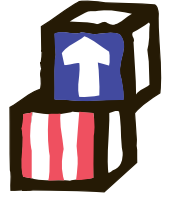
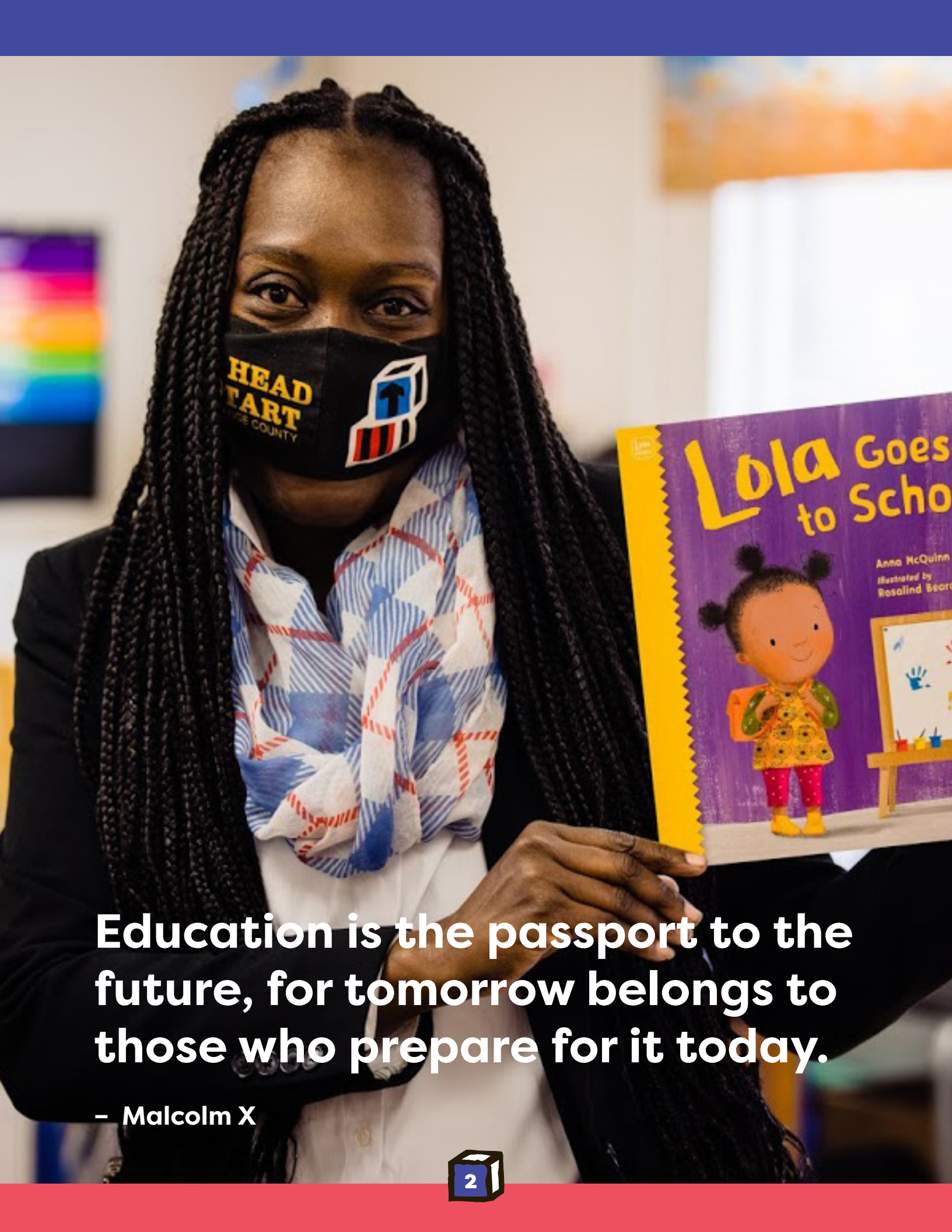


# Orange County Head Start 2020-2021 Annual Report



Providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services since 1965





**Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.**

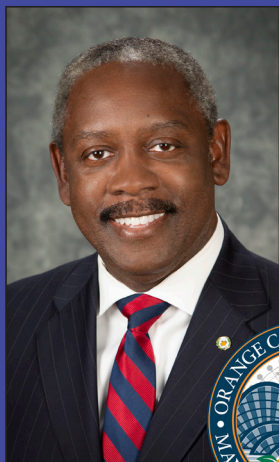
– Malcolm X

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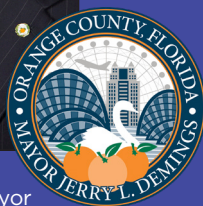
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# Orange County Government Board of County Commissioners



**Jerry L. Demings**  
Orange County Mayor



**Nicole Wilson**  
Commissioner  
District 1



**Christine Moore**  
Commissioner  
District 2



**Mayra Uribe**  
Commissioner  
District 3



**Maribel Gomez Cordero**  
Commissioner  
District 4



**Emily Bonilla**  
Commissioner  
District 5



**Victoria P. Siplin**  
Commissioner  
District 6

# Message from the Director

## Greetings!

Orange County Head Start (OCHS) takes great pride in presenting the 2020-2021 Annual Report. The Annual Report is a snapshot of the program's accomplishments, strengths, opportunities and barriers to meeting goals. OCHS has a long-standing history of being the premier early childhood education organization in Orange County in meeting the needs of children and families for over 50 years. Orange County Head Start is the largest provider of early childhood development services, funding 1,536 preschool children from economically challenged families living in Orange County. I deliver this report in partnership with the Orange County Mayor, Jerry L. Demings, Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Executive Director Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Policy Council and the numerous committed employees that show up daily to impact our community and change lives.

In 2020-2021 the program totally changed the service delivery in many aspects of the program. OCHS started the year with 100% of the funded enrollment returning face to face. The program temporarily suspended parents in the classroom and all volunteering was halted. As classrooms shut down due to COVID outbreaks, another change included shifting to virtual classrooms during the 10-day quarantine period. This approach allowed our students to have consistent learning and minimized time away from the classroom. Early childhood classrooms looked very different. The children and staff went to 100% masking. The teacher to child close proximity indicator that was so vital before in an early childhood classroom was no longer acceptable. Different methods for cleaning and sanitizing classrooms were introduced to the teaching teams. The program purchased automatic sanitizing machines to clean more toys at a faster pace. Items that were once shared among students in a classroom during the beginning of the year, were now being purchased for each individual student in the classroom. The program purchased higher quality technology such as laptops for all staff, smartboards, swivel machine, tablets, hotspots and other technology that allowed us to support early childhood learning in a virtual world. Eleven new Standard Operating Procedures were added to support health and safety in the classroom and centers. These procedures directly aligned with best practices in an early childhood facility as it relates to COVID-19. All children were

screened prior to entering the classrooms, sign-in and sign-out took place outside, volunteers and parents were no longer allowed in the classrooms. The program decreased classroom sizes when there was an opportunity and reconfigured classrooms to add partitions and other COVID-19 friendly practices, to keep down the spread of COVID-19.

Orange County Head Start takes pride in delivering high quality, comprehensive services in a developmentally appropriate supportive learning environment. To maintain high quality services, OCHS made needed adjustments to our service delivery. The ACF-IM-HS-21-01Fiscal Flexibilities from the Office of Head Start, allowed the program to adjust and still adhere to federal regulations. In FY 2021, Orange County Head Start continued program operations through a global pandemic. OCHS remained current with the guidance and best practices from The Office of Head Start, The Center for Disease Control (CDC), The Office of Early Learning and The Department of Children & Families, to ensure the safety of children and staff. Orange County Mayor, and Board of County Commissioners provided added support to ensure day to day operations continued. Although we faced different challenges OCHS rose to the occasion.

Over the past year, OCHS endured challenges, was affected by the great resignation, and made major program changes, however, we maintained our high standards and ensured adherence to the federal regulations. Head Start staff, parents and children are resilient and flexible and able to adapt to changes. The continued support from the governing board and community partners has helped OCHS thrive during these very challenging times.

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too" - Paulo Coelho.

We became better and stronger, and I can confidently say we are still the premier provider of early learning in Orange County.

*Sonya Hill*  
**Head Start Director**

# Ready Minds, Healthy Bodies

## Vision Statement

Orange County Head Start: School-Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families.

## Mission Statement

Orange County Head Start provides high-quality comprehensive services to low-income children and their diverse families through collaborative partnerships.

## Philosophy

Orange County Head Start believes in providing high-quality, comprehensive services for children and families by providing developmentally appropriate, supportive learning environments for children. We embrace diversity and support families as they become self-reliant. We believe in providing opportunities for staff professional development and supporting employee wellness. We believe in collaborative partnerships and teamwork.

## Values

- High-Quality Comprehensive Services
- School Ready Children and Self-Reliant Families
- Employees Personal and Professional Development and Well-Being
- Diversity and Teamwork
- Family Involvement and Participation
- Collaborative Partnerships and Community Support

# Program Goals

## Goal #1

Orange County Head Start will increase engagement of fathers/males in support of children's school readiness.

## Goal #2

Orange County Head Start will eliminate barriers to learning by decreasing the number of children with oral health concerns.

## Goal #3

Orange County Head Start will improve child outcomes by strengthening the capacity of parents to become advocates in the lives of their children.

## Goal #4

Orange County Head Start will assist families to improve their financial wellness.

# Budget Information

Federal Grant Period: October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021

**Total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source**

**\$14,301,933**  
Office of Head Start

**\$1,383,597**  
County GFIFT Funds

**\$1,136,503**  
USDA

**\$549,578**  
VPK

**\$462,289**

\*Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (One Time Funds)

**\$1,837,824**

\*American Recovery Act (One Time Funds)

**\$2,232,741**

\*Disaster Assistance (One Time Funds)

## Explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for FY 2020-2021

The proposed budget for FY 20-21 was **\$23,910,101**. Funds received were used to provide full-year, full-day comprehensive early childhood development services for **1,536** children and support to their families. Total expenditures of federal and non-federal funds for FY 20-21 were **\$16,298,064**. All federal funds were used to cover salaries, cost of living increases, operation of services and training. The non-federal match (in-kind) was used to assist with salaries and operational expenses.

**\$10,437,653**  
Services

**\$1,214,467**  
Administration

**\$390,484**  
Disability

**\$156,870**  
Training

**\$1,136,503**  
USDA

**\$549,578**  
VPK

**\$301,690**  
Health and Dental

**\$1,800,769**  
Family, Parent and  
Community Engagement

**\$201,211**

\*Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (One Time Funds)

**\$0.00**

\*American Recovery Act (One Time Funds)

**\$108,839**

\*Disaster Assistance (One Time Funds)



**An investment  
in knowledge  
pays the best  
interest.**

**– Benjamin Franklin**



# Program Characteristics

The Orange County Head Start Division promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other relevant services.



**1,536**  
Funded Enrollment

**780** Enrollment spaces available as full working day/full calendar year

**5** Days Per Week

**22** Head Start Centers across Orange County.  
**Program Option:** Center-based setting

**82** Classrooms

## Children and Family Services

**1,424** The total number of families served

**1,765** Children served  
2 Year Olds: **6**  
3 Year Olds: **802**  
4 Year Olds: **957**

### Enrollment by Type of Eligibility

**1209**  
Income below 100%

**243**  
Public Assistance

**15**  
Foster Child

**265**  
Homeless

**32**  
Over Income

**11%**

of children (202) had a  
**Diagnosed Disability**

### Families by Type

Two-Parent Families **517**

Single Parent Families **1,130**

## Health Services



**71%**  
1,250  
Medical Exams

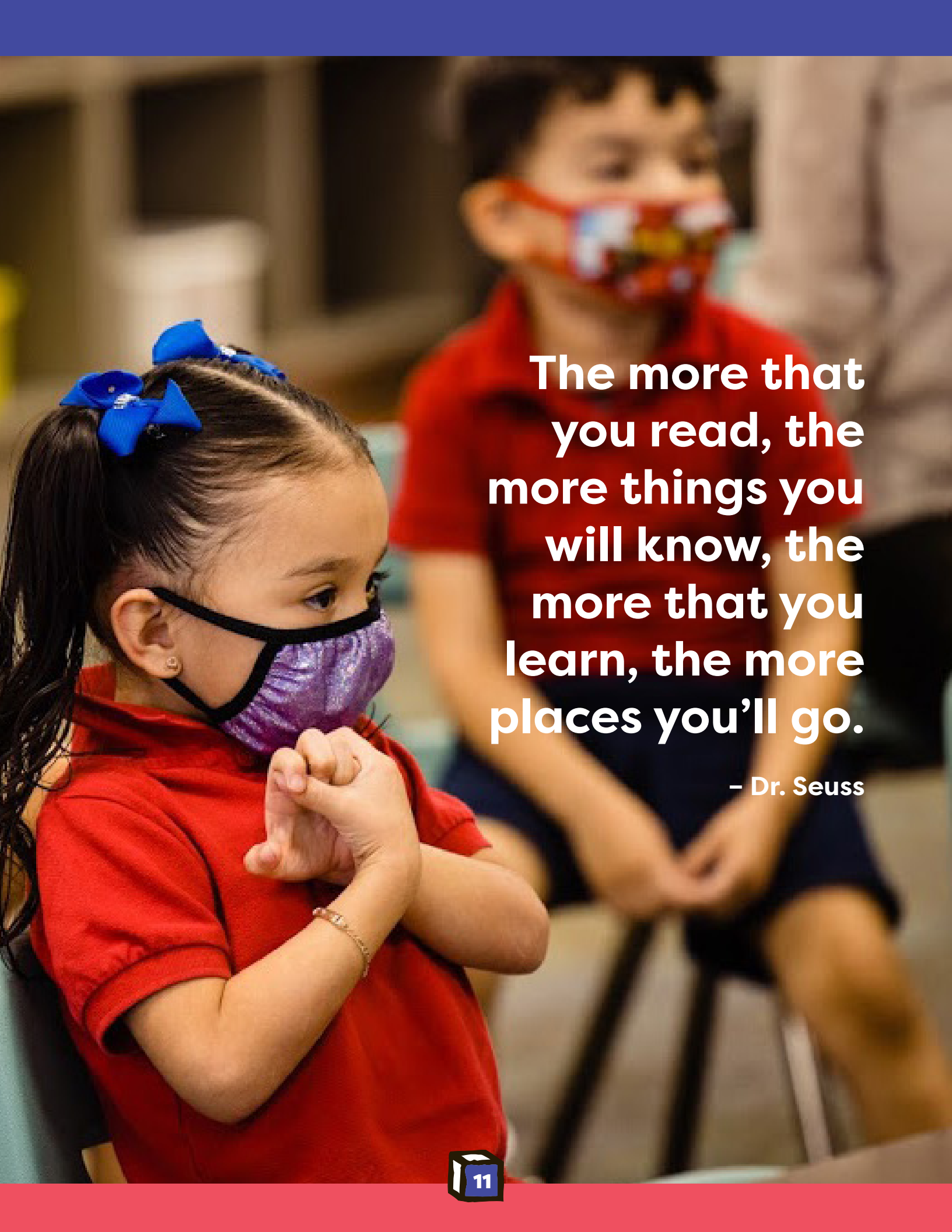


**53%**  
927  
Dental Exams

**3%**  
6  
Dental Treatments



**96%**  
1,702  
up to date on  
Immunizations



**The more that  
you read, the  
more things you  
will know, the  
more that you  
learn, the more  
places you'll go.**

**– Dr. Seuss**

# Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Orange County Head Start (OCHS) utilizes the High-Scope Curriculum which promotes research-based teaching practices to support children's development and learning in all Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) domains. The program uses the Galileo Pre-K assessment tool, G3 Assessment Scales, to evaluate children's developmental progress. Teachers complete baseline assessments for each child and regular, ongoing observation and documentation of progress using the structured assessments provided.

OCHS has experienced a consistent increase in the number of children and families experiencing trauma and mental health concerns. Historically, OCHS has seen an increase in the number of children with diagnosed disabilities and mental health concerns. In preparation to provide additional focus on the social/emotional and mental health wellness of our children and staff, items were purchased for the classrooms, including books, sensory manipulatives, weighted plush animals, emotional expression and identification materials and items to create calming areas in the classroom.

Teaching staff who have and exhibit positive mental wellness are better able to meet the social/emotional needs of their children. Training was provided for the staff including 6 steps to conflict resolution, acknowledging feelings, Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS), Language & Literacy Fostering Communication, and Coaching using CLASS Lens. The topics for the 2020-2021 school year curriculum were focused heavily on the social/emotional, staff wellness compassion and mental health wellness of the classroom, including understanding the emotional & logical brain development of the children.

Parents also received training to enhance their social/emotional knowledge and addressing challenging behaviors at parent committee meetings. A parent training conference was held to assist parents in addressing the special needs of their children. Topics included Emotional Coaching, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and Understanding Child Growth and Development.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic additional measures were taken to ensure the mental health of the children, families and staff. Our mental health services have been provided through a variety of Virtual Platforms. Therapist have reported that the majority of therapy time is used for parent education skills development and focusing on the parent's mental health.

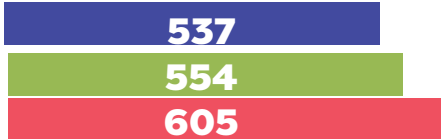
All teaching staff was enrolled in the 7-day virtual "Transforming Challenging Behavior" conference which included topics relating to behavior, mental health and social/emotional regulation. To further address the mental health needs of the staff sessions were held with staff to complete the Professional Quality of Life Scale (Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue Version). Staff was encouraged to reflect on their responses and provide encouragement and ideas to each other on how to avoid Compassion Fatigue.

The transition to distance learning had an impact on the achievement of Predicted DL scores, however Child Assessment data reflected in the chart below shows that all children did make significant gains in all domains. Overall, the data outcomes show that the curriculum and strategies implemented by Orange County Head Start are effectively working to ensure that children are well prepared academically, socially and emotionally to transition to Kindergarten. At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, a total of 579 children successfully transitioned to kindergarten.

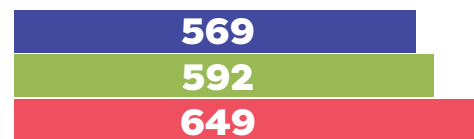
# 4 Year Old Outcome Analysis - Norm-Reference

■ Baseline ■ Predicted DL Score ■ 2020-2021

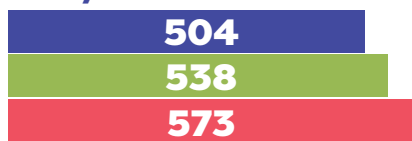
## Approaches to Learning



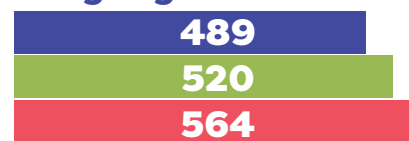
## Creative Arts



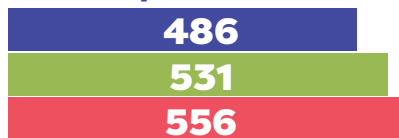
## Early Math



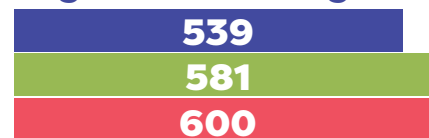
## Language



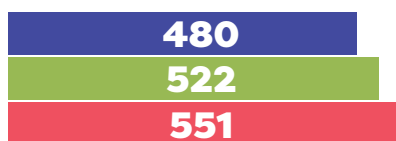
## Literacy



## Logic & Reasoning



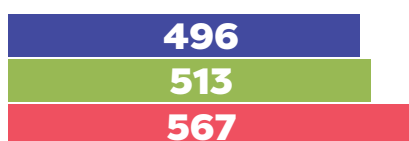
## Nature & Science



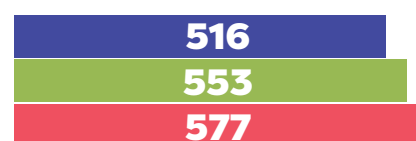
## Physical Development & Health



## Social Emotional



## Social Studies



## School Readiness



## Technology



## English Language Acquisition



# Parent Involvement Activities

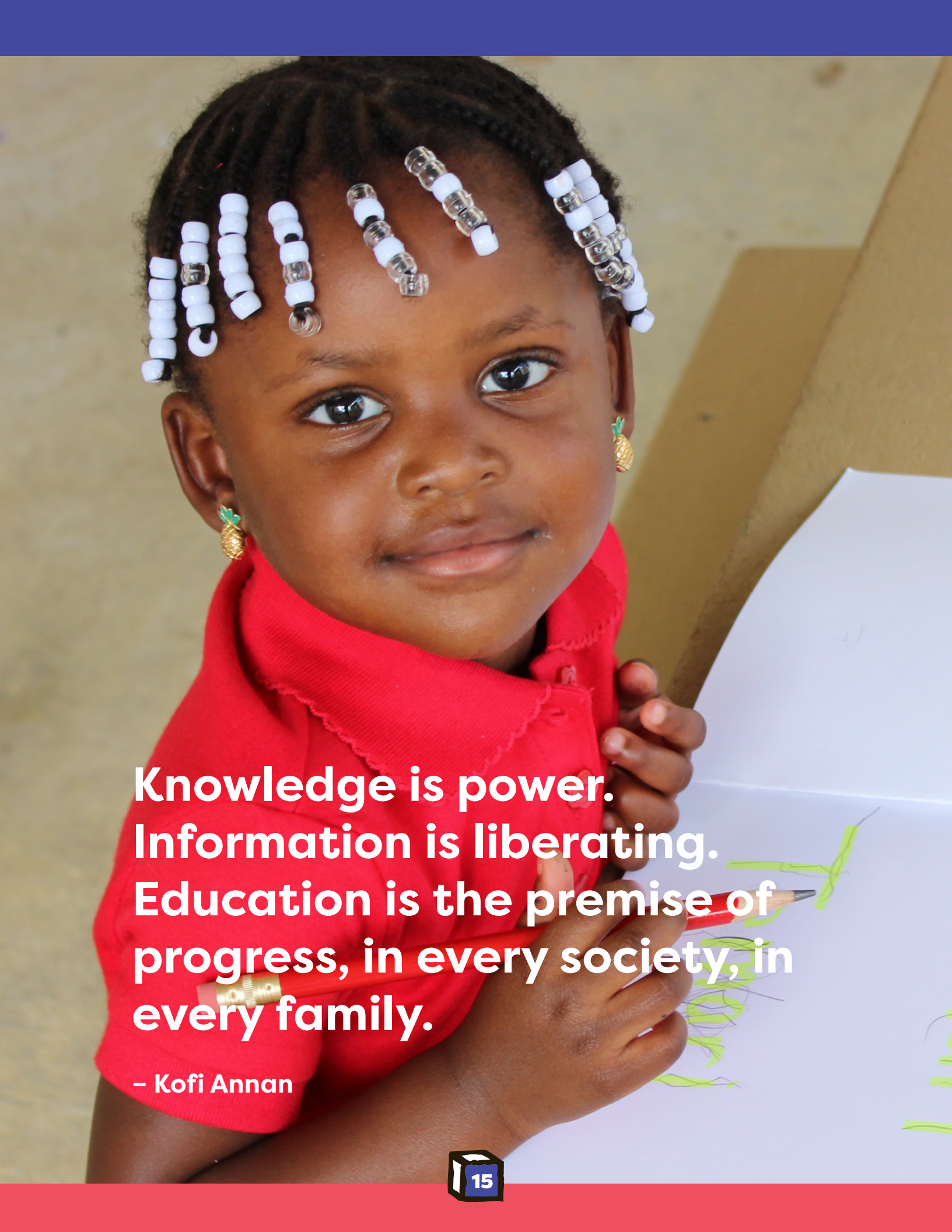
## Parenting Curriculums for 2020-2021 included the following:

Parent Engagement for 2020-2021 came with some challenges during the course of this year. Covid-19 continued to exist throughout the country, with different variants arising. Strategies and efforts were attempted to enact the programs; but due to the re-surgency of Covid-19, we had to forgo implementing any programs during this year.

Most of OCHS parenting programs requires families to participate face to face, and despite offering a virtual platform, the levels of participation were minimal to none. It was then decided to suspend all parenting programs, until next year.

Our goal is to better strategize the implementation of programs, with recruitment, optional virtual platforms and minor in person sessions; if applicable. Despite our circumstances, we will continue to engage and offer the programs for the upcoming year.





**Knowledge is power.  
Information is liberating.  
Education is the premise of  
progress, in every society, in  
every family.**

– Kofi Annan

To all of our advocates,  
partners, and friends,  
thank you once again  
for all your hard work  
and perseverance!



**Orange County  
Head Start**

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Orlando, FL 32806  
Phone: 407-836-6590

