



Special points of interest:

- What is the EIC?
- EIC has no Effect on Certain Welfare Benefits
- Assessment Results

2014-2015 Issue 2

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A Letter to Head Start Parents

On behalf of the Neighbors in Need of Services (NINOS), Inc., sponsor of the Cameron and Wil- lacy Counties Head Start and Early Head Start Program, please accept our appreciation for entrusting your children to our care. As we head toward the end of our seventh month of operation, we value the time and effort that you have invested in the developmental advancement of your child. Our mis- sion is “to create a brighter future for our children and la familia.”

For fifty years, Head Start has provided millions of young children comprehensive education, social, health and nutritional services (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). Although there is research that does not adequately measure the benefits of Head Start, there is also continued research and program evaluations which reveal that the HS and EHS program provides educational, economic, and health benefits to young children and their families (Zigler & Styfco, 2004). These early years are crucial for building the foundation needed for success later in school and life (National Research Council, 2001).

NINOS, Inc. operates both Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS). In doing so, eligible chil- dren and their families can take advantage of a birth to age four program and a wide array of services offered. Services range from providing parenting training to preparing parents for childbirth to toilet training to nurturing your child’s self-esteem to transitioning into kindergarten. Enrollment is open to all income-eligible children, including children who have special needs. Through intentional pro- gram planning and employing qualified staff, the NINOS, Inc. key focus is to make a positive impact on child and family outcomes and ensure that Head Start does work!

The NINOS, Inc. Program is center-based and sustains safe, healthy, learning environments for young children in child care centers. Available care supports the families’ need for child care in full or half day sessions, and in either part or year-long schedules. Two qualified staff are assigned to main- tain low adult-child ratios in all classrooms. The staff understands the importance of teacher-child interactions and early intervention as they guide the children throughout the day. Staff sit down to eat with the children introducing new foods, assist children as they learn to brush their teeth, explain to children the importance of respect, and at the same time prepare children to be “school ready.”

All the NINOS, Inc. center facilities are licensed by the Texas Department of Family Protective Ser- vices. These facilities are regularly monitored to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care. Even the NINOS, Inc. centers that are situated in a public elementary school are state- licensed. Individual fenced-playgrounds are maintained to provide safe, age-appropriate playground equipment aside from older children.

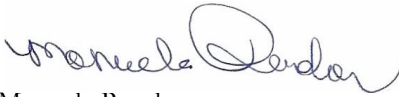
It is important to recognize that family, community, and school partnerships are part of the success of the NINOS, Inc. program. Parents are elected from every Head Start and Early Head Start center to represent and be part of the Policy Council. Together with the NINOS, Inc. Board of Directors, the Policy Council makes decisions regarding the operation of the program. Also, NINOS, Inc. has partnerships with community programs to let families know about the resources available to them. In addition, NINOS, Inc. partners with local school districts to prepare children leaving Head Start to be academically ready to learn in kindergarten. This year, 49 of the 78 four-year-old classrooms are enrolled in both Head Start and the local school districts. The Head Start teachers and school district teachers share knowledge regarding classroom ideas and children’s progress.

In addition, the NINOS, Inc. program provides transportation to centers located in the rural areas. Because the children transported are under the age of five, the NINOS, Inc. program has guidelines necessary to transport very young children. The guidelines outline procedures for vehicle mainte-

nance, use of installed child safety seats and passenger harnesses, responsibilities and qualification of bus drivers and bus monitors. Children are assisted on and off the bus and are supervised at all times while riding on the bus.

Again, I would like to thank you for making the NINOS, Inc. Program successful and ask for your continued support and advocacy for Head Start and Early Head Start. We treat your children as if they were our children, and you as part of "La Familia."

Sinceramente,



Manuela Rendon
Executive/Head Start Director

What is the EIC?

The earned income credit (EIC) is a tax credit for certain people who work and have earned income under \$52,427. A tax credit usually means more money in your pocket. It reduces the amount of tax you owe. The EIC may also give you a refund. A married person filing a joint return may get more EIC than someone with the same income

but a different filing status. As a result, the EIC table has different columns for married persons filing jointly than for everyone else. When you look up your EIC in the EIC Table, be sure to use the correct column for your filing status and the number of children you have.



EIC has no Effect on Certain Welfare Benefits

Earned income credit has no effect on certain welfare benefits. Any refund you receive because of the EIC cannot be counted as income when determining whether you or anyone else is eligible for benefits or assistance, or how much you or anyone else can receive, under any federal program or under any state or local program financed in whole or in part with

federal funds. These programs include the following.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Medicaid. Supplemental security income (SSI). Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps). Low-income housing.

In addition, when determining eligibility, the refund cannot be counted as a resource for at least 12 months

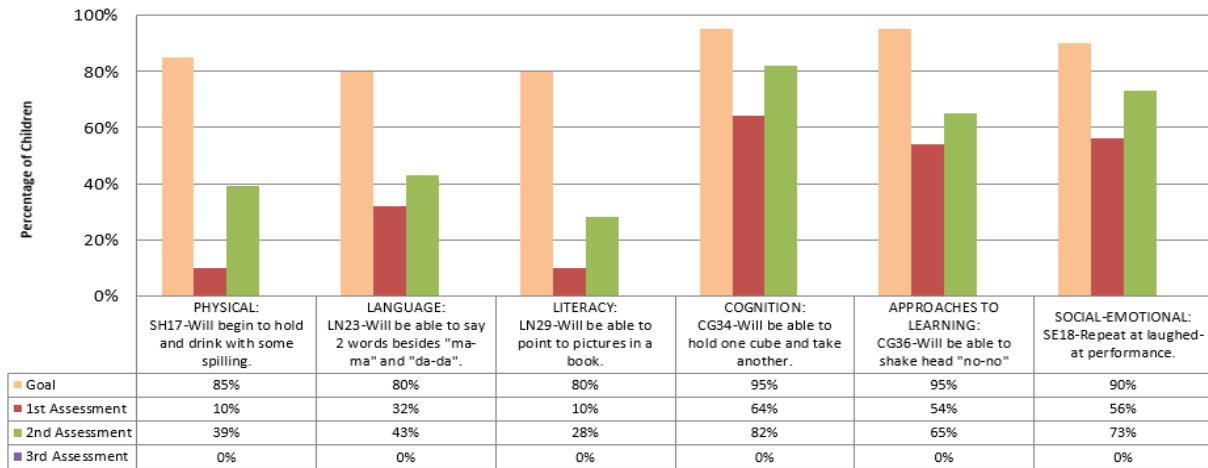
after you receive it. Check with your local benefit coordinator to find out if your refund will affect your benefits.



2014-2015 Early Head Start First Assessment Results

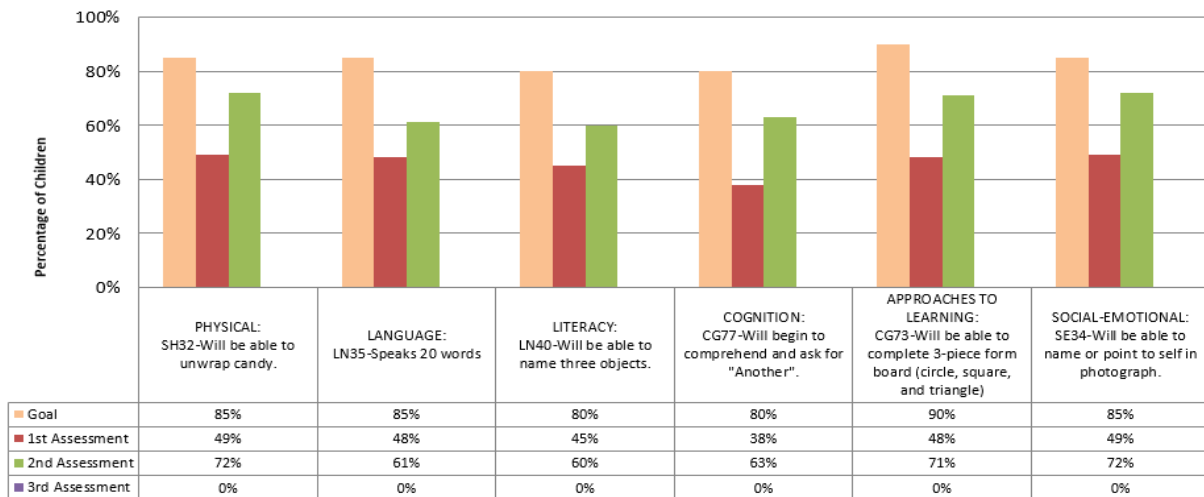
The children are formally assessed three times a year to follow their developmental progress and to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Infants 0-12 Months



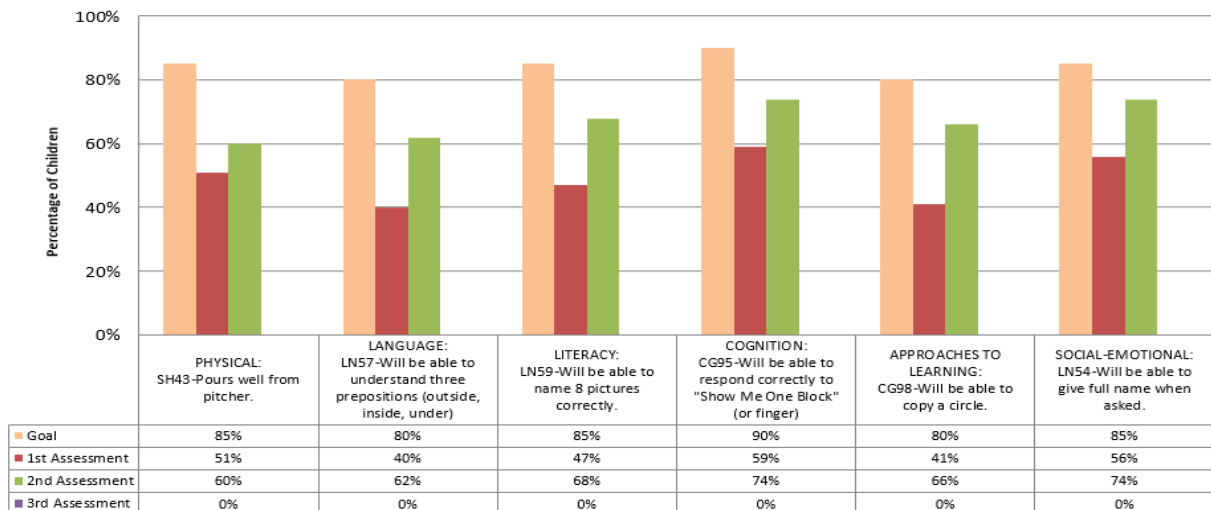
School Readiness Age Indicators

Mobile Infants 12-24



School Readiness Age Indicators

Toddlers 24-36 Months

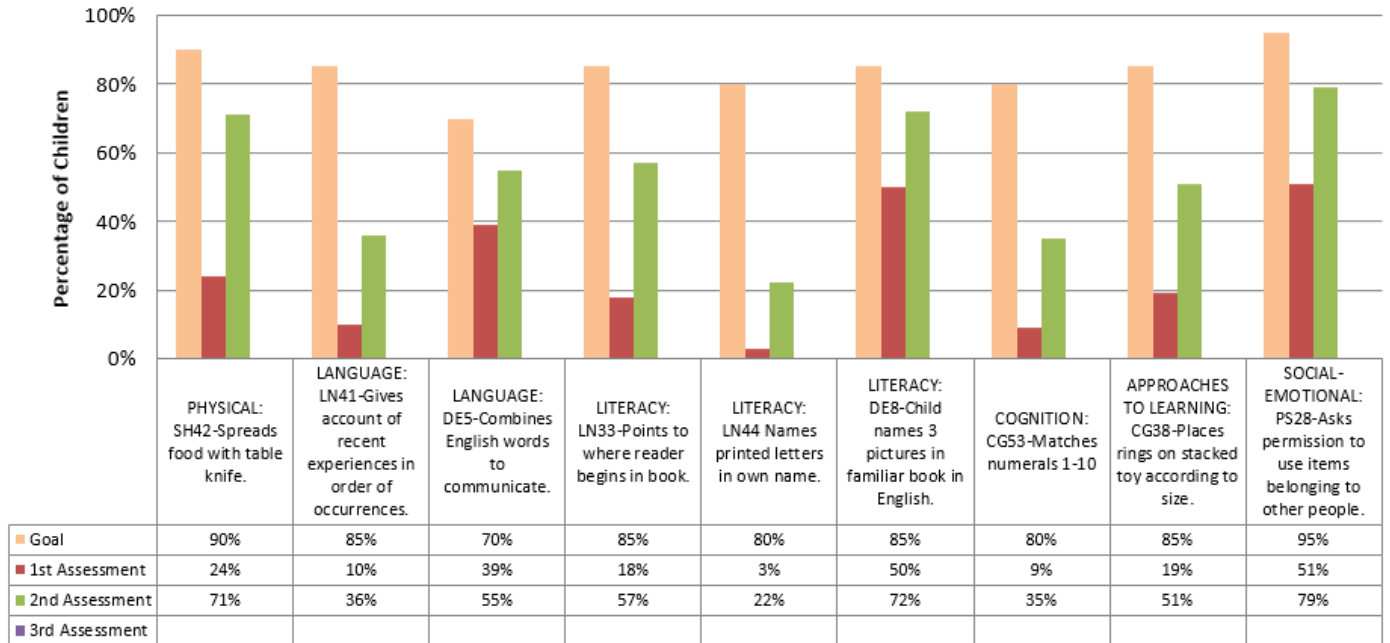


School Readiness Age Indicators

2014-2015 Head Start Assessment Results

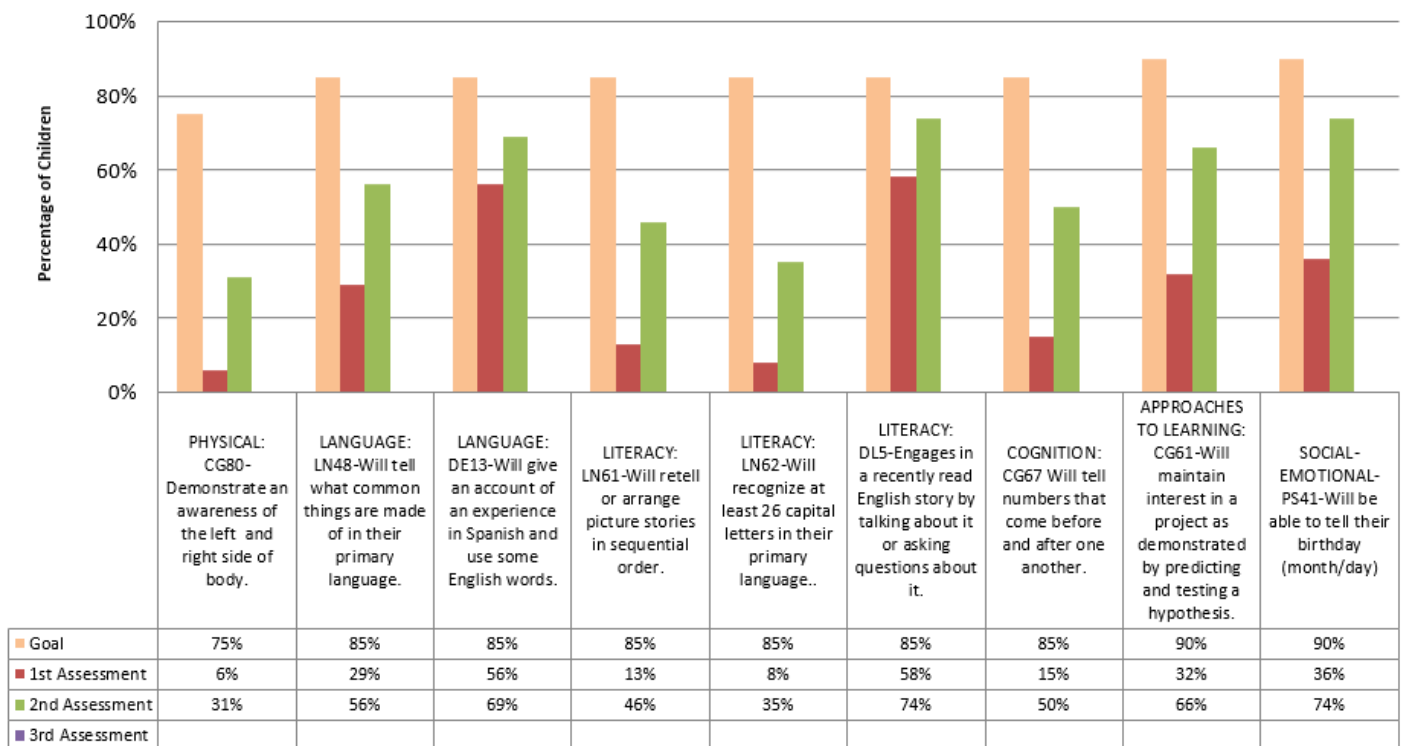
The children are formally assessed three times a year to follow their developmental progress and to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum.

3 Year Olds



School Readiness Age Indicators

4 Year Olds



School Readiness Age Indicators