

Early Head Start

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



DDI
vantage

Discover. Develop. Impact.



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TOTAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT:

- **148 HOME-BASED**
- **66 CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS**

DDI Vantage Early Head Start (EHS) delivers comprehensive early education services to income-eligible families in Salt Lake, and Tooele counties.

EHS is tailored to serve pregnant women, infants and toddlers. Children are able to participate in the program until the age of three. Children in the EHS Program are supported with cognitive, social emotional, and physical development throughout their learning experience.

Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) is an effort to expand high-quality education and early learning to children in a child care setting.

This Annual Report reflects a year of growth, hard work, and meaningful impact across both our Home-Based program and our Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships. Each year, we have the privilege of supporting families through important stages of their lives, and it is essential to share our progress with the taxpayers, stakeholders, and community members who help make this work possible. Our work in Early Head Start continues to center on nurturing strong foundations for infants, toddlers, pregnant women, and families by providing the comprehensive support they need during the earliest and most critical years.



**SADIE
RODRIGUEZ**
Early Head Start Program Director

This year also marks my first year as Director, and I want to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to step into this role. DDI Vantage took a chance on me, and from the moment I joined the program I have been continually inspired by the dedication, compassion, and expertise of our staff. Together, we have already made many positive impacts, and I am excited to continue strengthening our program as we build on this momentum. It is both incredible and an honor to be part of a team that cares so deeply about our children, our families, and each other.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our staff, Board of Directors, Policy Council, parents, and community partners. Your commitment, passion, and belief in our mission are what make our work possible. Every person involved in this program plays a vital role in nurturing children, supporting families, and strengthening our community, and I am truly grateful for the dedication you bring to Early Head Start each day. With your support, we will continue to provide the guidance, care, and opportunities that help families and children thrive. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.

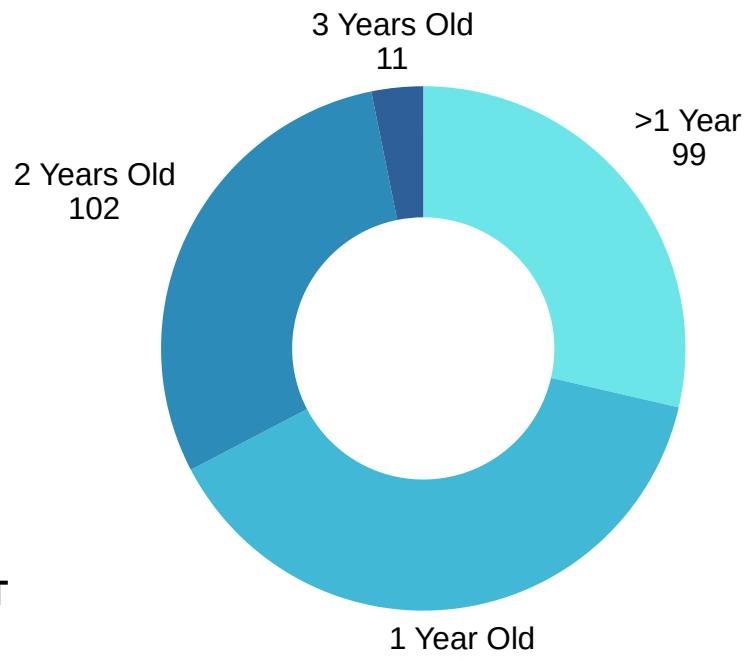
Thank you,
Sadie Rodriguez



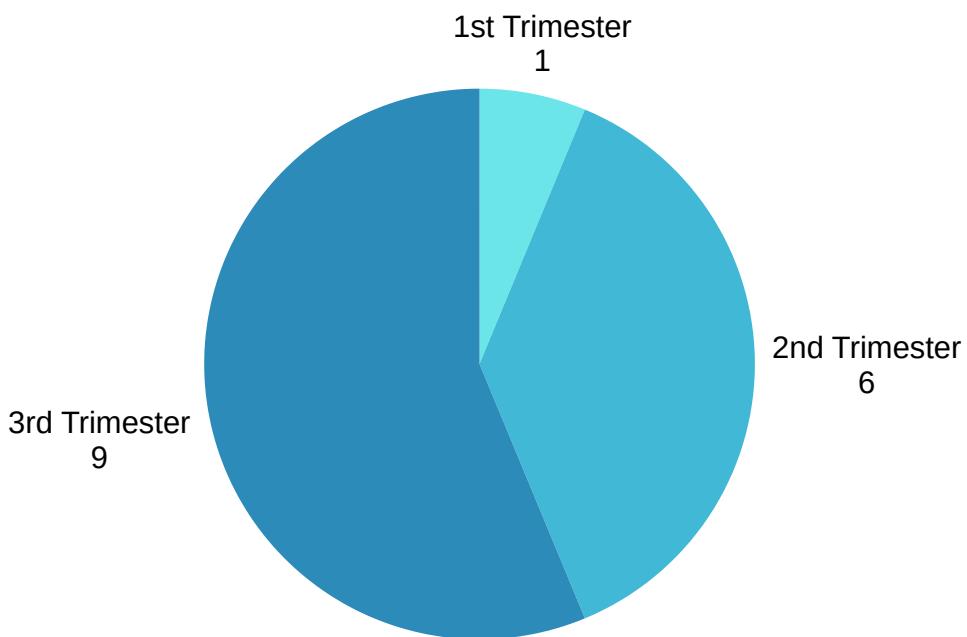
ENROLLMENT



**TOTAL CUMULATIVE
ENROLLMENT: 346 Children**



**ENROLLMENT FOR EXPECTANT
MOTHERS: 16**
5 of which were high-risk pregnancies



All DDI Vantage EHS families received education and social services support throughout enrollment.

The number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:	# of families that received the following services during the program year	% of families that received the following services during the program year
Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	139	48%
Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	58	20%
Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	27	9%
Mental health services	52	18%
Substance misuse prevention	10	3%
Substance misuse treatment	3	1%
English as a second language (ESL) training	84	29%
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	70	24%
Research-based parenting curriculum	227	79%
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	270	93%
Supporting transitions between programs (e.g., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	187	65%
Education on preventive medical and oral health	258	89%
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	63	22%
Education on nutrition	206	71%
Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	33	11%
Education on relationship/marriage	28	10%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	8	3%

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Care

Number and % of children with a Medical Home	339	98%
Children who are up to date on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services	239	69%
Pregnant mothers with health insurance coverage	16	100%
Children with health insurance coverage	330	95%

Dental / Oral Care

Number and % of children with a Dental Home	189	55%
Number and % of children who received an oral exam by a professional	285	82%

Immunizations

Immunizations: Children who are up to date	288	83%
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The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) is a program for children ages birth through twenty who qualify for Medicaid. It provides preventative medical and dental care for children enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid ensures that each child has access to necessary check-ups. Benefits include preventative physicals, hearing and vision screenings, mental health care, as well as access to all necessary immunizations.

EPSDT dental provides preventive care. This includes two dental examinations per year, x-rays, sealants, fluoride and necessary restoration work. [medicaid.utah.gov] DDI Vantage EHS educates all enrolled families on the importance of being up to date on their EPSDT by having their child attend all necessary medical and dental check-ups.



EHS-CCP: SCHOOL READINESS

DDi Vantage EHS-CCP works to prepare children for School Readiness with the goal that children will test at age-appropriate levels in all areas of development by 36 months. The SmartTeach by Teaching Strategies assessment tool (previously Teaching Strategies Gold (TS GOLD)) provides a method for observing the development of children functioning in the birth to 36-month age range and corresponds with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five (ELOF). TS GOLD contains 38 research-based objectives in 10- different areas of development (social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the arts, and English language acquisition).



Assessment Instruments Aligning with Early Learning Outcomes Framework

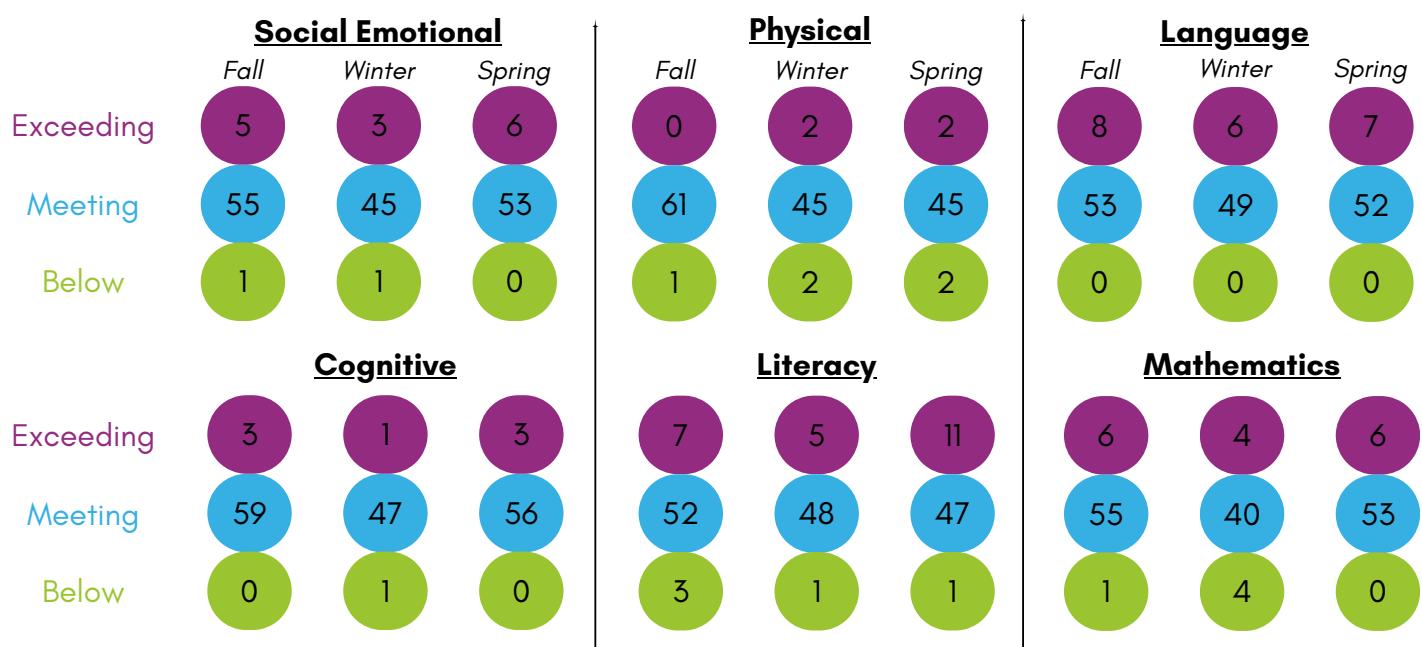
SmartTeach Domain

1. Physical
2. Cognitive and Mathematics
3. Language and Literacy
4. Social/Emotional

ELOF

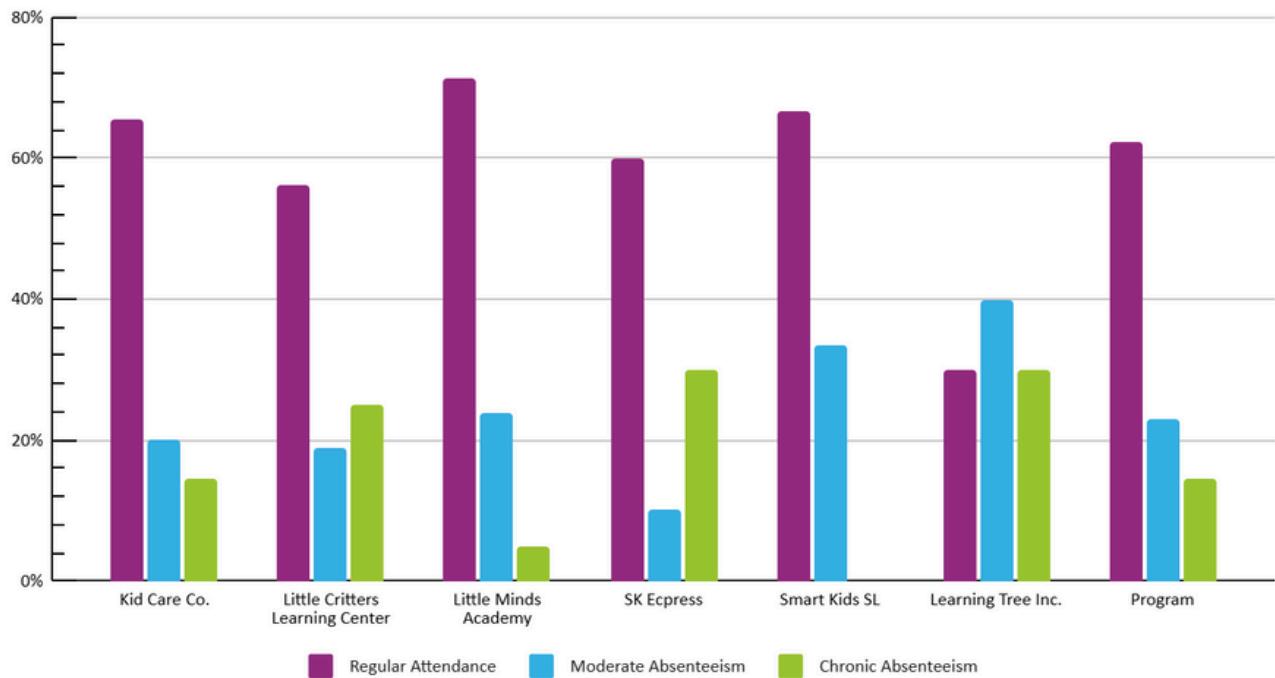
1. Physical Development and Health
2. Cognition and General Knowledge
3. Language and Literacy
4. Social And Emotional Development

This graph summarizes the assessment results of the children enrolled from Aug. 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025, 0-3 years of age, from 6 privately-owned child care center partners. It is important to note that the SmartTeach by Teaching Strategies assessment does not record children's Math and Literacy skills until they are over 2 years old. Therefore, not all children are assessed in those two domains, and the graph reflects this. The overall observation from the assessment data is that children are meeting developmental expectations and increasing their developmental skills over time.



EHS-CCP: ATTENDANCE

Child Care Partnership Attendance



Children from low-income families are more likely to be chronically absent in the early grades and less likely to have access to needed resources to make up for missed time in school. Establishing good early attendance habits supports children's learning and leads to success in school and in life.

Attendanceworks.org

DDI Vantage and the Child Care Center are required to follow up on every unexplained absence within one hour of the program start time. If a child is in danger of becoming chronically absent, the DDIV Family Advocate works with the family to create an attendance improvement plan to provide support, remove barriers, and increase attendance.

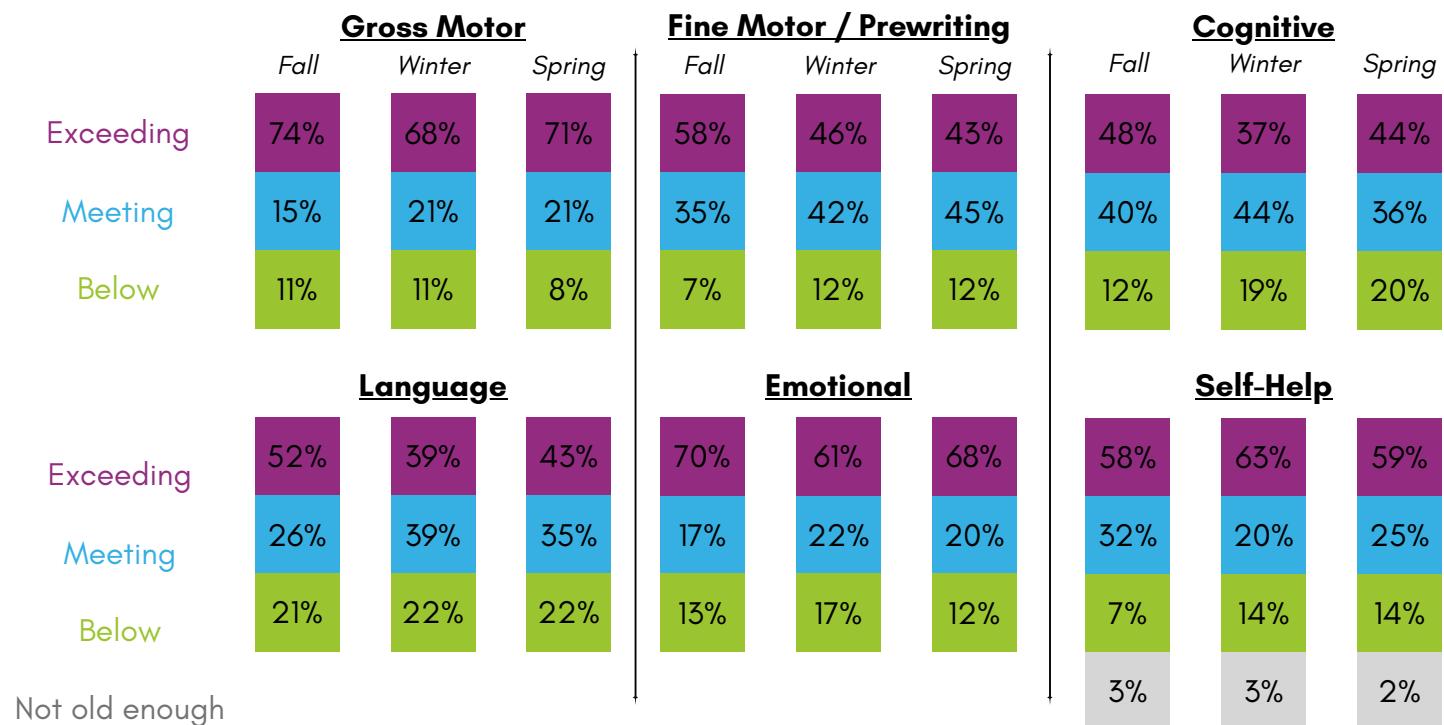


HOME-BASED: SCHOOL READINESS

DDI Vantage EHS works to prepare children for School Readiness with the goal that children will test at age-appropriate levels in all areas of development by 36 months. The Learning Accomplishment Profile (LAP) is a comprehensive assessment tool used to track individual child growth and progress toward school readiness across the following six developmental domains: Gross Motor, Fine Motor/Pre-writing, Cognitive, Language, Social-Emotional and Self Help. It provides an ongoing, systematic method for observing the skill development of any child functioning in the birth to five-year range, including children with special needs.

The following graph shows the percentage of children exceeding, meeting, or below expectations for the 24-25 program year. It is important to note that children can not be assessed for self-help skills until they are 6 months old; therefore, you will see a percentage of children on this graph who were not old enough to be assessed.

Follow up is provided for each child in the form of goal writing, community resources and referrals for further evaluation when needed.



HOME-BASED: SOCIALIZATIONS & PARENT ACTIVITIES



Fine motor



Cognitive



Gross Motor



Language & Literacy



Sensory



Self-Help



Community Events

A selection of School Readiness Socialization topics & activities



31 families turned in 145 reading cards for a total of 435 hours of reading time

112 children supported through an IFSP

DDI Vantage Early Head Start understands that parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Enrolled families participate in opportunities to build their skills through engagement in home visits, socializations, and parenting curriculum lessons. Parents also participate in leadership and decision-making roles to ensure that DDIV EHS provides exemplary services. Their voice directly impacts the themes, activities, and direction the program takes as data reveals the program's strengths and potential areas for growth. Many parents volunteered and provided their own books and skills to lead an activity during the socialization. Socializations provide opportunities for staff to model and parents to practice ways to engage their child in learning. Each socialization includes activities that support music and movement, developmental growth, arts and crafts, a family-style meal, and a book reading demonstration.

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“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and it’s best hope for the future.”

- John F. Kennedy



FISCAL

The fiscal year 2025 annual single audit of DDI Vantage and affiliated programs found the agency to be compliant with all requirements of the funding entities. The report contained no findings and all expenses were reasonable, allowable and allocable, with no questioned costs, exceptions, or comments. Internal controls were found to be in place and operations across all programs were sound.

25% Required Non Federal Match

Total Needed: \$969,741

Total Received: \$969,741

Budget

Personnel
\$1,641,390

Fringe Benefits
\$721,155

Travel (out of state)
\$5,207

Equipment
\$0.00

Supplies
\$81,679

Other
\$1,134,441

Total Direct Cost
\$3,583,872

Indirect Cost
\$295,093

Total Approved Budget
\$3,878,965

Actuals (4/30/25)

Personnel
\$1,597,095

Fringe Benefits
\$744,728

Travel (out of state)
\$20,880

Equipment
\$0.00

Supplies
154,280

Other
\$1,097,211

Total Direct Cost
\$3,614,194

Indirect Cost
\$264,771

Total Approved Budget
\$3,878,965