

June 2011: Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program: Comprehensive services for our most at-risk children

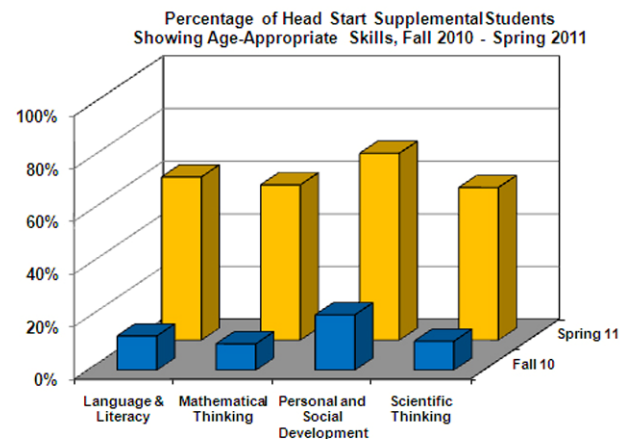
Nearly every child (97%) showed age-appropriate or emerging age-appropriate language, math, and social skills after attending Head Start Supplemental in 2010-2011.*

Pennsylvania's Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) is based on the federal model of Head Start, providing services to three and four year olds and their families living up to 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. HSSAP provides supplemental funding to Head Start programs to expand the number of children served or to extend the length of day or program year for children currently receiving services. In 2010-2011, 5,500 children receive services through HSSAP funding in 48 programs in 53 counties. More than 36,500 children receive Head Start services through combined federal and state funding in PA.

Head Start Supplemental is promoting children's school readiness.

Less than one in five preschoolers began the school year in Head Start Supplemental programs with age-appropriate skills. By the end of the school year, approximately three in five children showed age-appropriate language, math and social skills after attending Head Start Supplemental programs in 2010-2011.*

- The percent of children who were proficient in **Language and Literacy** increased from 13% in Fall to 62% in Spring.
- The percent of children who were proficient in **Mathematical Thinking** increased from 10% in Fall to 59% in Spring.
- The percent of children who were proficient in **Personal and Social Development** increased from 21% in Fall to 71% in Spring.
- The percent of children who were proficient in **Scientific Thinking** increased from 11% in Fall to 58% in Spring.



HSSAP is giving our most at-risk children a strong start.

The Head Start model provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. Because eligible children live in families up to 130% of the federal poverty level (i.e., a family of four earning \$29,055), they are at high risk of entering kindergarten developmentally behind and of failing in school.

Head Start has been a blessing to my family. Before my 4-year-old son began Head Start, he had difficulty following routines. He would not listen well to child care staff and had trouble getting along with peers. Since he has been in Head Start he has done a complete turn-around! He is excited to go to school in the morning. He enjoys the daily routine. He listens well to his teachers and he is beginning to interact with his classmates in a positive way. I feel confident that because of Head Start, he will be ready to enter kindergarten in the fall. Jill M., parent, Lycoming County

Pennsylvania is providing families with a variety of quality early learning choices.

Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program is part of a quality early education system serving children from birth to age five through school-age and their families to prepare Pennsylvania's children for success in school and in life. It is the combination of programs such as PA Pre-K Counts, Keystone STARS, Child Care Works, Early Intervention, Full-Day Kindergarten, Nurse-Family Partnership, Keystone Babies and Parent-Child Home Program that provides the most effective results. For more information, visit www.education.state.pa.us.

* Based on grantee reports for 4,246 children using an authentic assessment tool and reporting into the Early Learning Network