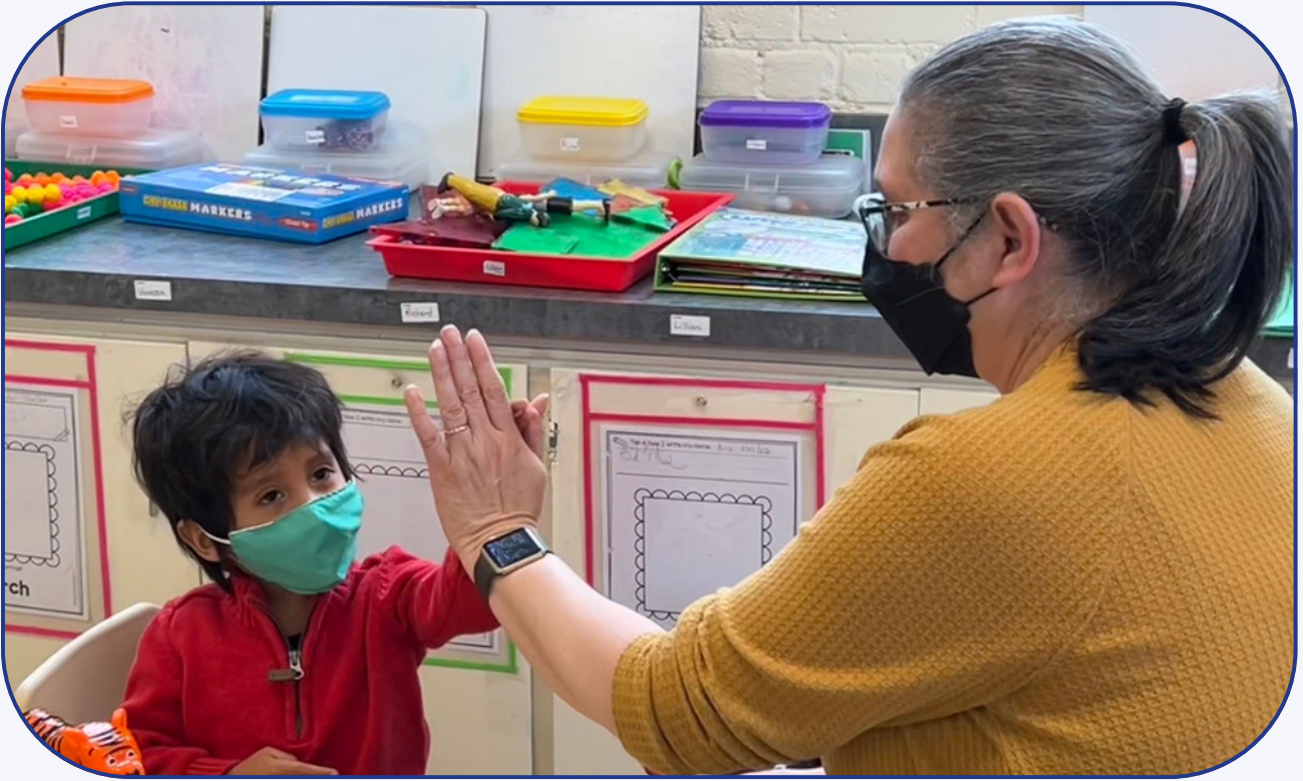


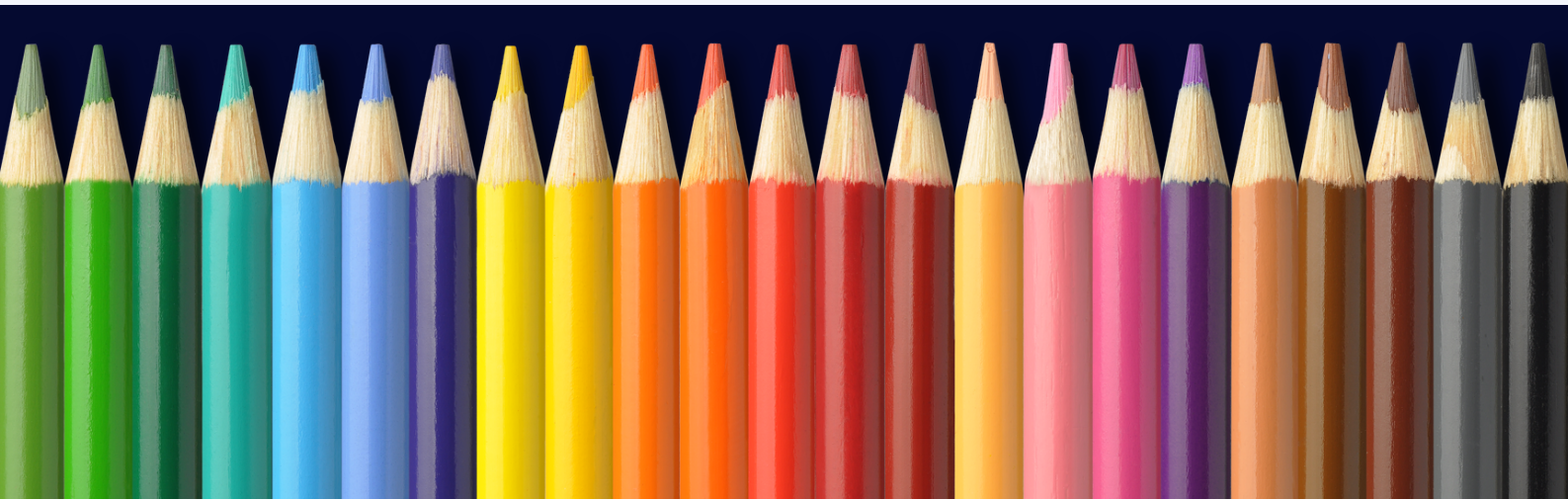


**TEAM**.inc

*Strengthening Communities - Making A Difference*



# EARLY CHILDHOOD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





# WELCOME

Dear families, friends and partners,

While the 2021-2022 program year has certainly had its share of twists and turns from the world around us, TEAM's early childhood program has so much to celebrate and be proud of!

While continuing to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, TEAM's early childhood program served over 500 infants, toddlers and preschool aged children throughout multiple program options. Through the practices of Head Start, we have meaningfully supported and engaged hundreds of families as they navigate life's uncertainties and strive to reach new goals. We have ensured children have had access to healthy meals, special services, safe learning environments and above all, a constant, positive presence from our dedicated team of early childhood professionals.

Strong community partnerships within TEAM's service areas have been a backbone of support to program operations and to the families we serve. We have continued to expand—renovating existing buildings to respond to community need and welcome an increased number of infants and toddlers into center-based programming. Despite all obstacles, we continue to innovate, collaborate and grow. Above all, we recognize that resiliency lives within each of us and pride ourselves in knowing TEAM's commitment to Head Start and early childhood has made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many.

With appreciation and positivity,

*Jamie Peterson*

Jamie Peterson  
Lead Director of Early Childhood





Dear Friends,

My name is Elena. I am a single parent of two handsome boys Carlyle and Enzo. I moved to Shelton about 5 years ago when my son, Carlyle was only 1. After talking to my aunt, she told me to look into a program called TEAM Head Start after hearing wonderful things.

I am so thankful I listened to her. I went down to the Ansonia location and spoke to a Family Support Specialist who helped me apply for enrollment. After some time, I received the best news of my life. I was off the waiting list and my son had a spot at the Shelton Grove location. Prior to him starting, the teaching staff met one on one with me to go over program information and learn about my son. What a fantastic way to answer any cares or concerns. I don't trust anyone with my babies but bringing them to TEAM, all of my worries went right out the window. The teachers and staff are welcoming, warm, and always ready to help and listen to any concerns you may have.

Carlyle had made leaps and bounds with the program. Not only could he spell his name, they helped me potty train him. What a great feeling it is knowing your child's teacher's love your children like their own. His social & emotional skills increased and his academics went up as well. As Carlyle was aging out of the program, his teachers and staff made this transition very easy providing everything you needed to move into kindergarten. After having my second son, Enzo, he was placed in an Early Head Start classroom. I was very nervous as he was only 1½, however the staff took great care of my baby helping him and myself transition into the EHS classroom. Shortly after enrolling, Enzo failed his hearing screening. The Health Coordinator and Behavioral Health Coordinator worked with me to assist me in getting Enzo services. His teacher even taught him sign language! Come to find out my son needed tubes in both ears and a tongue tie release. I am forever grateful as I don't know if I would have identified my son's needs so young.

Shortly after Enzo enrolled, I applied and became a substitute teacher. The Head Teacher was very welcoming and extremely helpful throughout my training. After talking to a few parents, I was encouraged to join the Parent Policy Council. At the time I had no idea what I was getting myself into but I was all in to try something new. The Policy Council is all about ensuring parents are fully informed on every aspect of the program and we make program decisions together.

Not only do I get to work alongside the amazing teaching staff but also the influential management staff as well. I have completed a program called Circle of Security twice while at TEAM. I get to work with these beautiful babies & children everyday. They teach me that it's okay to do anything I set my mind to. Not only has the teaching staff and management staff taught me a lot of things, I get to go home and apply that with my own children. Being a part of TEAM makes me a better version of myself. The staff will help you with any and everything you need--even a quick hug when times are hard. I know I have a family with TEAM and I don't know where I would be without them. Thank you, TEAM for all of your support.

Sincerely,

*Elena DiLorenzo*

Policy Council Chairperson, Parent & Substitute Teacher



Elena's Boys, Carlyle and Enzo



Elena DiLorenzo

# WHO WE SERVE

549

Children served overall

413 of those children were enrolled in Head Start & Early Head Start

79

# of children with diagnosed special needs

(34 preschool children with an IEP & 45 infants/toddlers with an IFSP)

110

# of children with individual health care plans

## ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

9%

Of families experienced homelessness during the program year

39

# of child referrals as a result of preventative health screenings

99%

% of children that had an on-going source of accessible health care  
\*at end of enrollment

91%

% of children that had access to comprehensive dental care  
\*at end of enrollment

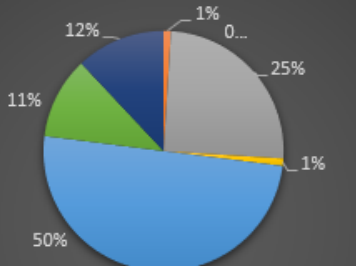
178

# of Early Head Start/Head Start children receiving diapers from TEAM's Community Diaper Bank

1199

# of children who improved their nutrition via healthy meals and snacks  
\*includes CACFP homes

Race



- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Biracial/Multi-racial
- Unspecified

We may all be different fish, but in our school we swim TOGETHER!

Ethnicity



- Hispanic
- Non-Hispanic



# SCHOOL READINESS



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## Birth to Five School Readiness Goals

### Approaches to Learning

1. Children will develop emotional, behavioral, and cognitive self-regulation.
2. Children will show an interest in varied topics and activities, an eagerness to learn, creativity and independence within the classroom.

### Social Emotional Development

3. Children will be able to express, recognize, and respond to emotions.
4. Children will develop secure attachments with their caregivers and positive peer relationships.
5. Children will exhibit prosocial and cooperative behavior.

### Language and Literacy

6. Children will develop expressive language with increasing complexity. Dual language learners will initially develop in their home language, then in English.
7. Children will develop receptive language with increasing complexity. Dual language learners will initially develop in their home language, then in English.
8. Children will begin to understand and eventually use print as a meaningful and organized symbolic system of communication. Dual language learners will initially understand and use print in their home language, then in English.

### Cognition

9. Children will begin to use math concepts during daily routines and experiences.
10. Children use all of their senses to investigate their environment and discover what objects do, how living things behave, and how things work.
11. Children will increase their critical thinking skills, be able to apply past knowledge, and become aware of their own thinking.

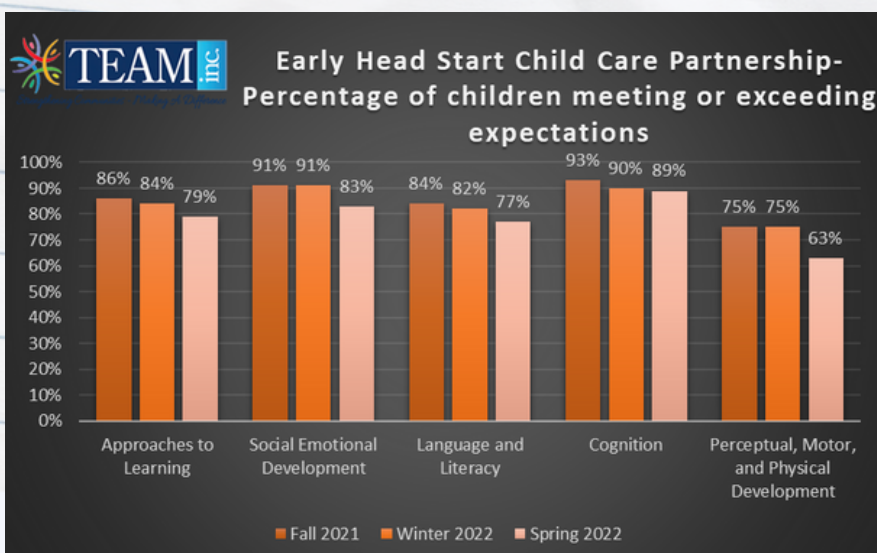
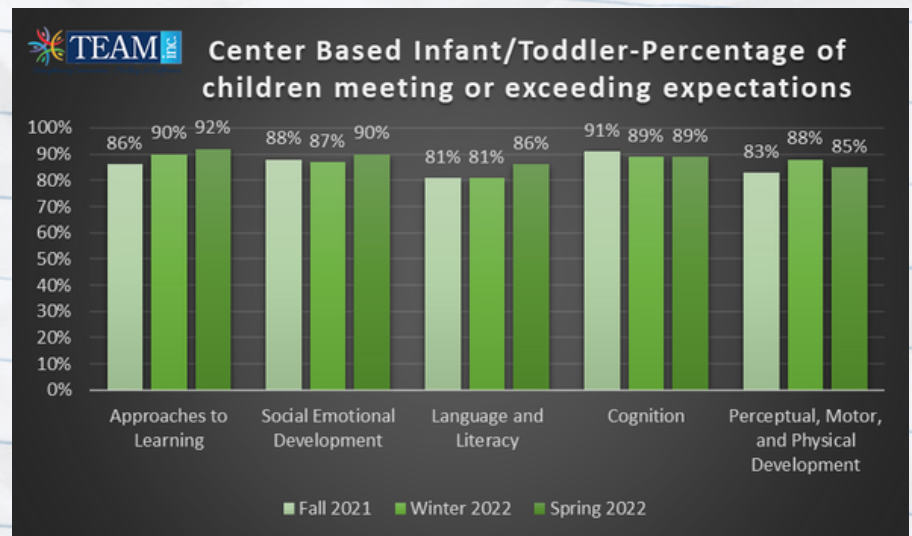
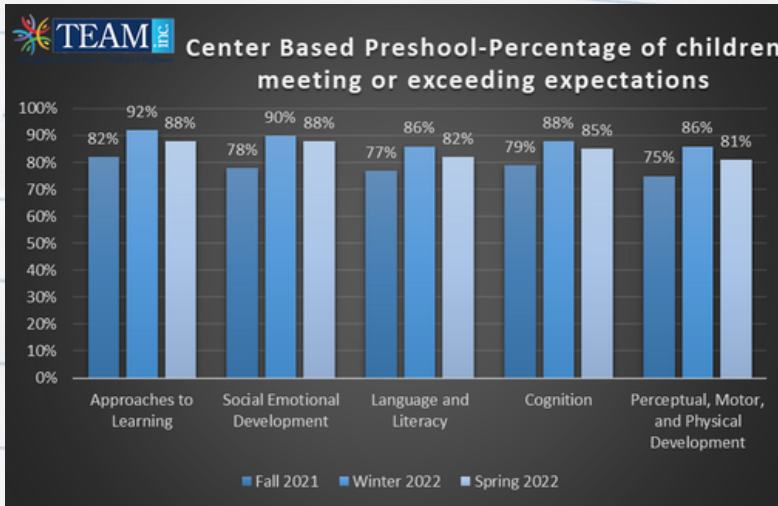
### Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

12. Children will engage in self-care routines and exhibit healthy, safe, and nutritious habits.
13. Children will develop large gross motor and overall coordination skills.
14. Children will develop fine motor skills and overall hand eye coordination.

Developed from the five essential domains in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) and the Connecticut Early Learning & Development Standards (CT ELDS), TEAM's School Readiness goals focus on a growth trajectory in support of children ages birth to five. TEAM's early childhood program provides a flexible, developmentally appropriate curriculum that allows teachers to plan learning opportunities based on the individual strengths, needs, interests and social-emotional competencies of each child. Ongoing observations and assessments provide child specific data that is used to set individualized goals for each enrolled child as well as provide the program with an overall understanding of child progress, needed classroom supports and staff professional development.



# SCHOOL READINESS





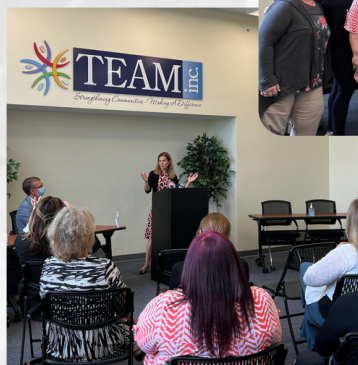
# LOOKING BACK AT OUR YEAR...

## Expansion & Renovation



TEAM is proud of the renovations and new construction that has resulted in creating additional infant toddler center based classrooms at two of TEAM's largest early childhood centers!

## Visit from Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz



Grateful to CT Lieutenant Governor, Susan Bysiewicz for visiting TEAM's early childhood program and shining the light on the importance of childcare.



## Visits from our Community Partners



Thankful to the many community partners that brought exciting learning opportunities directly to our early childhood center!

## Parent Leadership Training Institute



Policy Council member Yalitza celebrates her Parent Leadership Training Institute graduation with her children, Zayalee and Zion.

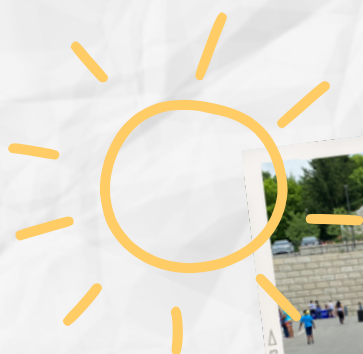


## Advocacy



Early Head Start-Family Child Care providers, TEAM staff and families joined together on the Waterbury green to advocate for the importance of a strong, state-wide early childhood infrastructure.

## Community Health Fair



Community partners, staff and families convened at the Slocum location for a day of health education, awareness and prevention. Such great attendance and a wonderful time had by all!

## Stellar NAEYC Accreditation Results

Standard Number and Name	Score
1. Relationships	100%
2. Curriculum	94%
3. Teaching	95%
4. Assessment of Child Progress	100%
5. Health	100%
6. Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support	93%
7. Families and	100%
8. Community Relationships	100%
9. Physical Environment	94%
10. Leadership and Management	97%



A Fully Compliant Focus Area 1  
Federal Monitoring Review!







# TEAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD STAFF



TEAM's dedicated group of early childhood professionals is undoubtedly the reason our program continues to deliver high-quality services to families & children throughout all of TEAM's regions! Their combination of talent, expertise and enthusiasm makes a difference in the lives of children and their families each and every day!







## 21-22 POLICY COUNCIL

- Yesenia Gonzalez
- Melissa Castro
- Nathale Jamiolkowski
- Lashayla Yon
- Yalitza Senquiz
- Sparkle Bland
- Michelle Avalos
- Lisa McArthur
- Ashley Mizeski
- Elena DiLorenzo
- Joanna Bracero
- Shannon Bullard
- Maribel Torres
- Geeta Dahal
- Kayla Skinner
- Stella Matembe
- Christina Baker
- Marissa Pitsch
- Gypsy Rios
- Aneek Stewart

## TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Brian Fonck
- Lula Walker
- Geralyn O'Neil-Wild
- Joyce Barclay
- Lina Bowlby
- Len Duffus
- Rebecca Flynn
- Ken Gurin
- John Hatfield
- Beatriz Lugo
- Kevin McDuffie
- Laura Mutrie
- Ron Sill
- Stephane Skibo
- Alfred Smith
- Robert Van Egghen
- Leslie Youngblood
- Kate Zarro

## PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- Early Childhood Center - 80 Howard Ave, Ansonia
- Margaret Egan Center - 35 Matthew St, Milford
- Richard O. Belden Cultural Center - 54 Grove St, Shelton
- Slocum School - 25 Rumford St, Waterbury
- 183 Howe Ave, Shelton