

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

GOAL: Every child in Calhoun County will be safe, healthy, prepared, eager to succeed in school and life, becoming contributing and productive members of their community

RATIONALE FOR INDICATOR: Children’s brains develop rapidly during the first five years of life and access to early learning sets the foundation for future success in school and life. ⁱ Despite the importance of early learning, many children lack access to these opportunities due to risk factors including: residential mobility, living in a household with no English speakers, living in poverty, low parental education, and having a teen mother, single parent and/or unemployed parents. Children with three or more of these risk factors are the most likely to experience school failure. ⁱⁱ Financial investments and policy decisions can change a child’s access to quality care and education such as home visiting programs, Early Head Start, Head Start, quality childcare, preschool and Kindergarten. ⁱ

In 2015 in Calhoun County:



- ✓ 6.2% of the population is under age 5 ⁱⁱⁱ
- ✓ 25.4% of all children under age 18 live in poverty ^{iv}
- ✓ 4.4% of children ages 0 to 5 were eligible for subsidized care in 2015 ^v
- ✓ 13.0: rate per 1,000 children ages 0 to 5 in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect ^v
- ✓ 41.5: rate per 1,000 children ages 0 to 5 that were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect ^v

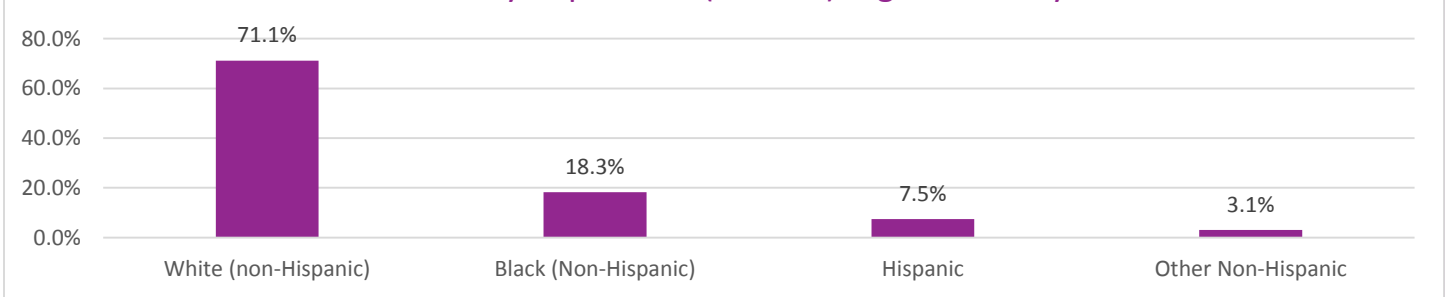


- ✓ 33.8% of children ages 0 to 5 received FAP (Food Assistance Program) ^v
- ✓ 67.4% of children ages 0 to 4 received WIC services ^v



- ✓ 45.6% of 3 to 4 year olds are enrolled in preschool ^v
- ✓ 3.9% of children age 0 to 5 are in special education ^{v, #}
- ✓ 17.4% of births were to mothers with no diploma or GED ^{v, #}

Calhoun County Population (in 2014): Ages 0 to 5 by Race ^v



ⁱ Children’s Defense Fund: Early Childhood Development and Learning, <http://childrensdefense.org>, accessed December 12, 2016.

ⁱⁱ National Center for Children in Poverty: Investing in Young Children Fact Sheet. November 2013.

ⁱⁱⁱ Quick Facts, U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov, accessed November 22, 2016.

^{iv} American Community Survey. American Fact Finder, www.factfinder.census.gov, accessed November 22, 2016.

^v Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center, www.datacenter.kidscount.org, accessed November 22, 2016.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

GOAL: Every child in Calhoun County will be safe, healthy, prepared, eager to succeed in school and life, becoming contributing and productive members of their community

The **Birth-to-Five Services Application** is the online application for early childhood services in Calhoun County, and is the single point of entry for Head Start, Early Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program, Calhoun Great Start Three-Year-Old Scholarship Program and Early Childhood Connections. During the 2015-2016 school year (November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016), 2247 applications were received. ⁱ



Cumulative Number of Birth-To-Five Applications Received Since 2010: 9,664. ⁱ

THREE-YEAR-OLD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR PRESCHOOL ⁱ			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Age-Eligible Applications Received	273	907	847
Age-Eligible and Income-Eligible Applications Received	222	787	732
Total Scholarships Awarded	52	35	45

The **Three-Year-Old Scholarship Program** receives funding from the Binda Foundation, United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Along with scholarships for eligible three year olds, the program provides coaching support to early learning centers in an effort to promote quality improvement.

SCHOLARSHIP AND FEDERALLY FUNDED PRESCHOOL FOR 3 YEAR OLDS IN CALHOUN COUNTY		
	Children Receiving 3-Year-Old Scholarships ⁱ	Children Attending Community Action Head Start ⁱⁱ
2013-2014	52	306
2014-2015	35	321
2015-2016	45	264

The **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)** is a quality pre-school program for four-year-olds at risk for a lack of school success.

STATE AND FEDERALLY FUNDED PRESCHOOL FOR 4 YEAR OLDS IN CALHOUN COUNTY ⁱ		
	Children Attending Great Start Readiness Program	Children Attending Community Action Head Start
2013-2014	703	262
2014-2015	905*	267*
2015-2016	904*	247*
*103 Children attended Head Start Blended Classrooms		

Head Start provides a classroom environment for children ages 3 and 4 who are from low-income families. The program also provides educational experiences to families, which helps families raise successful children. Head Start participants are provided a variety of cognitive, affective and motor skill development learning experiences, in both small and large group settings, that encourage age-appropriate intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

ⁱ Calhoun Intermediate School District, 2016.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

GOAL: Every child in Calhoun County will be safe, healthy, prepared, eager to succeed in school and life, becoming contributing and productive members of their community

Early Childhood Connections (ECC) is a school readiness program at Calhoun Intermediate School District, funded through the Binda Foundation, United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and PNC Bank. The



program goals are to support families as they become more informed, engaged and empowered in efforts to support their children's readiness for, and success in, school. ECC provides Welcome Baby Baskets, home visits and playgroups to families in the greater Battle Creek area. ⁱ

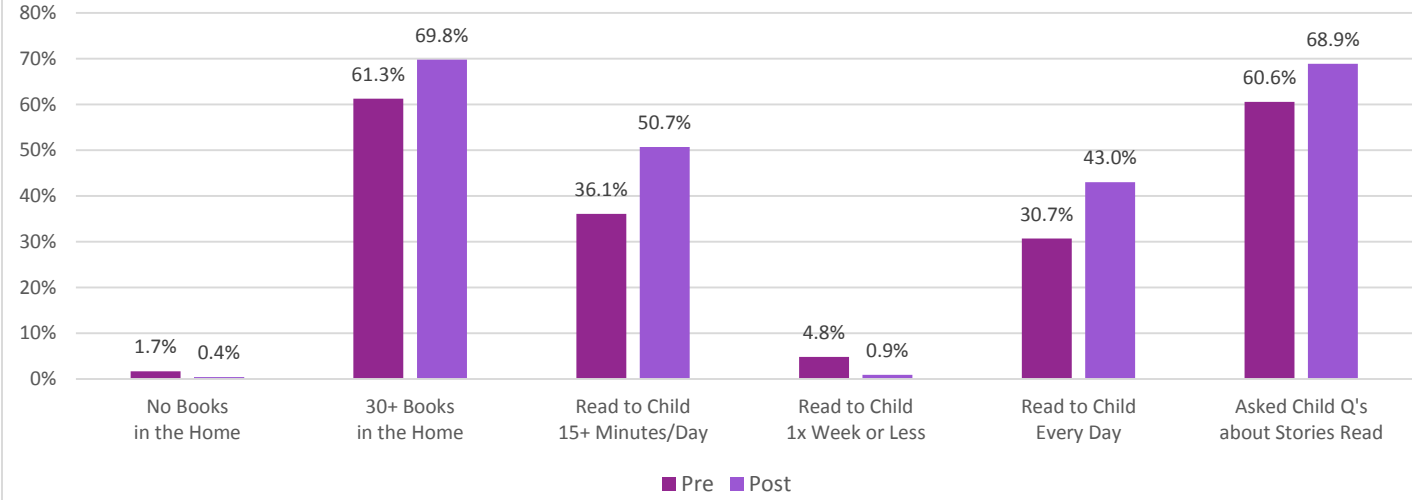
- ✓ 389 children received home visits through ECC during the 2015-2016 year ⁱ

- ✓ 93.6% of children participating in ECC were developmentally on track at 48 months using the Ages and Stages questionnaire ⁱ

Reading with children is an important way to help prepare them for school. This experience builds a stronger relationship between parent and child, improves social-emotional development, and builds language and literacy skills during a time when the brain is developing very rapidly. **Raising a Reader (RAR)** is an evidence-based early literacy and family engagement program for children birth to 5 years, where children are given a weekly book bag exchange at area child care centers and preschools. In Calhoun County, RAR is helping build school success for children by improving literacy awareness and understanding for families. On kindergarten assessments, children who participated in RAR and GSRP scored 2.791 points higher than their peers who didn't participate in RAR and GSRP on Sound Identification (26-point scale;) and 7.857 points higher on Letter Identification (54-point scale). ⁱ

In 2015-2016 there were 1,224 children who participated in Raise a Reader, for a five-year total of 6,030. ⁱ

Raising a Reader Family Survey Results: 2015-2016 ⁱ



ⁱ Calhoun Intermediate School District, 2016.