

# 2015 Annual Report



**CCS**  
EARLY LEARNING

Play ~ Laugh ~ Learn ~ Grow

Administration Office

CCS Early Learning  
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Wasilla, AK 996  
(907) 373-7000

[www.ccsalaska.org](http://www.ccsalaska.org)

Find us on  
Facebook



Center Locations

- Chugiak Center  
18530 Old Glenn Hwy  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
(907) 688-2660
- Meadow Lakes Center  
7362 W Parks Hwy #752  
Wasilla, AK 99623  
(907) 373-7165
- Sutton-Palmer Center  
11672 Wright Way  
Sutton, AK 99674  
(907) 746-4483
- Wasilla Center  
2100 E. Foundry Way  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-7795
- Early Head Start  
2100 E. Foundry Way

## Resilient Children and Families = Strong Communities!

For 45 years, CCS Early Learning has held firmly to the belief that our primary job is to partner together with the child's first and most important teachers—the family. We understand that parents and guardians, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers all have more experience and knowledge about the children in their lives, than we do. And, while we have a wonderful opportunity to come alongside children and families to assist and support them for a period of time, the immediate family members in a child's life will continue to have the greatest impact both now and for many years to come.

This is exactly why our program takes a multi-generational approach. Together with parents, we work to screen and assess children across the entire spectrum; dental, medical, developmental, nutritional, behavioral, and educational. All of this assessment is designed to assist us in getting to know the child as thoroughly and as quickly as possible. Once we have done this, we can work together with families to set goals that will challenge and encourage the child in reaching their next developmental steps.

As families develop stronger, trusting relationships with CCS staff members we often discover areas where families would like assistance in reaching their own goals. This might include increased adult education or vocational training, additional knowledge about positive parenting techniques or child development, or help to acquire better housing or meet basic family needs. Every family is different and our job is to meet each one where they are and offer our assistance in a supportive and non-judgmental way.



Over the past couple of years CCS has put an increased emphasis on using the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) study and the corresponding concept of resilience as tools to educate and open discussions with families. Basically, the ACE study has established that traumatic events that occur during childhood can have lifelong implications on health and quality of life. As individuals, this information is extremely powerful. It gives us greater insight into who we are as adults and how our own childhoods influenced our development. Perhaps even more important, as parents, it reinforces how crucial it is that we provide our children an opportunity to grow up with as little traumatic stress as possible. However, it is important that the ACE study not be viewed as a life sentence. The concept of resilience, which can be broadly defined as the ability to bounce back, is equally important. Children and families who are resilient are better prepared to cope with the stress that is a natural part of life. Educating families about the concept of resilience, and helping them to find ways to become more resilient is a crucial part of the work we do to strengthen this generation, our

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~ CCS Early Learning Mission Statement ~



Making a difference in the lives and families of young children within our communities



# Children & Families at CCS - Play, Laugh, Learn, and Grow

Learning through play, parents as the child’s first teacher, families learning and growing are a few of the early education beliefs at CCS Early Learning. At CCS we believe that parents are the child’s first and most important teacher. Parents make the major contributions to their child’s growth, development, and learning. We believe that the role of Early Head Start and Head Start is to assist the family in establishing a strong foundation that will support the child’s growth and development and will help lead to success in school and in life.

We offer early education to children, prenatal to age 3 through the Early Head Start (EHS) program and the Head Start Program for ages 3 through 5. Our four Centers are located in Chugiak, Sutton, Wasilla and Meadow Lakes serving a total of 260 Head Start Children. Early Head Start provides a home based program (44 children) throughout Chugiak and the Mat-Su Valley as well as a center based program with 16 children located in Wasilla.

Successful children often become successful adults. Both children and families need to be mentally and physically healthy. All CCS families are offered physical, mental, cognitive and developmental screening in a caring and supportive atmosphere. Family support begins with building a trusting relationship and learning how to prepare for the family’s future at an early age. Our role is to strengthen a family’s knowledge and increase the tools and resources available to help them to accomplish their goals in a safe and caring environment.

CCS families work closely with teachers and advocates to analyze their family strengths and to set achievable goals; then set action steps that lead toward the desired outcome. Families are dynamic and often need support throughout the many challenges within their lives. We offer support for families to allow a smooth transition through those changes. With support families are able to overcome current challenges and avoid, prevent or overcome future challenges that may interfere with family success.

Family growth is very hard to measure, but each year families are asked to participate in a survey that asks about the effectiveness of the CCS Family Partnership. At the beginning of the year, families identify the greatest concerns for their family. This information allows us to adjust and prioritize the services that we provide to individual families. At the end of the school year we ask families to measure their own growth across all areas. The top concerns identified by families in the 2014-2015 school year were: 1) Children’s Education, 2) Safe and Adequate Housing, 3) Finances, and 4) Nutrition. These concerns closely match those of the 2013-2014 school year: 1) Safety, 2) Children’s Education, 3) Housing, and 4) Legal Problems.



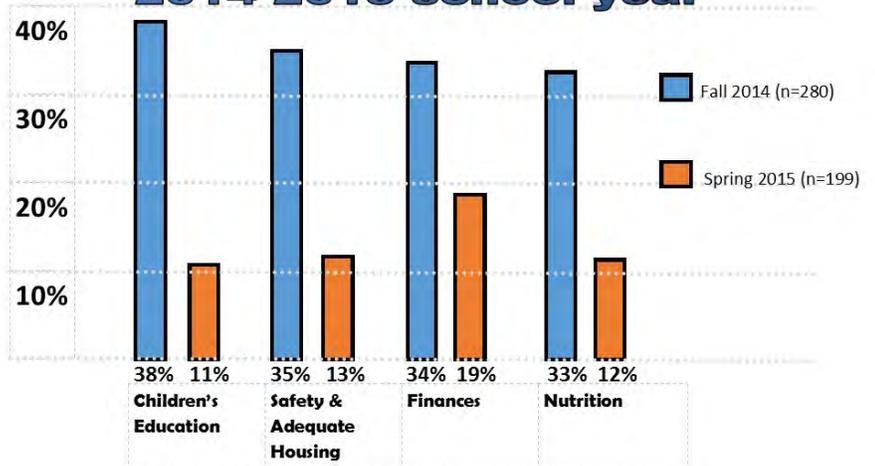
Children’s education is a major focus for both Early Head Start and Head Start parents. Each child in Head Start is assessed three times a year and children in Early Head Start are assessed at regular age intervals (with the parent) to determine the individual needs of each child. Developmental and learning goals are set and ongoing activities are provided, at home and at school, that encourage growth. Parent and staff members observe and discuss the child’s progress and education goals are revisited and adjusted throughout the year.

At CCS we believe that a strong community is a direct result of having healthy resilient families who are raising children in environments that support the child’s well-being.

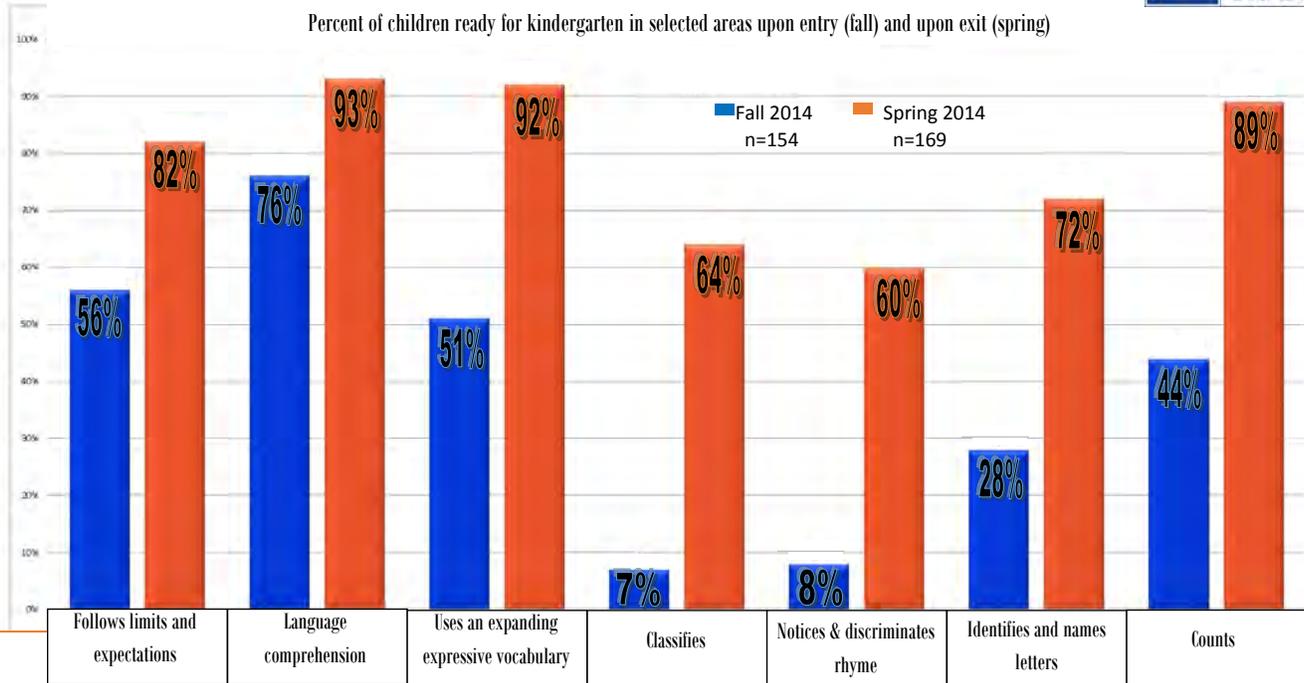
*Donna Johnson Program Director*



### Top Family Needs 2014-2015 school year



Percent of children ready for kindergarten in selected areas upon entry (fall) and upon exit (spring)



*Children who attend CCS have improved social skills as well as ABC's, counting, and doing things with hands. This has also allowed for family participation and closer relationships.*

-CCS Parent

*I take my children to family fun nights and they absolutely love it, especially the fact that our whole family is doing activities together.*

-CCS Parent

*My son has come a long way since beginning Head Start. He's happier, has more self pride and esteem, less behavioral problems, loves learning and showing off how smart he is now. He truly enjoys the friends he has made.*

-CCS Parent

### CCS Enrollment Information

In our last program year we served a total of 407 children and 2 pregnant women. Of these:

- 401 (98%) were eligible based on family income, homelessness, or foster child status
- 8 (2%) were over income

CCS had funding to provide slots for 320 children. We were fully enrolled each month that we were in operation.



Our goal is to better equip both our children and our families for success in school and in life. Sometimes we do this by building on strengths, and other times we help to identify and overcome challenges - but it always is done in partnership with families.

CCS Early Learning is for qualified low income families, homeless children, foster children and children with disabilities. Unfortunately there is a startling percentage of children/families that are homeless.

Nutrition: Every day there is school CCS prepares a well balanced, nutritious breakfast and lunch for CCS children. Parents will volunteer their time to help in a classroom and then have a meal with their child.

*My foster kiddos love CCS and the staff. They have grown in socialization and independence. My kindergartener was well ahead of others when he entered ASD, all thanks to CCS.*  
-CCS Parent

*CCS has provided my youngest w/excellent social skills and proper education for her age range. Having the opportunity to volunteer and participate in parent meetings and family fun night allows me to stay connected with my kids. It shows and provides a positive, safe, learning environment for kids and their families.*  
-CCS Parent

*My daughters physical development has improved. My other child was connected with services she needed for further academic advancement and our family was given referrals for community programs that provide assistance to us.*  
-EHS CCS Parent

*Raising now a grandchild, CCS has given many needed resources, programs & classes. The staff has greatly enriched us in helping teach and navigate through the beginning of his life. I definitely would be struggling and lost at what to do next.*  
-EHS CCS Grandparent

*The way the teachers teach our children is amazing and stays with them on a daily basis and leaves me the tools to carry on teaching my children when they are home.*  
-EHS CCS Parent

*CCS is amazing at working with my son's dietary needs without complaint. I couldn't ask for a better center for my son.*  
-EHS CCS Parent

CCS offers many opportunities for children from ages 0 to 5 to grow and develop the basic skills needed throughout their lives. Parents and families are engaged with their children, teaching them each day as they prepare to become strong community members later in life.

Parents of very young children are offered a home based education or center based education for their 0 to 3 children through the CCS - Early Head Start (EHS) Program. In the home based option, a teacher visits one on one in the home each week to offer new activities that strengthen education goals based on the child's needs and development. The parent and child also attend a gathering of other 0 to 3 children in a socialization session held at the CCS Center in their area.

The EHS center based option allows children the opportunity to learn in groups of 4 with a teacher who provides developmentally appropriate instruction based on the goals that parents and teachers have identified. In both options—the EHS teacher and parent work together to provide pre math, pre literacy and language opportunities, as well, as social and emotional support throughout the 0 to 3 years.

At age 2 years 6 months, EHS children start to transition into their next appropriate placement. If this is Head Start, they will join this program at age 3. Transportation is provided to our Centers in Chugiak, Meadow Lakes, Sutton, and Wasilla. Parents are welcomed into the center daily to work with their child in an enriched preschool educational environment. They also establish goals for their child and for their family. Classes are provided in nutrition, finance, organizational techniques, parenting skills and any other topics that meet their needs. All year long Family Fun Nights are offered to provide a chance for children and the entire family to learn and play together.

Individualized child assessment plays a major role at CCS. Staff members are trained to constantly observe and document children's growth and development so that we can partner with parents in helping the child move on to the next step. This assessment happens throughout the school year and is across all domains, including: social-emotional development, approaches to learning, physical development, language, logic and reasoning, literacy, and mathematics.



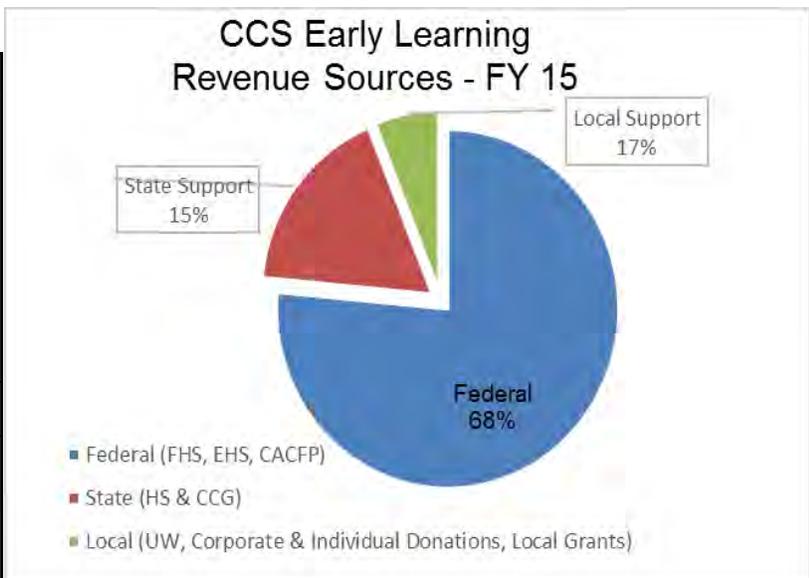
**Are you interested in being a CCS Volunteer?** There are many opportunities to help.

- 1) Classrooms: reading to children, playground friend, assist teacher
- 2) Classroom Prep: cutting, laminating, making play dough etc.
- 3) Front Office: shredding, mailings, etc.
- 4) Maintenance: handyman/woman, painting, playground clean up, yard maintenance
- 5) Donations: Non-toxic washable paints, Art boards of all sizes, Canvas in all sizes, Art supplies, Popsicle sticks, Pompoms, Chenille sticks, Feathers, Ribbon, construction paper, crayons, etc.

**To be a volunteer or make a donation, please contact our Administrative Office at 373-7000.**

# Financial Summary

Revenue	Actual FY15	Budget FY15
Federal		
(FHS, EHS, CACFP)	2,934,145	2,987,289
State (SHS, CCG)	668,591	594,449
Local Support (program income, individual/ corporate donations, local grants)	233,660	275,476
Local Support (MSHF-Building)	500,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,336,396</b>	<b>3,857,214</b>
Expenditures	Actual FY15	Budget FY15
Salaries and Fringe	2,674,255	2,726,362
Occupancy	251,875	276,844
Staff Support	79,697	70,852
Child Transportation (Bus)	426,261	437,042
Supplies	174,079	170,497
Contractual	83,379	59,600
Insurance	21,627	22,910
Advertising	46,740	49,626
Facility (Purch and Renov)	445,432	
Other Direct Costs	48,782	43,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,252,127</b>	<b>3,857,213</b>
In-Kind for FY15: \$222,483		
Audited Financial Statements Available Upon Request		



### Medical Exams

CCS works hard to remove all obstacles that may interfere with school success. In our last program year we had 327 (80%) children receive all medical screenings (including: blood pressure, developmental, growth assessment, mental health, hearing, language, nutrition, speech, vision, hemoglobin, lead blood level, and physical exam). Of these, 13 children were identified as needing medical treatment and 12 received the recommended treatment.

### Dental Exams

A total of 243 Head Start children (82%) completed an oral health examination. Of these, 35 children were diagnosed as needing dental treatment and 18 received the treatment recommended during our program year.



## Results of our Head Start and Financial Reviews

The Office of Head Start (OHS) does various on-site program audits to determine if Head Start grantees are meeting all of the Federal Performance Standards.

The results of our most recent reviews are as follows:

Nov 2012 - Full Triennial Review. One finding - contracted bus drivers did not all have evidence of TB tests in their file. Corrective action accepted by OHS.

Oct 2015 - Fiscal, Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance Review. No findings of non-compliance.

Mar 2016 - Pre-K Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Review.

- Emotional Support - CCS 6.41

(2015 National Mean - 6.03)

- Classroom Organization - CCS 5.88 (2015 National Mean - 5.80)
- Instructional Support - CCS 3.11 (2015 National Mean - 2.88)

Our last fiscal audit covered the year ending July 31, 2015 and was performed by Foster & Company. This audit identified no areas of material weakness, instances of significant deficiency, or instances of non-compliance material to the financial statements. In addition there were no state or federal findings or questioned costs, nor were there any findings or questioned costs in the prior year.

CCS Early Learning was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

## Alaska Head Start Association Award 2015 Winners from CCS:



**Teacher of the Year**  
Kristine Ziesmer

**Father of the Year**  
Justin P Davidson  
(In Memoriam)



CCS has been instrumental in helping my daughter transition through life changes with in my family and prepare her for kindergarten. - CCS Parent

CCS Early Learning would like to thank our supporters who partnered with us in 2015:

VALENTINE SPONSORS						
	Gail Toci	Turning Leaf	Ann Cockrell	Killian Keener	Elizabeth Ripley	
Matsu Health Foundation	Garden Gate	Valley Performing Arts Wasilla CCS Policy Council	Melena Cockrell	Nevaeh Keener	Mitchell Royer	
Enstar	Gold Rush Jewelers		Patrick Cockrell	Bridget Kelly	Michelle Schilling	
Ptarmigan Pediatrics	Grandview Inn & Suites	Wasilla Lube Express	Kimberly Cooley	Jean Kincaid	Debra Schnebel	
MTA	Great Alaska Pizza Palmer	Wishing Wellness	Justin Davidson	Mason Knudsen	Joseph Schroeder	
Mud Busters	Handmade by Rachel	Zulu Nyala Experience	Tiffany Deacon	Sarah Knudsen	Susan Schroeder	
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First National Bank Alaska	IHop	Kimberly Brown	Jasmine Dirkes	James Lackey	Adam Settles-Howatt	
VALENTINE DONORS		Patric Cockrell	Amara Elliott	Luke Lackey	Kristi Smethers	
Alaska Aces	Just imagine Toys	First National Bank	Laurie Faubert	Mark Lackey	Joseph Stoltze	
Alaska Garden Gate B&B	K2 Aviation	Tana Heussner	Roberta Gardiner	Rhonda Lackey	Ava Streeter	
Alaska Rail Road	Knik River Lodge	Jean Kincaid	Carla Goldberg	Andrea Ledlow	Bo Streeter	
Alaska Sea Life Center	Kurt Brehm	Desiree Malone	Myra Gonion	Violet Ledlow	Kelly Swearingin	
Alaska Splendor Limousine	La Hacienda	Bonnie Monson	Dennis Gradel	Rhonda Loyd	Dakota Swetland	
All I Saw Cookware	Larson Chiropractic	Michelle Schilling	Redona Grazio	Karl Lund	Zenovia Tallekpalek	
Allen & Petersen	Last Frontier Brewing Co.	Brenda VanTassel	Michelle Greco	Joseph Mach	Therese Tomasoski	
Avon Through Tammy	Learning Essentials	Marvella Webster	Rachel Greenberg	Kristin Mallett	Margaret Volz	
B.Bella in Palmer	Locals	PICK CLICK GIVE		Aleia Griffeth	Melissa Mallett	Lynn Vreeland
Back and Neck Center	Luke Lofgren	Joseph Alden	Clinton Griffeth	Cooper Manner	Delaney Wantaja	
Balanced Body Thera.Massage	Marcy Elton-Meeks	LeaAnneAbernathy	Hope Griffeth	Lauren Mclver-Ohara	Evangeline Wantaja	
Bass Pro Shop	MEA	Stephanie Allen	Noah Griffeth	Sabella Mclver-Ohara	Justin Wantaja	
Bionic Chiropractic	Matanuska Music	George Armstrong	Cathy Gruver	Heidi McMurrin	Michelle Wantaja	
Bouncing Bears	Midas	Stacy Armstrong	Roy Gruver	Ashley Morris	Natalie Wantaja	
Brew Haha	Mr. Lube	Candice Baum	George Gumfory	Mary Noden	Seth Wantaja	
CamKDesigns	Non-Essentials	Michelle Beamish	Laraysha Gumfory	Petla Noden	Toni Warth	
Cathy Gruver	Northrim Bank	Jordan Beasley	Keller Hegg	Jeffrey Novzen	Karlee Wertman	
Chena Hot Springs	Numzan Safari Hunt	Zachary Beasley	Kendal Hegg	Dana Nunn	Kenneth Westrope	
Chepos	Oopsie Daisey	Crystal Bird-Ravsten	Lucas Hegg	Polly-Beth Odom	Amanda Worthington	
Ciri	Paradise Tanning	Jedidiah Brehm	Morgan Hegg	Scarlett Ohara	Bailey Worthington	
Clean Slate Tattoo	Pat Cockrell	Kurt Brehm	Rylan Hegg	Sean Ohara	James Worthington	
Cold Stone Ice Cream	Pia's Custom Framing	Tammy Brehm	Abigale Hensley	Gabriela Olide	Kayla Worthington	
Coming Attractions	Red Robin	Jennifer Burkmire	Vicki Herman	Linda Ortiz	FUNDRERS	
Country Cuts	Rhonda Lackey	Michael Burkmire	Kayleen Hetrick	Crystal Perkins	State of Alaska-DEED	
Cover Ups	Riverboat Discovery	Corey Calvery	Zia Hetrick	Jeremy Peterson	ACF-Office Head Start	
Cutting Crew	Shane Lamb	Deshawn Campbell	Damian Hubbard	Paige Powell	United Way of Mat-Su	
Danielle Howard	Sharon Bulawa	Francisco Campbell	Victoria Jerue	Ayden Reed	United Way of Anch.	
Diane Cooper	Silvertip Design	Kathleen Campbell	Ryana Johnson	Isabell Reed	Bishops Attic	
Evangelos	Sportsmans Warehouse	Mya Campbell	Nicole Justice	Vickie Reese	Mat-Su Health Found.	
Fireside Books	The Gallery	Myles Campbell	Kara Kallas	Daniel Rhoten	Fred Meyer Comm. Foundation	
First Choice Physical Therapy	The Tub House	Rebecca Coccia	Samantha Kallas	Albert Rinehart		

