



STRONG CHILDREN. STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG COMMUNITIES

KIDS AND COMPANY OF LINN COUNTY

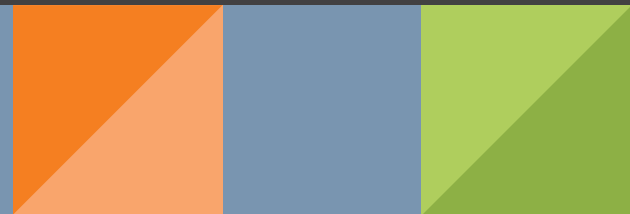
FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Find us online at www.kidcoheadstart.org | [@kidcoheadstart](https://twitter.com/kidcoheadstart)

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OUR MISSION

Kidco Head Start's mission is to provide a comprehensive early child development program that supports children and families.

OUR JOURNEY

KIDCO HEAD START HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

1965 - Sweet Home School District 55 awarded one of the nation's initial Head Start grants to serve five-year-old children in a three-month summer program. Total enrollment was 54

1968 - Head Start becomes a 9-month school year program and operates from the former Cascadia School.

1977 - Kids and Company of Linn County, a private non-profit, is formed, primarily to be the grantee for Head Start. The program moves operation into Sweet Home and begins serving three and four year old children.

1979 - Head Start is granted the deed to Sweet Home's Sunnyside School.

1979-92 - The program expands, serving children in Sweet Home, Crawfordville, Lebanon, Albany, Corvallis, Harrisburg and Monroe areas adding Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Program funding to Federal Head Start funding. Enrollment is now 324.

1998-02 - Program adds services to Philomath, Jefferson and Central Linn. Full-day and Full-year classes are added to the Albany center. Enrollment during this time is 387.

2002 - Head Start purchases Albany's Riverside school and grounds. Full-day / Full-year services begin for 18 children in Albany.

2002-08 - The program expands in areas served; enrollment is up to 449 students.

2010 - Early Head Start services began in 3 communities with 52 families.

2015 Spring - EHS celebrates 5 year anniversary with Kidco

2015 Spring - Kidco Head Start celebrates 50th Anniversary alongside Head Start nationwide.

2016 Winter - Kidco applies and receives federal funding to increase duration for 40% of slots.

2018 Spring - Joy Street Center in Lebanon opens.

2020 Fall - Expansion of 55 EHS center-based slots.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED

Of the 418 children served during 2022 - 2023:

69% had at least 1 parent Employed

11% had at least 1 parent in Job Training/School

81% had at least 1 parent with a High School Degree or Higher

24% had a College Degree

FAMILIES SERVED IN 2022-2023

382 Head Start / Early Head Start

FUNDED ENROLLMENT

Head Start | 311

Early Head Start | 107



OUR VALUES

We believe we are a positive influence in the lives of children and families.

We acknowledge parents as the most influential teachers of their children.

We value respect.

We value relationships with families, board, community and co-workers.

We value a program environment that is caring and supportive.

We value shared decision making.

HEAD START CENTERS

Albany - Riverside

Corvallis- Corvallis SD sites

Harrisburg

Jefferson

Lebanon

Philomath

Sweet Home - Sunnyside

EARLY HEAD START CENTERS

Albany - YMCA

Corvallis - Old Mill Center

Corvallis - 35th Street

Lebanon

VISION STATEMENT

Creating opportunities and empowering persons towards growth and connections

WHAT WE DO

KIDCO HEAD START HELPS CHILDREN SUCCEED

Head Start is a federal program for preschool children from low-income families. The Head Start Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Program is the same program funded by the state. Children who attend Head Start participate in educational activities to help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. They also receive free medical and dental care, healthy meals, and enjoy playing and learning in safe indoor and outdoor settings. Special services are offered to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

EHS provides the same services for pregnant women, infants and toddlers in selected communities. EHS promotes nurturing parent/child relationships and a healthy start in life. Both programs work in partnership with families, offering a sense of belonging, support, and opportunities to be engaged in activities to help the whole family.

We assess children's skills throughout a school year. This data is used to plan for individual children and make program improvements to ensure all children are ready for kindergarten. Our data shows that the majority of children entering our program do not have the skills expected of their age. However, by the end of the year they make tremendous growth; about 90% have acquired the expected skills. The charts on this page indicate significant progress in the areas of social, physical, cognitive, literacy, and math.

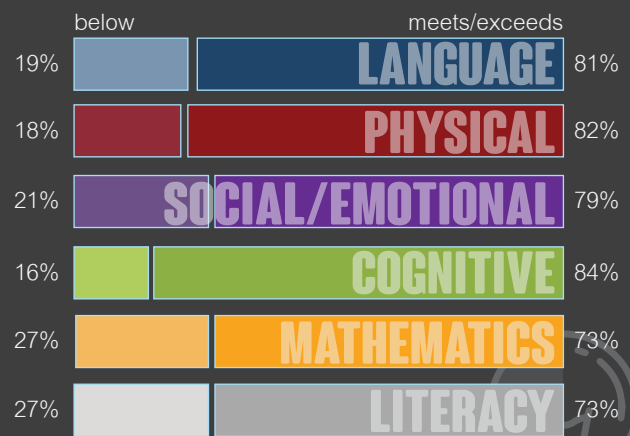
ABOUT US

A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS) services provide significant educational, health, economic and social benefits. Beginning with healthy attachments in infancy, children receive early learning experiences which engage parents and strengthen families. Studies reveal that children who participated in Head Start and EHS have:

- ✓ Significantly higher cognitive and language skills
- ✓ Better achievement scores in school
- ✓ Higher rates of high school graduation
- ✓ Better employment as adults
- ✓ Less involvement in the criminal justice system
- ✓ Increased family stability

GROWTH COMPARISONS 2022-2023



Children's gains across a four-step developmental skills assessment, TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD

OUR PHILOSOPHY

VALUE & SUPPORT

We create an environment that promotes the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of each child. Providing experiences that build self-confidence, self-sufficiency and creativity is key. Developing natural curiosity, thinking and problem-solving skills are tools that can be used for a life time.

We value and support parents as their child's primary teacher by inviting and encouraging parents to participate in the program. Services and opportunities are provided to each family that unify and strengthen the family/child relationship. Parents are given the chance to build on their personal skills, become more self-confident and more self-sufficient.

By providing our staff with a variety of training opportunities they are able to stay current with best practices. A positive work environment and strong team spirit are valued by the organization and staff are encouraged to develop mutually-supportive relationships with the community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IS
THE BEST TIME TO
HELP A CHILD.

HEAD START PROGRAM

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood is the best time to help a child. Providing the right kind of learning experiences and nurturing relationships builds a foundation that lasts a lifetime. We are committed to doing the best job we can to help children enter kindergarten self-confident and ready to learn. This requires on-going improvement in the quality of our teaching practices. We use knowledge gained from research to inform our practices and to help us select curricula and tools. One tool, the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), is used to strengthen teacher practices that are shown to improve children's readiness for kindergarten in all areas; social, emotional, cognitive, language, literacy, and math. The tool is based on direct observation by certified education specialists and the results used to support on-going improvement in teaching practices.



CAPACITY & DEMOGRAPHICS

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

Number of Classrooms: 28

Number of Centers: 12

Funded Enrollment: 418 children and families

Eligible children served (0-5): 22%

Cumulative Enrollment: 418 children and 382 families

Average Monthly Enrollment: 97%

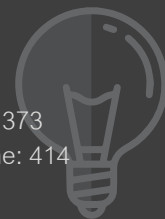
Ethnic Composition: 119 Hispanic/Latino & 299 Non-Hispanic

Additional Health Statistics:

Number of children with health insurance: 414

Number of children up-to-date on immunizations: 373

Number of children with established medical home: 414



NUTRITION

HEALTHY CHILDREN

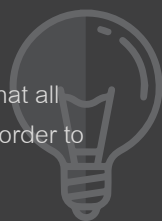
Children need to be physically and emotionally healthy to learn and grow. Head Start works with parents to help each child be up-to-date on their medical care. We also provide a variety of screenings to see if children have vision, hearing, dental, developmental or mental health needs. We serve children nutritious meals at school to encourage healthy food choices. As well, every child in the program receives a nutrition assessment and we have a Registered Dietitian on staff to provide support to families.



SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

77 children with disabilities were served in Head Start & Early Head Start during the program year or approximately 18% of those we served.

Head Start and Early Head Start recognizes that all families need support in facing challenges in order to be the best parents they can be.



PROMOTING HEALTHY KIDS

HEALTH LEADING TO ENHANCED LEARNING

99% OF HEAD START/EHS CHILDREN ESTABLISHED A MEDICAL HOME.



96% OF HEAD START/EHS CHILDREN NEEDING MEDICAL TREATMENT RECEIVED TREATMENT.



96% OF ALL CHILDREN ENROLLED RECEIVED DENTAL EXAMS.



88% OF HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN WERE UP-TO-DATE ON A SCHEDULE OF AGE-APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING AN ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAM.



89% OF HEAD START/EHS CHILDREN WERE UP-TO-DATE ON IMMUNIZATIONS.



18% OF HEAD START/EHS CHILDREN HAD A CHRONIC CONDITION THAT NEEDED MEDICAL TREATMENT.



PREPARING CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR
SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND
THROUGHOUT LIFE.

SCHOOL READINESS

INCREASE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL READINESS

Our objectives for children are to:

- ✓ Improve services for non-English speakers
- ✓ Improve mental health services
- ✓ Implement Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) strategies in classroom
- ✓ Increase the education level of classroom staff
- ✓ Improve physical and nutrition services
- ✓ Improve services to homeless children

As well, the program has established School Readiness Goals in 6 areas including: social emotional development, perceptual, motor and physical development, language and literacy, approaches to learning, cognition, and family engagement.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

INVESTING EARLY YIELDS BIG RETURNS

During FY 2023, Head Start & Early Head Start average monthly enrollment was maintained at 97% of funding levels.

School Readiness

- ✓ Language Development
- ✓ Early Literacy
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Creative Thinking
- ✓ Mathematics

Strong Healthy Bodies

- ✓ Nutritious Meals
- ✓ Outdoor Activities
- ✓ Medical & Dental Exams
- ✓ Vision & Hearing Screenings
- ✓ Personal Safety

Special Services

- ✓ Speech and Language
- ✓ Mental Health Services
- ✓ Individual Developmental Plans

Social and Emotional Skills

- ✓ Appropriate Communication
- ✓ Social Responsibility
- ✓ Appreciation of Differences
- ✓ Self-Confidence

GOALS OF OUR CURRICULUM

CHILDREN LEARN BEST BY DOING

In our program, the most important goal is to help children become confident and secure learners. The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by doing, supported by responsive, caring and knowledgeable adults. Learning requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work, and this is best accomplished through play.

Play is the work of young children. Play provides the foundation for later academic success in school. It is the preparation children need before they learn highly abstract symbols such as letters and numbers. Play enables us to achieve the key goals of our early childhood curriculum.

The activities we plan for children, the way we organize the classroom, selection of toys and materials, plan the daily schedule, and talk with children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give each child a successful transition into kindergarten.

LONG TERM PROGRAM GOALS

- ✓ Provide quality services which support children in becoming successful life long learners.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for family growth and development.
- ✓ Provide cost effective integrated systems to support attainment of goals.

Our program curriculum emphasizes the involvement of families as the primary teacher of their children. Education services include home visits with caregivers to plan activities that enhance each child's individual growth and development.

Goals are identified in all areas of development

- ✓ Social / Emotional
- ✓ Intellectual
- ✓ Language
- ✓ Physical



PARENT FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGING PARENTS AT ALL LEVELS

Engaging parents at all levels of the program is very important in Head Start and Early Head Start. Staff support parents in overcoming barriers and setting goals to reach their dreams. During the school year we provided many services and referrals for families. 100% of all Head Start and Early Head Start Families in the program utilized at least one the following services:

Parent Training

- ✓ Child Development
- ✓ Child Guidance Strategies
- ✓ Health and Nutrition Information
- ✓ Mental Health and Stress Relief
- ✓ Adult Basic Education/GED
- ✓ English for Speakers of Other Languages
- ✓ Prenatal/Postnatal Care
- ✓ Breastfeeding Support
- ✓ Home Based Service
- ✓ Housing Assistance

Referrals to Community Resources

- ✓ Emergency Services (basic family needs)
- ✓ Health, Mental Health and Nutritional Services
- ✓ Job Training and Education

Educational Opportunities

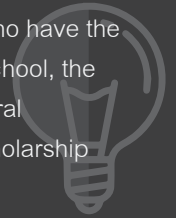
- ✓ GED - Program provides books, child care, transportation, study classes and testing
- ✓ Literacy, Payment of Adult Basic Education Classes
- ✓ English for Speakers of Other Languages

Family Partnerships

- ✓ Building on Family Strengths
- ✓ Setting Family Goals
- ✓ Supporting Parents to Reach Those Goals
- ✓ Supporting Families as Primary Teachers/Caregivers of Their Children

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

For parents and prior Head Start graduates who have the goal of continuing their education past high school, the program offers opportunities to apply for several scholarships, including a two year, \$2,000 scholarship that Kidco Head Start itself awards each year.



FAMILY NEEDS

WORKING TOWARD COMMON GOALS

Family advocates provide many resources to assist parents in improving their education and working toward their financial goals.

FAMILY SERVICES



100% of families received 1 or more family service

FAMILY HOUSING

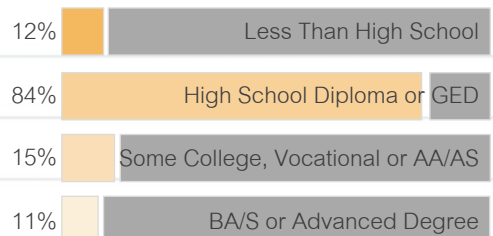


21% of families were experiencing homelessness



16% of homeless families acquired housing during the enrollment year

PARENT EDUCATION LEVELS



EVALUATION

FEDERAL REVIEW

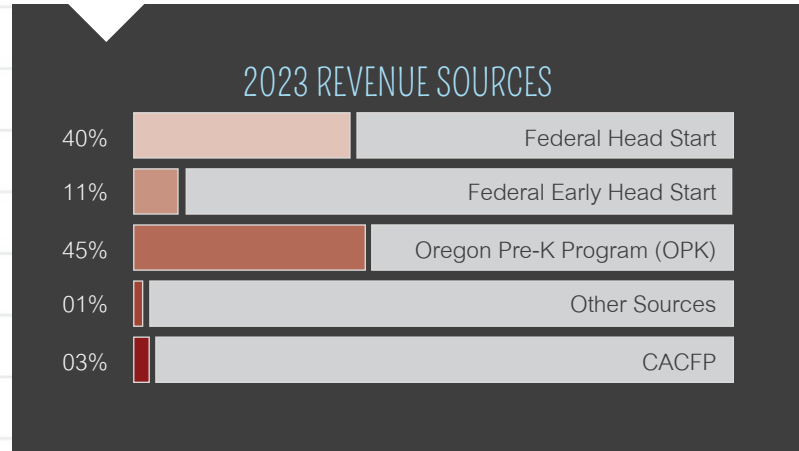
With the new 5 year grant cycle, the Office of Head Start has moved to an aligned monitoring system, with reviews occurring throughout that 5 year cycle.

Kidco's most recent review was in winter of 2022, and was a Focus Area 2 review. The Focus Area review was a clean review with no areas found to be out of compliance or deficient.

AUDIT STATEMENT

Kids and Company of Linn County is audited in accordance with Government Auditing Standards every year.

SingerLewak conducted the FY 2023. The audit was an unmodified opinion with zero findings and low-risk status was given.



FINANCIAL

HOW WE'RE FUNDED

Revenue Sources (FY 2023)

Department of Health and Human Services

Federal Head Start/Early Head Start	\$4,399,778
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Department of Education

Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Program (OPK)	\$3,906,786
Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA)	\$339,306

Other Sources

Misc. Income, grants, donations and volunteer time	\$142,000
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Total Amount	\$8,787,870
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2023 ADMINISTRATION COSTS



BUDGET EXPLANATION - 2024

PROGRAM SERVICES

Kidco Head Start is funded to provide comprehensive preschool services to 366 Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families through yearly grants provided by the Federal Government and the State of Oregon.

Program services include educational activities based on individual needs, nutritious meals and snacks, transportation, assistance in securing medical, dental and mental health care, educational opportunities for parents and support for family needs through referrals and goal setting.



PROPOSED BUDGET - 2024

A DETAILED LOOK

Revenue / Support

Department of Health Human Services

Federal Head Start / Early Head Start	\$4,727,182
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Department of Education

Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Program (OPK)	\$3,956,506
Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA)	\$346,400

Other Sources

Misc. Income, donations, in-kind and volunteer time	\$142,000
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Expenses

Payroll and Fringe Benefits	\$7,355,261
Travel	\$15,913
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$277,337
Contractual	\$192,265
Property Services	\$606,629
Other-Purchases	\$505,352

(including nutrition, child services, volunteers, substitutes, parent services, accounting and legal, publications, training/staff development, occupancy, transportation)

“Children attending preschool had high school graduation rates averaging nearly 80%, while the rate for those not enrolled in preschool was only 60%.”

- HighScope Perry Preschool Study

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

HEAD START ELIGIBILITY

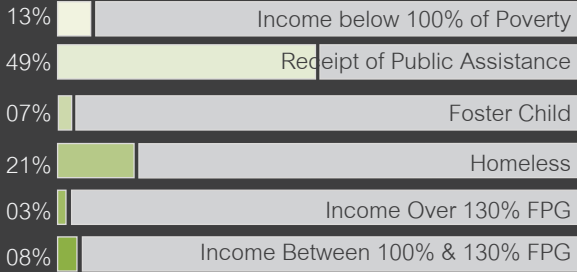
BASED ON INCOME AND NEED

Families are eligible for Head Start based on income and need. 90% of children enrolled must be from families whose income is less than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines; 10% may be accepted due to special needs regardless of income.

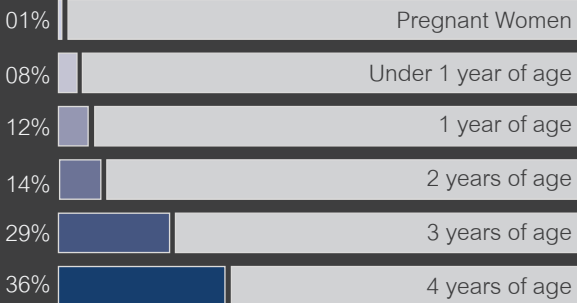
2023 federal poverty guidelines:

- ✓ Family of three with an income of \$24,860 or less
- ✓ Family of four with an income of \$30,000 or less

PRIMARY TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY

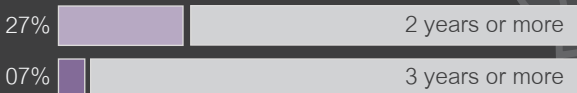


AGES SERVED



YEARS OF ENROLLMENT

Early Head Start



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

HOUSING

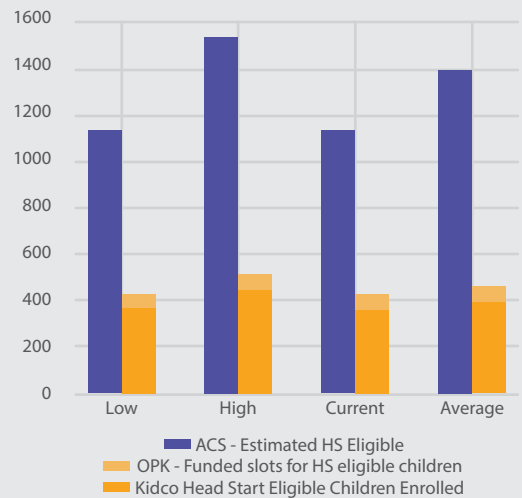
Adjusted for inflation, the weighted average median rent in Kidco's service area has increased by 18% over the past 7 years.

In Kidco's service area, the percentage of households that are "rent-overburdened" is 49%, meaning that nearly half of rent paying households pay 35% or more of their monthly income toward rent compared to 24% in the state of Oregon as a whole.

These trends are also reflected in Kidco's family services data. Among Early Head Start families the need was even more acute, with 49% of Kidco EHS families requesting or needing such services compared to 15.2% in the state and 10.6% in the US as a whole.

In the most recently completed program year, 21% of Kidco Head Start children were homeless, compared to 15% of Head Start children statewide.

ESTIMATING THE HEAD START ELIGIBLE POPULATION 2011-2016
Kidco Head Start



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT [CONT.]

ECONOMIC ISSUES

There are two, seemingly conflicting economic trends occurring in the service area. The poverty rate for young families is dropping, down to 20%, an 9-year low from a high of 30.6% in 2013. Median family income is also increasing, from \$50,015 per year in 2010 to \$59,547 in 2021. At the same time both the number and percentage of households on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance (TANF) and SNAP benefits are all on the rise. This may indicate wider income disparities in the area, and with rising rents low income families are under even more financial pressured. Some of the upward economic trends may be due to recent increases in the state minimum wage.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are an important part of our Head Start program. The program and children benefit each year from the invaluable support of volunteers. In 2022-2023, Kidco had a total of 92 volunteers. Volunteers were limited due to pandemic restrictions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVMENT AT THE CENTER

Classroom: Assist children with classroom activities.

Kitchen: Assist the Kitchen Manager with the preparation of meals (Food Handler's card required).

Parent Planning: Work with the Family Advocate to plan workshops and Family night activities.

Parent Committee: Meet once a month for Family Night for business and an activity or training.

Fundraising: Plan fundraising projects, earning money for center activities and field trips.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Pat Smith - Warehouse Worker, Retired Air Force

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Kershaw - Program parent; Retired Air Force

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Kay Smith - Accounting, Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis

ADDITIONAL KIDCO BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Meltzer - Bank Manager

Don Andrews - Retired Attorney

Pam Peck - Retired Early Childhood Education

Tori Watson - ECE Grad Student/Social Services

Kids and Company of Linn County is the non-profit sponsor of the Kidco Head Start program. The board provides general oversight, direction and evaluation of the Head Start program. The board also fosters public awareness for the Head Start program and joins in raising donations for advancing program projects

POLICY COUNCIL

Angelica Riddle - Chairperson

Crystal Harrison - Vice-Chair

Breeanna Paul - Recording Secretary

Angelica Riddle & Sylvia Cox - State Reps & Personnel Delegates

A decision making body whose membership includes at least 51% parents of Head Start children currently enrolled in the program plus representatives of the community. The Policy Council helps to establish the goals of Head Start programs and ways to meet such goals within OHS guidelines.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A HEAD START?

For information about the services we provide please contact our Administration Office

300 Market Street, Suite 200
Lebanon, Oregon 97355
P: 541.451.1581

Or visit us online at
www.kidcoheadstart.org



KIDCO FAMILY STORY

Tyler St. Clair is currently a 2nd year medical student at Western University of Health Sciences working towards earning his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. He was the recipient of the 2024 Kidco Scholarship. Tyler and his wife have a child in one of the Early Head Start classrooms at the Lebanon Center.

In Tylers words:

My experience with Kidco has been interesting and eye opening. I use these two words because I can say that Kidco has changed the way I have thought about certain aspects of parenting and much of this change stems from the parent meetings that my wife and I try to attend as often as possible. It is in these meetings that we learn what is going on in the classrooms but beyond that what they are doing to help the children understand their behavior.

I grew up in a caring and loving family, but I would say they used more of the traditional discipline style. It was more of a listen to me because I am the parent, with some partnering to help you understand what you did wrong. I felt that this would be a fine model to bring into our home, and I think that it still has it's place, but my time at the parent meetings has shown me that even though my son is only 16 months he can still learn through partnering. I find myself at times explaining to my kid why he can't do something in situations where I don't think I would have other times. Also learning different de-escalation techniques has been very useful especially as my kid starts to develop his emotions. We find ourselves multiple times a day implementing things that the teachers have taught us either in class or in the meetings. I

think that without out some of the training that we have gotten there would be a lot more stress in our house sometimes as we tried to learn how to navigate the emotional changes that come throughout the early years of childhood.



Kidco has also helped broaden my horizon as to what I can do to help out in the classroom. It is easy to think about getting in and doing work in the classroom and centers, but our teacher has always reminded us that we can take pictures to create a little field trip if we do something fun. We recently took this opportunity when we were in Phoenix Arizona visiting family. We went to the zoo one day and as we started walking through, I looked at my wife and said that we should take photos to send to the teacher. The walk through the zoo morphed from enjoying the zoo to trying to see it through the eyes of a young child and how we could help them enjoy this experience back in Oregon. It also helped me pay attention more to the signs and names of animals so that I could have a better chance of answering questions, and this enriched the trip more for myself as well.

Finally, I would be remised if I didn't mention the best part of my experience with Kidco, and that is seeing how my son has flourished. I still remember the first day of classes, trying to scramble to get out the door and get him to school and then get myself to classes. I still remember the slight tears in my eyes as I drove away because there was a pain in leaving him for the first time, yet those should have been tears of joy. Joy because he was in a very good space for him, a space that has helped him grow into a very independent and social 16-month-old. He has gained skills that I really do not believe that he would have on his own at this point. He enjoys school very much and is happy to go every day, and it makes me very happy. I tell people that Kidco is a part of our support system for my medical school because they have been a wonderful extension of the parenting that my wife and I have desired to give him to him as well.



Tyler St. Clair