

KIRPC HEAD START Program Report for 2009

Education and Family Services
for children 3 - 5 years of age



What is Head Start and Who Does it Serve?

Head Start is a 44 year old federally funded preschool and family development program for low-income children and their families. It is a program that has operated since 1965 under the Johnson Administration.

Education of preschoolers is designed to meet each child's individual needs. This program uses the Creative Curriculum which includes developmentally appropriate practices for the child who is 3, 4, 5 years old.

Health of preschoolers is monitored in their growth and development through recommended medical, dental, vision, and social-emotional screenings, children receive a good, healthy start to live.

Nutrition is provided in this program with healthy breakfast and lunch that meets the federal requirements.

Mental Health/Disability support is provided to address emotional, developmental, and social development children may experience. Referrals are made when necessary.

Family Services are provided to assist parents with skills, strengths, goal planning and other areas of need.

Parent Involvement encourages parents to be active in volunteering and serving on various committees including Policy Council, Child Development and/or Health Advisory Sub-Committees.

Community Partnerships are held with local agencies in the three counties of Newton, Jasper, and Pulaski in Northwest Indiana.



Children and Families

Books and reading are part of each classroom. Monthly field trips to the library are part of the program. Reading is encouraged in the home as well as in the classroom. Lending libraries are available to families. Fatherhood Literacy Toolboxes are sent to the homes to encourage males to read to the children.

Communication includes newsletters, menus, calendars, and announcements. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the planning of events and policy making for the program. Monthly Parent Meetings are held at each site.

A total of 519 volunteers participated in the program year. Of these, 235 volunteers were parents.

Transition activities are provided for children prior to kindergarten attendance in multiple school districts throughout the three counties.



Health Outcomes

148 children had continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist.

147 children were up-to-date on age appropriate health care assessments.

147 children were up-to-date on immunizations by the end of year. The program encourages parents to take children for follow-up visits.





Mayor Herbert Arihood reads to the children at the KIRPC Head Start site in Rensselaer, Indiana.

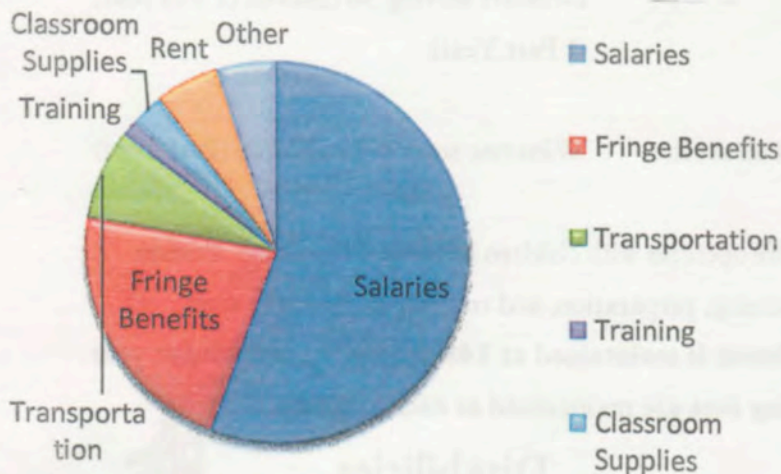
Volunteer readers and literacy make an ideal combination! Senior citizens and Head Start children receive services in buildings designated as community service facilities. This partnership allows for many opportunities for inter-generational interactions.



Early childhood developmental skills are built with confidence.

KIRPC Head Start Operating Budget

- Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission is the grantee.
- KIRPC Head Start is funded with federal dollars from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Federal grant total: \$1,074,381.
- Nonfederal match total: \$268,595.
- Salaries for 42 employees total: \$597,334.
- Fringe benefits (insurance, etc.) total: \$236,417.
- Transportation total: \$82,788.
- Training for staff total: \$15,256.
- Classroom supplies total: \$30,000.
- Rent for eight classrooms total: \$59,000.
- The Child and Adult Food Program is reimbursable through the State of Indiana.



Enrollment

A total of 170 children were served during the enrollment year

- 58 three year olds
- 97 four year olds
- 15 five year olds



Demographics

KIRPC Head Start is funded to serve 148 children from Newton, Jasper, and Pulaski counties located in Northwest Indiana. The program has five centers with a total of eight classrooms.

Newton sites: Goodland serving 20 children (Full year)
Roselawn serving 34 children (Full year)

Jasper sites: Rensselaer serving 20 children (Full year)
DeMotte serving 38 children (1 Full year;
1 Part Year)

Pulaski site: Winamac serving 36 children (Part Year)

Each site operates with children Monday - Thursday. Fridays are planning, preparation, and training days for the staff.

Enrollment is maintained at 148 during the enrollment year.

Waiting lists are maintained at each location.

Disabilities



Head Start requires that at least 10% of the enrollment be made available to children with disabilities. Twenty-five children received speech; thirty-one had IEPs (Individualized Education Program); six received other services.