ▶ Average Daily Attendance is 77 percent.
- ▶ Home based-program reintroduced in 2014-2015
- ▶ Online enrollment now available at [www.lccaa.net](http://www.lccaa.net)

*Diamonds denote the location of directly operated Head Start Centers. Stars denote collaborative centers.*

1. Horizon Ed. Center, 2500 Colorado Ave., Lorain
2. Horizon Ed.Center, 4911 Grove Ave., Lorain
3. Elyria Early Childhood Village, 42101 Griswold Road., Elyria
4. Horizon Ed. Center, 10347 Dewhurst Road, Elyria
5. Hamilton Head Start Center, 1215 Middle Ave., Elyria
6. Horizon Ed. Center, 104 Loudon Court, Elyria (LMHA)
7. Childrens' Developmental Center, 150 Erie Court, Amherst.
8. Lorain City Schools, five locations in Lorain
9. Hopkins-Locke Head Start Center, 1050 Reid Ave., Lorain
10. Little Lighthouse Learning Center, 205 W. 21st St., Lorain
11. Wellington Head Start Center, 305 Union St., Wellington



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Northern Ohio Data and Information Service.

# Ready for Kindergarten

Kindergarteners need to be able to leave their parents or caregivers with confidence. They need to be able to care for their own basic needs (like using the bathroom and washing their hands). Curiosity and creativity are common characteristics of kindergarteners. They also are beginning to reason and solve problems.

Children who are ready for kindergarten are ready to learn how to read and write. They understand that letters form words and words form stories. They know how to hold a book right side up and they can hold a pencil or crayon in a way that allows them to make deliberate marks on paper.

Ohio's Department of Education has had standards for child development from 0 to 5 for several years, using many ideas found in the Head Start Framework. Cooperation between Head Start and local school districts is critical to student success and seamless transitions from preschool to kindergarten.

"The Head Start Collaborative is one of the most valuable partnerships we have in Lorain City Schools," said Special Education Supervisor Linda Coad.

"Our preschool program is extremely successful and a large part of that success is owed to the services that are provided by Head Start. Our classrooms are enriched by their staff who provide instructional support and comprehensive services provided by the Family Service Workers," Coad added. "The Head Start collaborative has had a great impact on our early childhood program."

**'Our preschool program is extremely successful and a large part of that success is owed to the services that are provided by Head Start.'**

*- Linda Coad, Lorain City Schools*



LCCAA staff knows its clients. In addition to getting to know children so their academic needs can be met, LCCAA provides comprehensive and individualized services so every family succeeds. They include other agency programs and referrals to partners. The potential list includes:

- ▶ Dental & Vision Screenings
- ▶ Health & Developmental Screenings
- ▶ Emergency Food, Clothing, Shelter
- ▶ Housing Assistance
- ▶ Utility Assistance
- ▶ GED programs
- ▶ Job Training
- ▶ Health Education
- ▶ Parenting Education
- ▶ Reentry Assistance
- ▶ Mental Health Services
- ▶ Domestic Violence Services
- ▶ Home Weatherization
- ▶ Emergency Home Repairs
- ▶ By Car
- ▶ Computer Skills Training



# Meeting Needs, Raising the Bar

Success in Head Start is very measurable. Head Start has a significant impact on learning outcomes throughout children's lives. Research from several studies\* shows Head Start children are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college.

The first performance standards for Head Start were published in 1975. Today, LCCAA Head Start uses a comprehensive, research-based curriculum aligned to both the Head Start Framework and the Department of Education's Early Learning and Development Standards.

LCCAA Head Start teachers assess all students within 45 days of enrollment - no matter what time of year it is. Most assessments take place at the beginning of the school year. LCCAA Head Start teachers monitor each child's development and learning throughout the year to make sure they are on target and reaching their educational goals. Assessments are repeated at the end of the school year so growth can be seen.

LCCAA uses GOLD, an assessment tool aligned to both the Head Start Framework and the Ohio Department of Education standards that focuses on widely held expectations. Results can be seen on the following pages.



## Head Start Framework

### Approaches to Learning

- Approaches to Learning
- Creative Arts Expression

### Cognition and General Knowledge

- English Language Development
- Logic and Reasoning
- Mathematics Knowledge and Skills
- Science Knowledge and Skills
- Social Studies Knowledge and Skills

### Language and Literacy

- Language Development
- Literacy Knowledge and Skills

### Physical Development and Health

- Social and Emotional Development



\* Learn more from the National Bureau of Economic Research at <http://www.nber.org/digest/aug01/w8054.html>.

# High Expectations Exceeded

Widely Held Expectations apply to all children in an age group regardless of their household income.

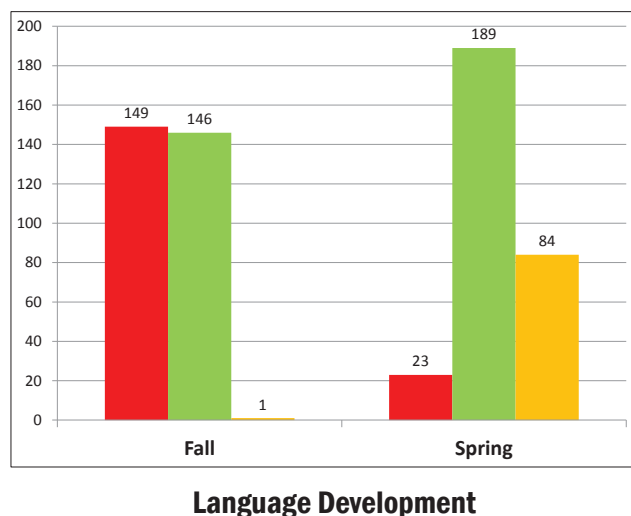
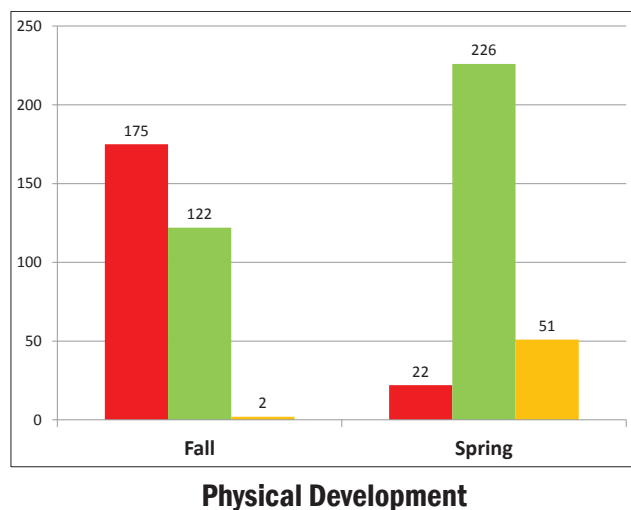
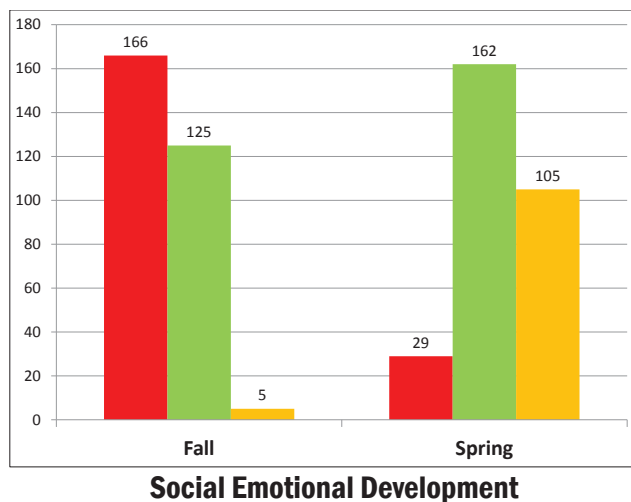
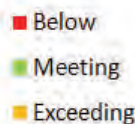
Many preschoolers enter Head Start with little to no learning background. Fall assessments, reflected on these pages, show relatively high numbers of children testing “below” the widely held expectations.

The goal of LCCAA’s Head Start program is to move those children from the below category to meeting and even to exceeding those widely held expectations.

Outcomes are reviewed and used for continuous improvement of the program to maximize the number of children exceeding expectations each year.

**HEAD START WORKS!** By the end of the year, the number of children exceeding expectations has skyrocketed and very few remain below average.

*Fall data reflects assessments upon enrollment prior to receiving instruction or other services. Spring data is from June 2015 for 4-year-old students in Head Start program year 2014-15. Students assessed in the spring may not have experienced a full program year due to mid-year enrollments and absenteeism.*



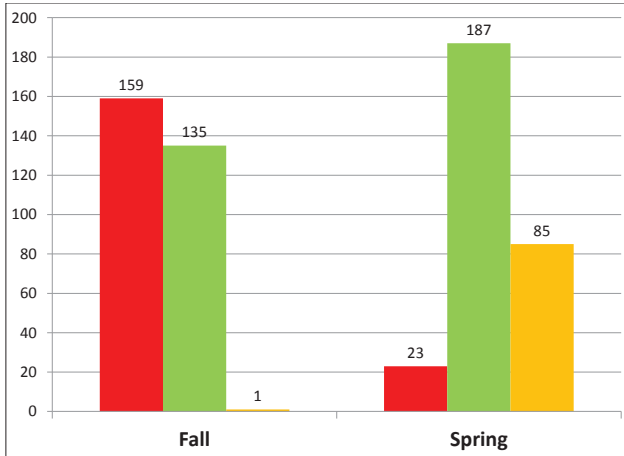
## Attendance Matters

Children change so rapidly from birth to age 5 and they will never be better suited for absorbing new information and experiences.

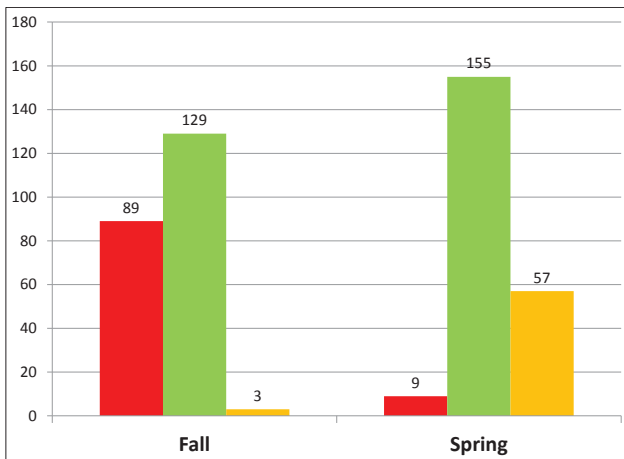
Although preschool is not required in Ohio, attendance is important. Head Start provides opportunities for students to develop their cognitive, social and emotional skills needed for kindergarten success. Students cannot benefit fully if they are absent on a regular basis.

Children who do not attend class, or who come late consistently, miss out on developmental, skill building and classroom experiences. These basics are the foundations for School Readiness Success.

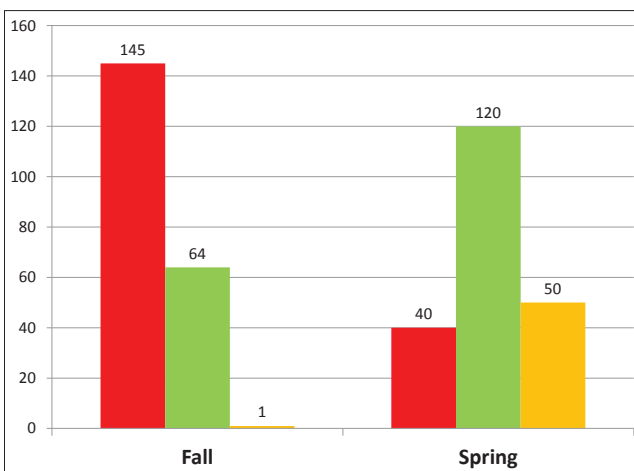
# High Expectations Exceeded



**Cognitive Development**



**Literacy**



**Mathematics**

## Social Emotional Development

Social Emotional objectives focus on how children are learning to control their behavior and emotions as well as how they are getting along with other children. A child exceeding expectations in this area makes friends easily, manages her feelings, recognizes clues to other people's feelings and can balance his needs against other children's needs.

## Physical Development

Physical skills include things that adults take for granted such as walking, running and skipping. They also include gross motor skills such as throwing a ball and fine motor skills like holding a crayon to color a picture. Head Start also provides special interventions for students with disabilities.

## Language Development

Speaking and understanding words are skills that rapidly expand in the preschool years. Children learn to follow directions, hold a two-way conversation, and use complete sentences - all with an ever-growing vocabulary. They regularly use conventional grammar and other social rules of language.

## Cognitive Development

Young children enjoy learning because they are curious. As their attention spans lengthen, they are more persistent in trying to solve problems. They remember experiences and can connect them to each other. They learn to pretend and start to understand symbolic thought.

## Literacy

Children preparing to become readers are learning to identify letters and their sounds. They recognize rhymes and hold books right side up. They understand some basic print concepts such as books are read from left to right. They can retell a familiar story and they are learning to write their names.

## Mathematics

Counting, shapes, patterns and beginning measurements are all foundational math skills. As children progress in their academic career, this expands into scientific inquiry as well as geography and other concepts of social studies.



# Learning Begins at Birth



Scientists and educators know more than ever before about how a young child's brain develops; and, they know that learning starts immediately. Early Head Start has been offered for babies and toddlers since 1994. LCCAA offers both home-based and center-based EHS to pregnant mothers and children ages 0 to 3.

A 2014 study by the American Academy of Pediatrics\* found that reading to babies from birth boosts brain development, strengthens parent-child relationships and builds literacy and communications skills.

Each experience and each skill builds on the one mastered before it. The continuum of learning stretches from birth through preschool and into kindergarten and beyond.

## Ensuring Developmental Success

Since 1972, serving children with disabilities has been part of Head Start's mandate. Children with disabilities should account for at least 10 percent of LCCAA's (and all Early H.S./Head Start programs) enrolled students. Extensive research has shown that early diagnosis and intervention is critical to avoiding developmental and academic delays. The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center\* has found:

- ▶ Neural circuits which create the foundation for learning, behavior and health are most flexible during the first three years of life.
- ▶ Persistent toxic stress such as extreme poverty, abuse or neglect can damage the developing brain.
- ▶ The brain is strengthened by positive early experiences, especially stable relationships with caring and responsive adults and good nutrition.
- ▶ Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when provided earlier in life rather than later.

LCCAA is committed to proper early interventions. Several screenings and assessments are used in collaboration with local school districts and community agencies. Parents can also request their children be evaluated.

When a disability has been identified, the local school district will create an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with input from parents, the Head Start teacher and others. The IEP outlines goals and specific services the child will receive in an effort to reach those goals.

Disabilities can range from delayed speech to the autism spectrum. IEPs are regularly reviewed and adjusted as needed.

For information on how LCCAA Head Start serves specific disabilities, call 440-204-3124.



\* Learn more at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) and [www.nectac.org](http://www.nectac.org).



# Quality Instruction

LCCAA's Head Start teachers have jumped into a new national environment with two enthusiastic feet. Changes made in the program for the 2014-15 school year were in response to the Health and Human Services Department's intention to introduce competition to Head Start. LCCAA has been the Head Start provider for Lorain County since 1966. The changes implemented last fall have put LCCAA in a strong position to build on its success and retain funding when the competition is opened in five years.

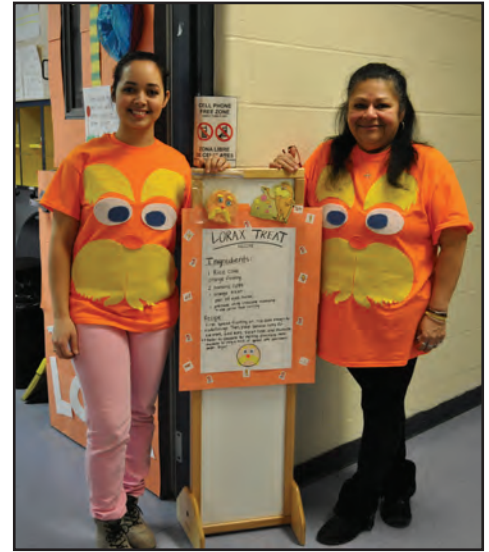
## Team Teaching

The 2007 reauthorization of Head Start increased the education requirements for teachers and staff, giving programs time to comply with the requirement. Teachers must have a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood education. LCCAA goes beyond the standard and more than 50 percent of its employed teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

To further strengthen classroom instruction, LCCAA moved to a team teaching model at its directly operated centers in 2014-15. Instead of a head and assistant teacher, two highly-qualified and credentialed teachers work together in every classroom.

## Practiced-Based Coaching

LCCAA Head Start also hired a practice-based coaching teacher following a new national movement in Head Start. The masters-degreed coach bolstered instruction with positive and constructive feedback. Following classroom observations, the coach worked with teachers to create professional development plans, encouraging them to seek further training and earn degrees.



## Step Up to Quality

Ohio created its 5-star rating system to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the minimum health and safety licensing requirements.

The program has been voluntary; however, beginning in 2020, all early childhood programs must be rated or they will be ineligible for public funds. All of LCCAA's centers are rated at 3 stars or higher. Higher ratings are given to programs employing teachers with more training as well as enhanced parent, family and community engagement, among other criteria.

For additional details on the program, visit <http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/sutq.php>.

## Quality Rated Centers

### Five-Star Centers

Children's Developmental Center, Amherst  
Elyria Early Childhood Village  
Horizon Education Center, Loudon Court, Elyria  
Little Lighthouse Learning Center, Lorain  
Lorain City Schools  
Wellington Head Start

### Four-Star Centers

Horizon Education Center, Dewhurst Road, Elyria  
Horizon Education Center, Grove Ave., Lorain

### Three-Star Centers

Hamilton Head Start, Elyria  
Hopkins-Locke, Lorain  
Horizon Education Center, Colorado Ave., Lorain

# Every Child Succeeds

## Friendship lasts from preschool to college

Ohio State University graduate Adrian Marcial is proud to be a Head Start alumnus.

"I have many fond memories of preschool," he said. "The teachers were great and I learned to socialize more with other children."

Of all Adrian's friendships, he is closest to fellow Head Start alum Shanel Melendez. After attending preschool together, the pair went on to graduate from Southview High School in 2010, just before Lorain's high schools merged.

"It's amazing that Adrian and I are still very close friends," Shanel said. "We're more like family."

Adrian earned a bachelor's degree in strategic communications and quickly landed a job as an account executive at Medical Mutual in Columbus.

Shanel attended Wright State University earning a bachelor's degree in science and rehabilitation services.

After graduation, she came home and now works for Our Lady of the Wayside, a local non-profit agency that provides disability services to adults.

"I always loved gym time because I enjoyed sports as a child," Shanel said of her Head Start years.

Both young adults have kept in touch with teacher Shelly Zakrajsek sharing and celebrating their milestones. Ms. Zakrajsek still teaches at the Children's Developmental Center in Amherst.

"I'm just so proud and happy for both of them," Ms. Zakrajsek said. "They are proof that Head Start Works!"



Shanel Melendez, left, and Adrian Marcial, right, attended LCCAA Head Start together, center. Both are now college graduates and have remained close friends and in contact with their teacher, Shelly Zakrajsek.

# Every Family Succeeds

## Early intervention makes a difference

Courtney has experienced many facets of LCCAA's Head Start program and credits it with her children's success and her confidence as a mother. She enrolled in Early Head Start using the home-based option when she was expecting her first child, Dionte.

"My home visitor helped me out a lot," Courtney said. "I still remember the hospital tour she took me on to prepare for my delivery."

Dionte was enrolled in Early Head Start as an infant and followed soon by his sister Dioni. EHS teachers, as well as staff at Help Me Grow, detected some delays in Dionte's speech and language development.

Fortunately, services were in place to assess Dionte and provide him with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to help him master those skills.

"His teachers worked well with him," Courtney re-

membered. "They were so patient."

Dionte has now completed Head Start and will attend Kindergarten at Summit Academy this fall. Meanwhile, Dioni will transition to Head Start this fall with an IEP also related to speech delays.

Disabilities Manager Samantha Testa said early intervention is critical.

"We need to identify any problems as early as possible," she said. "Children's brains change so rapidly between birth and age three we have to act quickly."

At the end of the school year, Dionte's teachers gave Courtney a portfolio of his work to show all the progress he has made.

"He's come such a long way," Courtney said. "I love everything about the Head Start program."

## Head Start put teen on road to scholarship

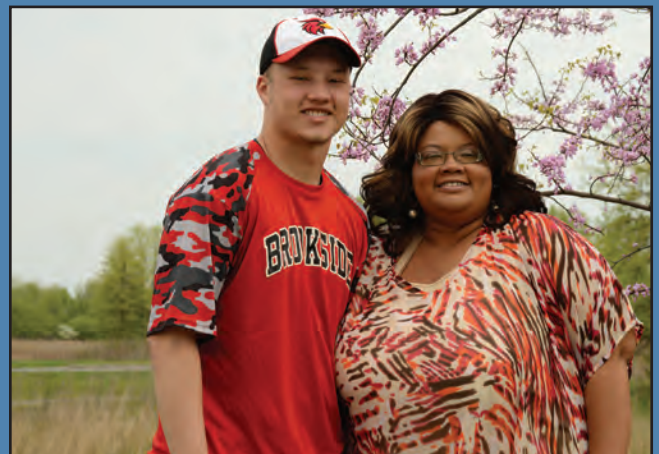
Brookside High School graduate and LCCAA Head Start Alumnus Cameron Drew received a \$500 scholarship from the Ohio Head Start Association, Inc. (OHSOI).

Using the Mary T. Patterson Scholarship, Cameron will attend the University of Toledo this fall majoring in nursing. He plans to become a Certified Nurse Practitioner.

"It was a blessing to receive this award and scholarship from the Head Start program," Cameron said. "I still remember my preschool teachers and the fun activities we did in class."

Cameron's mother Stefanie is LCCAA Head Start's Family and Community Services Specialist and a long-time employee of the agency.

"It was a very emotional moment," Stefanie said. "Head Start provided a great learning founda-



Cameron and Stefanie Drew

tion for him, which is why he has been successful in and out of the classroom. Needless to say, I'm very proud mother!"

The scholarship was presented in Cincinnati by OHSOI Executive Director Barbara Haxton.





# Head Start Works!

Lorain County Community Action Agency's Head Start and Early Head Start are now accepting students.

Contact us at 440-204-3162, or 506 Broadway Ave., P.O. Box 245, Lorain, Ohio 44052.

Stop in to your nearest Head Start Center or apply online at [www.lccaa.net](http://www.lccaa.net).

Henry Patterson,  
Board Chair  
Jackie Boehnlein,  
CEO

Shauna Matelski,  
Head Start Director  
Autumn Standiferd,  
Policy Council President



1965

1966: LCCAA's Head Start Program begins, now serves approximately 1,000 families annually. (pages 2 and 3)

1975

1972: Services to children with disabilities mandated. (page 8)

1975: First Head Start performance standards published. Head Start has always had high expectations and worked to meet and exceed them. (pages 4 through 7)

1985

1994: Early Head Start created. Research has long reflected that learning begins at birth. (page 8)

1995

2007: The most recent Congressional reauthorization included increased education requirements for teachers. LCCAA took these even further establishing teaching teams. (page 9)

2005

2015: Children, families and teachers across the nation celebrate 50 Years of Head Start success. (pages 10 and 11)

2015