

Educare of Omaha, Inc.
2008 Annual Report

Executive Director

Gladys Haynes

Contact Information

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Mission Statement:

Educare Centers are committed to helping young children grow up safe, healthy and eager to learn. Through a consortium of partners, we create, provide and promote the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for families and their children (ages prenatal to 5 years) who are at-risk for school failure.

Core Features of the Educare Model:

- Full-day, full-year services for at-risk children from birth to age 5
- High staff/child ratios & small class size
 - Infants and toddlers: 3 adults and 8 children to a classroom
 - Preschoolers: 3 adults and 17 children to a classroom
- High teacher qualifications
 - Master Teachers with advanced degrees in early childhood and infancy
 - Lead Teacher with bachelors degree and early childhood coursework in each classroom
- Emphasis on language and literacy
- Emphasis on social-emotional development
 - Promote school readiness, behavior and problem-solving skills
- Curriculum informed by research
 - Continuous program evaluation by local partners
 - Ongoing program improvement
- Parental involvement
 - Continuous work and collaboration with parents and family members
- Continuity of care
 - Each child stays with the same teacher for three years in a row
 - Minimal transitions to help children develop secure relationships
- On-site family support
 - Staff with Masters and Bachelors degrees
 - Small caseloads

Population Summary:

Educare provides full-day, full-year early childhood care and education services to children whose parents are working or in school a minimum of 30 hours per week. The ultimate goal is to prepare children for success in kindergarten as well as their future years in school.

Facilities:

- 2123 Paul Street (64 EHS, 119 HS), 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 2606 Hamilton (32 EHS), 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 3010 R Street (24 EHS, 51 HS), 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Number of Children Served:

- 120 Early Head Start (EHS) students
- 170 Head Start (HS) students

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| <i>Age of Child Upon Entry into the Program</i> | | |
| | EHS 0-1 year | 20% |
| | EHS 1-2 years | 33% |
| | EHS 2-3 years | 47% |
| | HS 3-4 years | 45% |
| | HS 4-5 years | 55% |
| <i>Ethnicity of Children</i> | | |
| | Caucasian | 5% |
| | African American | 59% |
| | Hispanic | 22% |
| | Other | 13% |
| Children With Disabilities | | 10% |
| Children Who Were Dual Language Learners | | 29% |
| Household Headed by Teen Parent | | 7% |
| <i>Income of Family</i> | | |
| | Below 100% of Poverty | 98% |
| | 100-130% of Poverty | 0% |
| | Over Income | 2% |
| Parents Who Were Working | | 76% |
| Parents Who Were in School | | 17% |
| Parents Who Did Not Have a High School Diploma or GED | | 36% |
| Families Who Were Not Eligible for Child Care Block Grant Subsidies | | 43% |

Summary of Health Services Provided

| Screening | HS | EHS | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|--|
| Dental Exam with Fluoride Treatment | 177 | 122 | HS/EHS – 51/2 needed treatment |
| Lead Screening | 177 | 122 | HS – 1/0 needed treatment |
| Vision Screening | 177 | 122 | HS/EHS – 13/2 needed treatment |
| Hearing Screening | 177 | 122 | HS/EHS – 1/0 diagnosed with a hearing loss |
| Height and Weights | 177 | 122 | HS/EHS |

Nutrition

Meals Served During 2007-2008 – Partial Reimbursement:

- Breakfasts 51
- Lunch 50
- Snacks 18

Meals Served During 2007-2008 – Full Reimbursement:

- Breakfasts 10,929
- Lunch 12,894
- Snacks 9,987

Educare also hosts a monthly WIC Clinic.

Mental Health

Through a partnership with Child Saving Institute, Educare receives consultative services through a mental health therapist. The therapist consults with staff as well as provides individual and family therapist to children and parents. During this past year, 2 EHS and 13 HS children received services.

Educational Services

Teen Parent Program

Approximately 50 teen parents are receiving services through a partnership between Educare, Visiting Nurse Association and Child Saving Institute. Numerous services are provided through this partnership including the following:

- Home health care visits
- Parenting education
- Support group services
- Coaching and mentoring in their child's classroom
- High school class credit
- Parent-child group interactive activities

Curriculum

Infants and Toddlers – The foundation of Educare's curriculum for children ages birth to three is the understanding that all the learning that infants and toddlers experience occurs within the context of warm, trusting relationships with consistent and familiar adults. Within a model of primary care giving and continuity of care over time, teachers plan opportunities for infants and toddlers to explore their world based on the children's interests and current developmental skills. We implement the "3 R's" of high quality infant/toddler care on a daily basis, focusing on relationships, respect and responsiveness. Using the Creative Curriculum, children's developmental progress is formally assessed 3 times a year.

Preschool – The Creative Curriculum is Educare's primary curriculum resource. This curriculum supports the beliefs that children are active learners. As part of the curriculum, each preschool classroom is divided into interest areas. These areas promote independence, decision making, and encourage exploration. The interest areas that are arranged in the classroom are: blocks, dramatic play area, toys and games, art, library, sand and water, music and movement, computers and the discovery area. When planning experiences the teachers focus on the content areas of math, science, literacy, social studies, arts, technology and process skills. Using the Creative Curriculum, children's developmental progress is formally assessed 3 times a year.

Evaluation

Educare contracts with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to complete numerous assessments throughout the year to guide instruction as well as measure student progress. Following is a summary of the 2007-2008 evaluation findings:

Educare classrooms are of high quality.

Early Head Start. Each infant and toddler classroom was assessed using the *Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scale – Revised*. The 15 classrooms had an average score of

5.91. Strength areas included supports for parents and staff, program structure, interactions, language activities and the space/furnishings in classrooms.

Head Start. Each preschool classroom was assessed using the *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised*. The 10 classrooms had an average score of 5.42. Strength areas included supports for parents and staff and program structure. Classrooms were also assessed using the *Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation*. Classrooms achieved an average Literacy Environment Checklist Subscale score of 90%; an average Classroom Observation Subscale of 81% and an average Literacy Activities Rating Scale Subscale of 67%.

Educare children develop strong language and literacy skills.

The *Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test IV* was used to measure preschool children's progress with vocabulary development. The average scores of all the children tested improved from an average of 84 in the Fall to 89 in the Spring. However, when one separates the scores of the English Language Learners and the English speaking population, the English Language Learner population scores were observed to have improved from 75 in the fall to 81 in the spring while the English speaking children's scores improved from 86 to 93. If one examines the score of children who had been enrolled in the Educare program for a minimum of 2 years, their average spring scores were found to be nearly near the national norm (97).

The *Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening – Preschool* was administered to all 4 year old children. Children are scored on whether they have achieved the identified Developmental Range. Following is a listing of their Fall to Spring scores:

- Name Writing; 35% to 87%
- Upper Case Letters; 36% to 84%
- Lower Case Letters; 27% to 80%
- Letter Sounds; 23% to 67%
- Beginning Sounds; 50% to 90%
- Print/Word; 13% to 50%
- Rhyme Awareness; 29% to 76%
- Nursery Rhyme Awareness; 29% to 62%

Educare children enter kindergarten ready to learn. The *Bracken School Readiness Assessment* was used to assess the school readiness skills of the Educare children entering kindergarten. The children's average school readiness standard score was 97.

Educare children are developing social and emotional protective factors. All children are assessed with the *Devereux Early Childhood Assessment* (for preschool children as well as infants and toddlers). The percent of children with typical or better total protective factors improved from fall to spring for the identified groups as follows:

- Preschool; 86% to 96%
- Toddlers; 74% to 87%
- Infants; 90% to 95%

Family Support Services

Parent Forum Presentations/Activities (2007-2008 Program Year)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| September | Children's Museum Fun Night |
| September | Safety Week |
| October | Homeownership Workshop (Paul Street) |
| October | Financial Management Skills (Paul Street) |
| November | Sign Language |
| November | Resolve Conflicts Effectively (Paul Street) |
| November | Healthy Snacks |
| November | Building Your Child's Self Esteem |
| December | Sense-ational Play at Home |
| December | Educational toys for Kids (Blackburn) |
| December | Holiday Breakfast |
| January | Kindergarten Readiness |
| January | Your Child's Temperament (Blackburn & Lafern – Part 1) |
| February | Dealing with Challenging Behaviors (Blackburn& LaFern-Part II) |
| February | Potty Training (Paul Street) |
| February | Free Tax Preparation |
| March | Parent training on Nutrition |
| March | Dealing with Challenging Behaviors (Blackburn& LaFern- Part III) |
| March | Little Chefs: The FUN-damentals of pizza making |
| March | Kindergarten Readiness |
| April | Kindergarten Readiness (LaFern) |
| April | Potty Training (Lafern & Blackburn) |
| April | Health Fair |
| April | Week of the Young Child Activities |
| April | Risk factors on Obesity |
| May | Healthy Eating |
| May | Preschool Graduation |
| May | Cinco de Mayo Celebration |
| June | Children's Museum Fun Night |
| July | Water Play Night |
| July | Parent Orientation for Returning Parents |
| August | Parent Orientation for New Parents |

Parent Child Interactive Activities

- *Read and Play* – Monthly, children receive a free book and parents receive information regarding reading to their child.
- *PACT* – Language and literacy skills are promoted through monthly classroom and center wide art activities.
- *Lending Library* – Weekly, parents can check out books and activities to interact with their children over the week-end.

Community Partners

Contracts

- Nebraska Department of Education (CACFP food program)
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (child care block grant)
- Omaha Public Schools Head Start program (Delegate Agreement)
- Prevent Blindness Nebraska (partial cost of vision screening)
- Seim, Johnson, Sestak & Quist, LLP (auditors)

Memorandums of Understanding

- 100 Black Men (community readers)
- Boys Town National Research Hospital (hearing screenings)
- Child Saving Institute (mental health consultant)
- Douglas County Health Department (lead screenings)
- Douglas County Health Department (WIC)
- Duchesne High School (volunteers)
- Early Childhood Coalition of Omaha Area (training opportunities)
- Eastern Nebraska Office of Aging (Foster grandparent program)
- Family Economic Success Initiatives (assistance in filing of federal and state income taxes)
- Family Housing Advisory Services (housing information)
- National Safety Council (CPR and First Aid Training)
- Omaha Children's Museum (family interactive activities)
- One World Community Health Center (dental and physical health needs)
- OPS Accounting Department (accounting services)
- OPS Business Services (rental agreement)
- OPS Early Childhood Special Education Program (special education diagnostic and intervention services)
- OPS Teen Parent Coordinators (identification and services to teen parents)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center (nursing students, dental services, health fair)
- University of Nebraska Omaha (student teachers)
- Very Special Arts (art activities)
- Visiting Nurse Association (health care for pregnant/parenting teens)

Financial Information

2007-2008 Revenue

| Source | Amount | Percent of Budget |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| Head Start | 642,912 | 14 |
| Head Start TA | 15,735 | 0 |
| Early Head Start | 1,321,896 | 29 |
| Early Head Start TA | 33,051 | 1 |
| Nebraska State Aid | 307,833 | 8 |
| Nebraska Department of Education Early Childhood Grant | 87,500 | 2 |
| Early Endowment Fund (Sixpence) (Continuation Grant) | 112,000 | 5 |
| Early Endowment Fund (Sixpence) (Teen Parent Grant) | 102,194 | 2 |
| Parent Fees | 65,000 | 1 |
| CACFP | 225,616 | 5 |
| Child Care Block Grant Subsidy | 276,000 | 6 |
| Omaha Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education | 69,144 | 1 |
| Omaha Public Schools Title I | 100,000 | 2 |
| Omaha Public Schools | 500,000 | 11 |
| Buffett Early Childhood Fund | 631,000 | 11 |
| PIRC | 46,052 | 1 |
| | | |
| TOTAL | 4,535,933 | |

2007-2008 Expenses

| Expense | Amount | Percent of Budget |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Salaries | 3,453,323 | 76 |
| Benefits | 598,179 | 13 |
| Contractual | 131,600 | 3 |
| Supplies | 231,000 | 5 |
| Equipment | 12,300 | 0 |
| Rent | 56,200 | 1 |
| Other | 45,000 | 1 |
| | | |
| TOTAL | 4,527,602 | |

In-Kind Services

Head Start Performance Standards require that 20% of the program's costs be raised by the grantee/delegate through in-kind or cash contributions. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, Educare received \$856,892 in in-kind or cash contributions; 43% of the program's costs.

Results of 2007-08 Audit

Audit findings for 2007-2008 identified a material weakness in internal control over financial reporting. As a result an Audit Corrective Action Plan was developed and implemented. However, tests performed regarding the direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts disclosed no instances of noncompliance.

Staff

| Program | Position | MS or higher | BS | AA | 12 hours of college credit | High School Diploma or GED |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| EHS | Master Teacher | 3 | 1 | | | |
| EHS | Lead Teacher | | 15 | | | |
| EHS | Associate Teacher | | 10 | 5 | | |
| EHS | Teacher Aide | | | | 7 | 8 |
| EHS | Family Support Supervisor | 1 | | | | |
| EHS | Family Enrichment Specialist | 1 | 3 | | | |
| HS | Master Teacher | 1 | 2 | | | |
| HS | Lead Teacher | 1 | 9 | | | |
| HS | Associate Teacher | | 6 | 4 | | |
| HS | Teacher Aide | | | | 8 | 2 |
| HS | Family Support Supervisor | | 1 | | | |
| HS | Family Enrichment Specialist | | 4 | | | |
| Admin | Project Director | 1 | | | | |
| Admin | Site Director | 2 | | | | |
| Admin | Accountant | | 1 | | | |
| Admin | Human Resources | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Admin | Data/ERSEA Manager | | 1 | | | |
| Kitchen | Food Coordinator | | 1 | | | |

Governance

Educare Board of Directors:

Jessie Rasmussen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund
Dan Pedersen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund
Dr. John Mackiel, Omaha Public Schools
Don Erikson, Fiscal Specialist, First National Bank
Dr. Joyce Buckner, Retired Early Childhood Administrator– Omaha Public Schools
Isaiah Wilson, Attorney, Baird Holm Law Firm
Michon Brown, Parent
Corina Rodriguez, Parent

Policy Committee Members:

Head Start Parent Representatives (Total 5) (2 Alternates)

| Name | Site |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Michon Brown, <i>Chairperson</i> | Paul |
| Gina Rich, <i>Secretary</i> | Paul |
| Jonetta Henry | Paul |
| MaKayla Townsnell | Paul |
| Corina Rodriguez | LaFern |
| Dalinda Avalos-Rodriquez * | LaFern |
| Mario Barnes * | Paul |

Early Head Start Parent Representatives

| Name | Site |
|----------------|-----------|
| Nathan Newton | Paul |
| Nicole Lester | Paul |
| Gladys Bonilla | LaFern |
| Rodney Gray | Blackburn |
| Miryam Ruiz * | LaFern |
| Dashel Lee * | Blackburn |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Maria Harris * | Blackburn |
| Nicole Rinard * | Paul |

* Alternates

Community Representatives

| Name | Site |
|--|---|
| Graciela Sharif, <i>Vice Chairperson</i> | PTI Nebraska |
| Felicia Rogers | UMCC - Wesley House |
| Charity Rieves | NE Dept of Health and Human Services – Employment First |
| Ana Barrios | Catholic Charities |
| Paul Burnett | Healthy Start |
| Dawn Ballosingh | One World – WIC |

Results of Federal Review

In May, 2008, Educare participated in an Office of Head Start Monitoring review. There were no findings indicating any areas of noncompliance.

Educare South

A second Educare is under construction at 3110 W Street. Similar to the current facility, it will house 72 infants and toddlers and 119 preschool aged children. The facility is scheduled to open for the 2009-2010 school year.