

The Foundation: Head Start & Early Head Start

It is clear that positive experiences in early childhood have dramatic and long-lasting benefits in preparing children for success in school and in life.

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive programs designed to increase the school readiness of young children in very low-income families. Head Start nationwide has enrolled more than 22 million preschoolers since its creation in 1965 as a federal initiative to help break the cycle of poverty. Early Head Start was added in 1994 to serve infants and toddlers.



Math becomes fun and relevant with a "geoboard."

Head Start and Early Head Start serve children through age 5, pregnant women, and their families. Comprehensive services focus on quality early education and care; prenatal, medical, dental, and mental health; good nutrition; and parent involvement and family functioning. Services are individualized and are



Computers introduce young minds to games and other electronic learning experiences.

responsive to participants' developmental, ethnic, cultural, and language backgrounds.

Nationally in FY2003, almost \$6.7 billion federal Head Start dollars supported services to 909,000 children through 1,700 grantee

community-based Head Start programs operated by nonprofit organizations and school systems. Five percent of the children in the program are five years old, 53% are four, 34% are three, and 8% are under three.



Children enjoying "open-ended" art with a focus on process not product.

This program was produced as a collaborative effort by the following organizations & individuals:



The "Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act," passed on April 22, 2003, led to creation of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. It supports a network of community partnerships – including Tulsa's – all across our state.



JumpStart is the Tulsa County Partnership's community engagement campaign. Its purpose is to educate our citizens as to the critical importance of early brain development and how everyone can participate in assuring a great start and a bright future for all of our community's youngest children.



The Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAPTC) is our area's designated non-profit community action agency.

CAP's mission is to help individuals and families in economic need achieve self-sufficiency through emergency aid, medical care, housing community development, education and advocacy delivered in an atmosphere of respect. In support of this mission, CAPTC provides an array of federal, state and privately funded programs.

"A few strengths of the CAPTC Early Childhood Programs are:

- *Professionalism of the staff is outstanding.*
- *The program is supportive of professional development.*
- *The use of technology for tracking services & providing outcomes is impressive.*
- *The Child Development Center facilities & community collaborations are extraordinary."*

Excerpt from an October 4-8, 2004 review & report about the CAPTC Early Childhood Programs conducted by Self Assessment Assistance Model System (SAAMS) under the direction of SAAMS Team Leader Ruby Thompson

Thank You

Many people helped make the "Ready, Set, Grow" celebration possible. Mayor Bill LaFortune helped host the event. Thank you to Professor William Gormley (Georgetown University) and to Steven Dow (CAPTC) for their presentations. Those who helped plan the event included Steve Kennedy, Chair (KM2A Advertising, JumpStart Steering Committee), Bill Doenges (JumpStart Steering Committee), Michelle Hale (Governor's Office), Susan Harris (JumpStart Steering Committee), Carole Huff Hicks (JumpStart Steering Committee), Janet McKenzie (JumpStart Steering Committee), Catheryn Mason (CAPTC Development Director), Jennifer Paden (Mayor's Office, City of Tulsa), Gary Percefull (JumpStart Steering Committee), Tucky Roger (Principal, Newcomer School, Tulsa Public Schools), Carol Rowland (CAPTC Head Start), Mimi Tarrasch (Family and Children's Services, Head Start), and Phil Dessauer, Jr., Susan Neal, Ginny Utter, and Sharon Clark (JumpStart Steering Committee staff – Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa). Thank you also to all the staff at CAPTC, Head Start, and Tulsa Public Schools who assisted with tours, decorations and arrangements. Our appreciation also goes to Mark Sullivan at KM2A Advertising for graphic design of event materials. Thanks especially to all the honored guests whose involvement has made this celebration a milestone early childhood event for Tulsa.

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Celebrating Reed & Disney Early Childhood Centers



Ready, Set, Grow!



Constructing A Brighter Future For Our Youngest Children.

November 29, 2004 • Reed Early Childhood Center • Tulsa, Oklahoma

Developing An Innovative National Model: Head Start in Tulsa County

Program & Philosophy

The Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAPTC) has been the major Head Start provider in the Tulsa area since 1998. CAPTC's Head Start approach is based on collaborating with key community partners, assuring high quality, blending funding for greatest efficiencies, forging an effective local early childhood system, and linking quality early childhood experiences to the first years of school.



The Reed Early Childhood Center.

Tulsa's Head Start program is funded for 1,320 children – 1,216 three and four year olds, and 104 infants and toddlers in Early Head Start. 625 of the four year old slots are jointly supported by funding from federal Head Start and the Oklahoma State Department of Education through its voluntary public school pre-K program. Their services are provided through 12 center locations, with 10 sites supported by this blended funding. All sites receive support from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services child care subsidy for assistance with extended day child care.

In every way, Tulsa's program recognizes that the more the community as a whole has a stake in Head Start's success, the more successful it will be.

- The program blends resources from federal, state and local funding sources: federal Head Start funds, state funding for the voluntary public school four year old program and Head Start, state child care subsidy dollars as well as support from Tulsa Area United Way, various government grants, and private philanthropy.
- Head Start and Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) are collaborating to provide full day and universal preschool to more than 600 four year olds. Areas of collaboration include funding, land, facilities/classrooms, food service, transportation, and janitorial and other site support services.

"Head Start has had a huge impact on the McClure school community. Not only are the five year olds prepared to start kindergarten but the families feel comfortable & at ease – ready to fully participate in their child's schooling because of their training at Head Start."

Susan Baston, Principal,
McClure Elementary School

- Major program components (early childhood education, health assessments and referrals, family support, early literacy skills, parent involvement, nutrition, and special services for children with disabilities) depend on the work of key community partners. These include Tulsa Public Schools, Family and Children's Services, City-County Health Department, and a variety of other health and human service providers.
- Seven sites are accredited by the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC); the remaining five are now working toward this goal. The blended funding makes it possible to employ more early childhood trained, bachelor level, and state certified teachers.
- Head Start representatives work as part of the Tulsa County Early Childhood System Development Committee. It coordinates all program aspects of Tulsa County's growing efforts to improve school readiness, including child care, parent education, the voluntary public school four year old program, and Head Start.



Architects of future buildings team for construction.

Tulsa Head Start Reaches for Greater Quality: Building State-of-the-Art Facilities

In August 2000, CAPTC and the Tulsa Children's Coalition opened Tulsa's first model Head Start early childhood centers at Frost and Reed. Renovation of these two unoccupied TPS elementary school sites was possible through an innovative funding plan supported by Bank One and the Tulsa Industrial Authority. The Coalition serves as the technical owner of the facilities through an agreement with TPS and leases the space to Head Start.



Early reading skills are developed by understanding words used on common household objects.

An expanded funding strategy led to construction of another new model early childhood center which opened in November 2001 on the grounds of McClure Elementary School. Funding from the City of Tulsa's Community Development Block Grant Program, and a low interest loan from the Harmon Foundation, helped support the initiative. Land and loan guarantees were provided by Tulsa Public Schools, and the Bank of Oklahoma provided needed financial consultation and loan underwriting assistance.

The shared location with the school provided important opportunities for new linkages between Head Start and the first years of school at McClure. Lessons learned from this arrangement are shaping a growing

A "literacy center" helps children to understand the letters of the alphabet.



"The collaboration between Head Start & Disney Elementary School could be one of the most valuable components to ensure student success in future years."

Louis Galluzzi, Principal,
Disney Elementary School

effective continuum between individual Head Start programs and neighboring elementary schools. They also are providing new potential for helping stabilize neighborhoods.

The Frost, Reed, and McClure experiences stimulated a vision of new possibilities for building truly "state-of-the-art" facilities to further enhance the quality of Head Start and surrounding neighborhoods, while continuing to strengthen the link to the first years of school. From this vision emerged the Disney and Reed Head Start Early Childhood Centers whose construction was guided by the latest research on a facility's role in achieving best results. Funding was provided through the same strategy and funding sources that supported the McClure project, with additional underwriting assistance through Arvest Bank.

Today, over half of all the Head Start enrollees attend one of the new early childhood centers, and planning is underway for additional sites.

Head Start's Impact By Design: What Research Says

According to the most recent government study, called FACES, the data show:

- Children in Head Start make significant gains relative to norms. Children who enter Head Start with the lowest scores in cognitive development show the greatest improvements.
- Once in kindergarten, Head Start graduates make substantial progress in vocabulary, letter recognition, math, and writing skills relative to national averages.



The Disney Early Childhood Center.

Behind The Blueprints, Bricks & Mortar

Honoring the contributions of the Reed & Disney Early Childhood Center Partners

The Builders ... funding and other support for construction

- **City of Tulsa**...generous Community Development Block Grant funding
- **Tulsa Public Schools**...long-term land leases so that centers may be co-located with elementary schools

- **The Harmon Foundation**...a vital source of loaned funds
- **Bank of Oklahoma / George Kaiser Family Foundation**...loan underwriting services
- **Arvest Bank**...loan underwriting services

The Investors ... blended funding to support highest quality

- **Oklahoma Department of Human Services**...a child care subsidy through the Quality Stars system to support extended day child care services
- **Tulsa Area United Way**...an annual allocation to enhance program quality and leverage other funds
- **Oklahoma Departments of Education and Commerce**...state funding to support a public school four-year-old program and Head Start
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**...federal funding for on-going Head Start comprehensive services

The Architect ... visionary creative design for putting it all together

- **Community Action Project of Tulsa County**...oversaw the funding, design, construction, and operation of these centers

"Get ready Kindergarten, here I come!"

