

2012 Community Report

The critical importance of early childhood education continues to gain momentum throughout Colorado and across the nation. Legislators, administrators and teachers, business leaders, researchers, parents and more agree that a child's early years see rapid brain development and are therefore crucial to later success in school and life. In Colorado, Clayton Early Learning continues at the forefront in preparing young children for success in school through its unique synergy of research, practice and training. Whether we are researching the effects of maternal depression on young children's development or using the proven combination of coaching and training to improve a teacher's effectiveness, Clayton Early Learning champions quality early learning experiences to ensure school readiness for all Colorado's children. The following report highlights just a few of our accomplishments in 2012.



Ready Child

Stepping up to Kindergarten

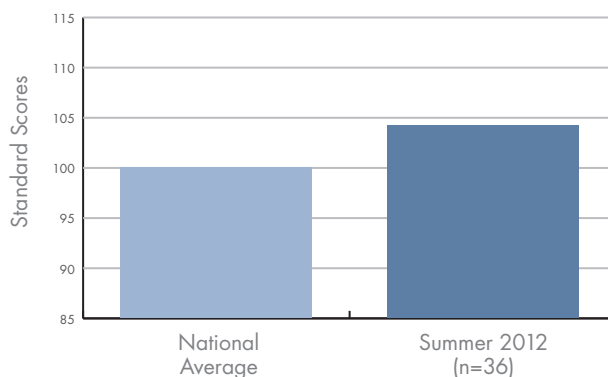
Narrowing the achievement gap prior to kindergarten entry is essential to early school success, reading on grade level by age 8, and high school graduation. We partner with families to individualize and implement a curriculum plan that includes academic, emotional, physical and nutritional wellness. Through this comprehensive approach, we work to ensure our students who face multiple risk factors go to kindergarten equipped with foundational concepts and personal strengths necessary for school success. In the spring of 2012, our group of children preparing to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2012 scored within the ready range on the Bracken School Readiness, 3rd Edition, assessment.



Encouraging Language

Talking with young children, and young children talking back, are vital indicators of school success. In our classrooms at Educare Denver School, the low student-teacher ratio allows for a high degree of supportive verbal interaction with each child. Weekly coaching with classroom teams supports the use of dialogic reading and other literacy strategies. As a result, infants and toddlers at Educare Denver School exceed the national average score of 100 for communication skills.

Early Communication Indicator (ECI)
Scores for All Infant Toddler Children Enrolled in
Center-Based Option, 2011-12



CHILDREN SERVED IN EDUCARE DENVER	Number of children served	Eligible children served	Enrolled children receiving medical exams	Enrolled children receiving dental exams
Early Head Start	258	95%	96%	84%
Head Start	293	97%	96%	95%

Ready Family

Strengthening Relationships

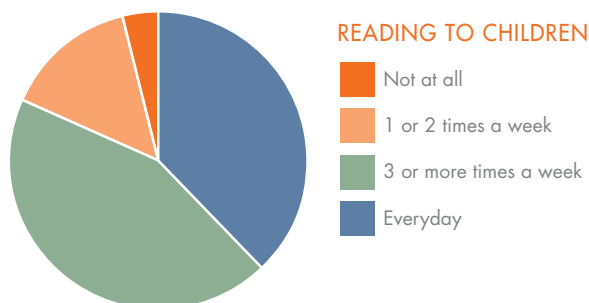
A healthy family relationship is a critical component to life success. Increasing protective factors within families strengthens children's resiliency now and in later life. At our Educare Denver School, we facilitate the development of healthy attachments and emotional connections through the family-child relationship and home links, peer-led support groups, family coaching, culturally relevant mental health services and community referrals. After participating in our program for at least six months, 95 percent of families reported less parental distress, more functional parent-child relationships and high levels of competence as a parent. Additionally, 82 percent of parents report reading with their child at least three times each week.

Enhancing the Meaning of Family

A fatherhood event designed to connect father-figures to their children through an exploration of music and movement using natural materials often found in the home was an empowering experience. We also encouraged the involvement of grandparents, so they could share their family's educational journey and participate in an activity celebrating their heritage. More than 10 percent of families had grandparents attend the event, sparking new relationships and the potential for a grandparent network.

Summer Reading Program

Nearly 50 percent of our Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) families enrolled in a newly created summer enrichment program for children and families. The summer program focused on increasing families' knowledge of early literacy skills. On average, families read 74 books with their children, about 12 books a week. We use the HIPPY curriculum in our home-based program for preschool children during the school year.



FAMILIES SERVED IN EDUCARE DENVER

	Number of families served	Average monthly enrollment
Early Head Start	223	99%
Head Start	260	100%

Ready Teachers

High Quality Classrooms

The average Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS™) scores for our preschool classrooms at Educare Denver School exceed the national average in all but one area. When comparing classroom data from previous years, it is clear our classrooms consistently provide high-quality care and education.

Statewide Community College Project

Annually, more than 14,000 early childhood professionals attend Colorado's community colleges to improve their teaching skills. In 2010, Clayton Early Learning partnered with these colleges to improve the quality of teacher preparation through NAEYC accreditation of two-year early childhood degree programs. By March 2012, the NAEYC Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation awarded accreditation to nine of the ten participating programs. Four additional programs participated in program improvement, but were not eligible for accreditation due to size.

Statewide Training in Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Tools

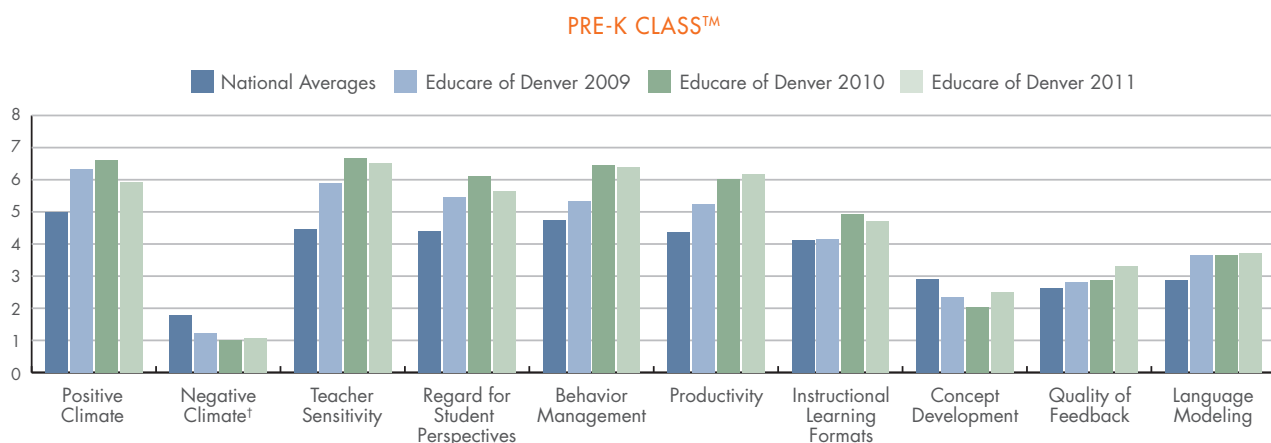
We trained more than 720 early childhood professionals in 2012 with this tool to improve quality in early childhood centers and family homes. Additionally, we trained and supported more than 50 certified ERS observers and 12 Qualistar ratings specialists, representing 35 percent of the counties in Colorado.

Technology for Training

We launched an online training series for Denver Preschool Program Providers: Good to Great, an Overview of the Pre-K CLASS™ and Effective Teaching Strategies. In 2013 we plan to expand offerings of online training courses, webinars and online radio shows.

Coaching

Clayton Early Learning supported Denver's Great Kids Head Start and its delegate agencies with professional development coaching services. Through coaching, we hope to improve overall credentialing rates of Head Start teachers and assistant teachers with the goal that 50% of these teachers in the Denver Metro area will hold a BA in early childhood education.



† A low score for Negative Climate indicates a positive classroom climate.

Ready Community

DPP

As a strategic partner with Denver Preschool Program (DPP), Clayton Early Learning conducted coaching at 78 DPP sites; launched online training opportunities; provided a child outcomes study and report; and served nearly 50 children through the program at Educare Denver School. We also helped launch the DPP Class™ Assessment Team, a strategic partnership among DPP, Qualistar and Clayton Early Learning.

Men in ECE

One of our education professionals participated in launching the *Men in Early Childhood Colorado* organization, which works to improve gender values and biases relative to males and fathers. Research shows that male figures in a child's life are more likely to become involved in the early learning setting when there are more male professionals within that setting. Within the Educare Denver School, over 12 percent of our direct service early learning staff is male when typically only two to three percent of early childhood professionals in the field are male.



Play and Learn

These dynamic community-based playgroups are designed to help parents and other caregivers of children birth to age 3 prepare their children for school success through participation in activities that support children's development. This year, we expanded from three to five groups serving a total of more than 100 children and families. We also turned our focus toward researching the effectiveness of the Play and Learn model through Ready to Read, a project funded by Mile High United Way/Social Innovation Fund. Our researchers are using the LENA System, an innovative assessment tool, to measure language interactions between children and adults and to provide feedback to Play and Learn participants.



Statement of Activities

June 30, 2012 and 2011	TOTAL 2012	TOTAL 2011
REVENUE		
Government Grants	859,032	1,420,190
Private	1,310,512	416,357
Fee for service	768,112	767,617
Amortization of discount on pledges receivable	59,043	51,819
Other contributions	89,190	34,639
Investment Income	(114,456)	3,537,901
Rental income	1,046,812	1,024,611
Other income	10,729	68,679
Total revenue, gains and support	4,028,974	7,321,813
EXPENDITURES		
Total program services	3,221,641	3,857,446
Campus preservation and maintenance	689,173	763,279
General and administrative expenses	796,146	818,680
Grant writing and fundraising	94,862	79,128
Total supporting activities	1,580,181	1,661,087
Total expenditures	4,801,822	5,518,533
Change in net assets	(772,848)	1,803,280
Net assets at beginning of year	29,900,481	28,097,201
Net assets at end of year	29,127,633	29,900,481

Statement of Financial Position

Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,137,754	1,231,560
Accounts receivable	422,996	165,975
Grants receivable	128,692	57,685
Investments	16,683,227	17,632,349
Pledges receivable - capital campaign	261,635	402,592
Bond Issuance costs	125,000	150,000
Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	11,715,619	12,120,107
Prepaid expense and other assets	15,479	22,807
Total Assets	30,490,402	31,783,075
Liabilities and Net Assets:		
Accounts payable - operating	82,525	118,754
Accrued payroll and other liabilities	305,886	288,840
Bonds payable	975,000	1,475,000
Total liabilities	1,363,411	1,882,594
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	11,204,811	11,566,646
Temporarily restricted	5,838,835	6,249,848
Permanently restricted	12,083,987	12,083,987
Total net assets	29,127,633	29,900,481
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	30,491,044	31,783,075

CLAYTON EARLY LEARNING – EDUCARE

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2012 and 2011	TOTAL 2012	TOTAL 2011
REVENUE		
Early Head Start	2,610,026	2,797,113
Head Start	1,402,884	1,402,884
Food and Nutrition Programs	99,160	110,607
Other grants and program income	860,937	937,430
Donated services and facilities from Clayton Early Learning	1,265,590	1,257,438
Total revenue, gains and support	6,268,085	6,505,472
EXPENDITURES		
Program services:		
Early Head Start	3,298,492	3,472,693
Head Start	2,521,048	2,228,337
Other programs	215,342	306,556
Total program services	6,034,882	6,007,586
Supporting Activities:		
General and administrative expenses	704,367	806,503
Grant writing	-	11,240
Total supporting activities	704,367	817,743
Total expenditures	6,739,249	6,825,329
Change in net assets	(471,164)	(319,857)
Net assets at beginning of year	561,686	881,543
Net assets at end of year	90,522	561,686

Statement of Financial Position

Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	65,036	530,888
Grants receivable	195,424	195,580
Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	92,777	112,855
Prepaid expense	18,197	3,360
Total Assets	371,434	842,683
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable - operating	48,108	29,418
Accrued payroll and other liabilities	92,695	190,762
Clayton Early Learning payable	140,109	60,817
Total liabilities	280,912	280,997
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	90,522	561,686
Temporarily restricted	-	-
Total net assets	90,522	561,686
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	371,434	842,683

The most recent Federal monitoring review of Clayton Educare in 2012 found the program in full compliance with all Head Start performance standards, including all fiscal requirements. The financial audit for 2011-12 of Clayton Educare done in compliance with Circular A-133 Federal audit requirements Budget for FY11-12 was \$5,621,512 58% of budget is personnel and 42% is non-personnel.

Looking Ahead

When there is investigation, innovation or inspiration in early childhood education, Clayton Early Learning is usually at the center of this work. We remain the only organization in the state that touches all aspects of the improvement of early childhood education – research, practice and training. And we will continue to push the leading edge in early childhood education next year and for years to come.

Research

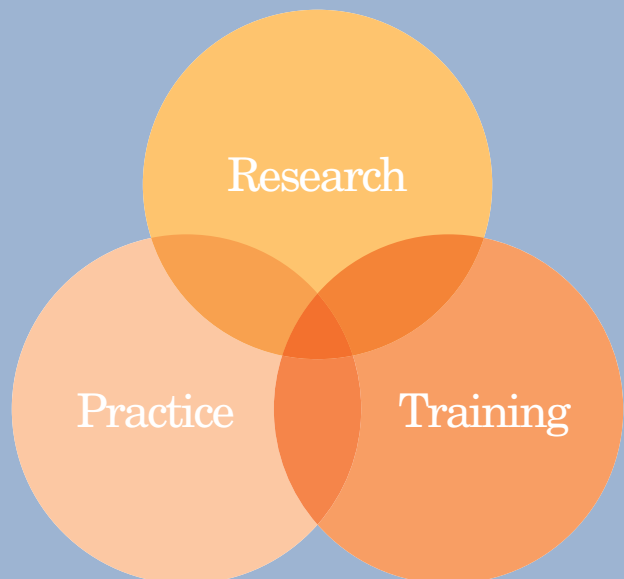
Clayton Early Learning, in partnership with the University of Colorado, field-tested a technology-based tool to support Head Start coaches and is consulting with the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning to launch the tool nationwide in 2013 or later. In addition, Sesame Workshop selected Educare Denver School as one of three sites in the nation to beta test new early childhood curriculum based on appropriate use of educational technology and Sesame's premier research-based content. We anticipate this relationship will continue in 2013.

Practice

In 2013 we will open a new school in Far Northeast Denver as part of Z Place on the Evie Garrett Dennis Campus, joining the existing cutting edge K-12 education community of Denver School of Science and Technology, Soar and Strive Prep. This venture will extend our quality early childhood education to another 80+ children birth to age 5 and their families in a rapidly growing and underserved part of Denver.

Training

Coaching to improve program quality and teacher effectiveness continues to be a signature service. Our coaching model aligns with a growing body of evidence that teacher professional development impacts practice when it is focused on specific teacher and child outcomes applicable to the classroom. Combined coaching and training, sustained over time, allows for peer reflection and is rapidly gaining support of early childhood program leadership. In 2013, 199 classrooms and family child-care homes are improving their teacher effectiveness with a focus on literacy, science, math and social/emotional development.



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