



# New Directions Early Head Start Annual Report 2019-2020

*New Directions Early Head Start provides pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families with quality care and family services that support families in providing the best for themselves and their very young children, in order to promote children's success and families' self-sufficiency, through community collaboration and partnerships.*

The 2019 - 2020 program year was an unprecedented year for New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS). Along with the rest of the world, halfway through the year we were faced with a global pandemic and a nation grappling in a new way with racial inequities. These events impacted our work and services. Through it all staff, parents and children came together and persevered. Services changed, but never stopped. On March 13, 2020, we transitioned all our home visiting to virtual visits using Zoom, FaceTime and other virtual platforms. UD staff began working from home. One of our center partners closed, expecting to re-open in two weeks. The rest of the centers closed on April 6<sup>th</sup> and did not reopen until the end of June. We quickly switched to a virtual realm. The teachers from the center-based programs used platforms such as Zoom, Class Dojo, Hi Mama, FaceTime, emails and text to stay in communication with families. Virtual classroom interactions, virtual teacher 1:1 connections and educational experiences were provided for children and their families. We worked to get families access to the technology needed for virtual participation. Families who identified a specific need in partnership with NDEHS staff, such as diapers, food, educational materials, technology, etc., worked with the program staff to determine the best and most efficient way to meet the need. Staff were able to drop off, ship, and refer families to get needed supplies and materials.

It was not an easy year. Through it all, we worked together to ensure children, families and staff had information, access and support to care for themselves and their loved ones and each other.

Following is a brief overview of the services and activities:

## **Program demographic and service information for 2019-2020**

Number of Children Served: 226

Under one year old: 90

One year old: 81

Two years old: 55

Number of Pregnant women: 27

Number of children with an identified disability: 14

Number of families/participants, that English is not their primary language: 85

Number of families over income eligibility: 25

Number of father/father figures who participate in NDEHS activities: 112

Number of homeless families served: 6 which included 6 children



**Medical & Preventative Dental Services:** Due to the global pandemic many children were not able to maintain regular well visits. Many medical offices were operating with fewer employees to limit exposure and limiting visits and families were reluctant to visit the doctor. As we moved in to September we began working with families to schedule medical visits and work towards maintaining ongoing medical appointments.

Number of Pregnant women who received prenatal and postpartum health care – 22 prenatal (100%), 12 postnatal (55%, some PW’s were still pregnant at the end of the program year)

### **Family Partnerships and Services**

All, 198 families (100% of all families) participated in a family goal setting process which resulted in an individualized family partnership agreement in 2019-2020. All families received at least two-family services referral and services as outlined on the PIR during the program year.

One hundred and eighteen (55%) families received emergency/ crisis intervention (addressing an immediate need for food, clothing, shelter). One hundred ninety-eight families received parent education services and one hundred and eighteen received health education services. Twenty-six families (13%) received a mental health referral or assistance. In addition, twenty-three families (10%) received substance use, prevention services and fifteen (7%) participated in substance use treatment programs. Nineteen families (9%) received housing assistance, twenty-five (11%) received job training. Forty-five (22%) families received financial education and asset building services.

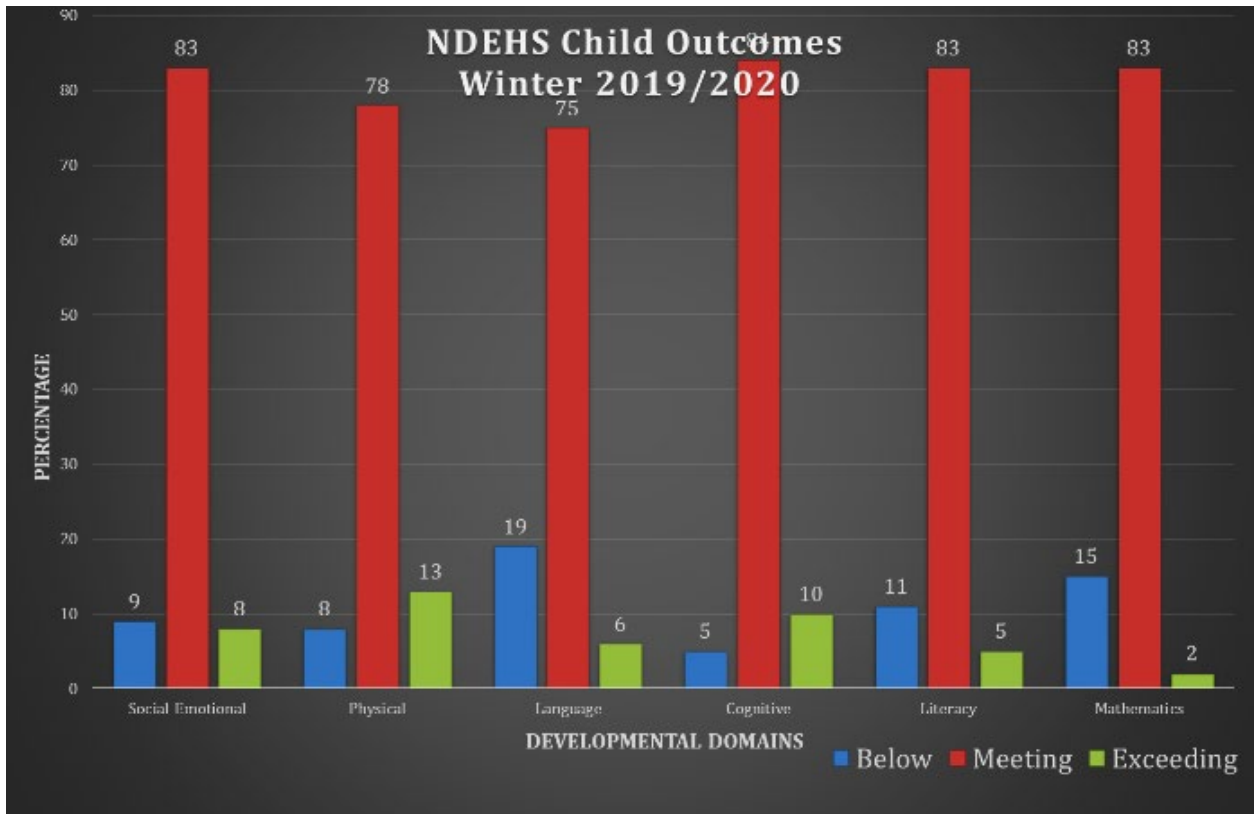
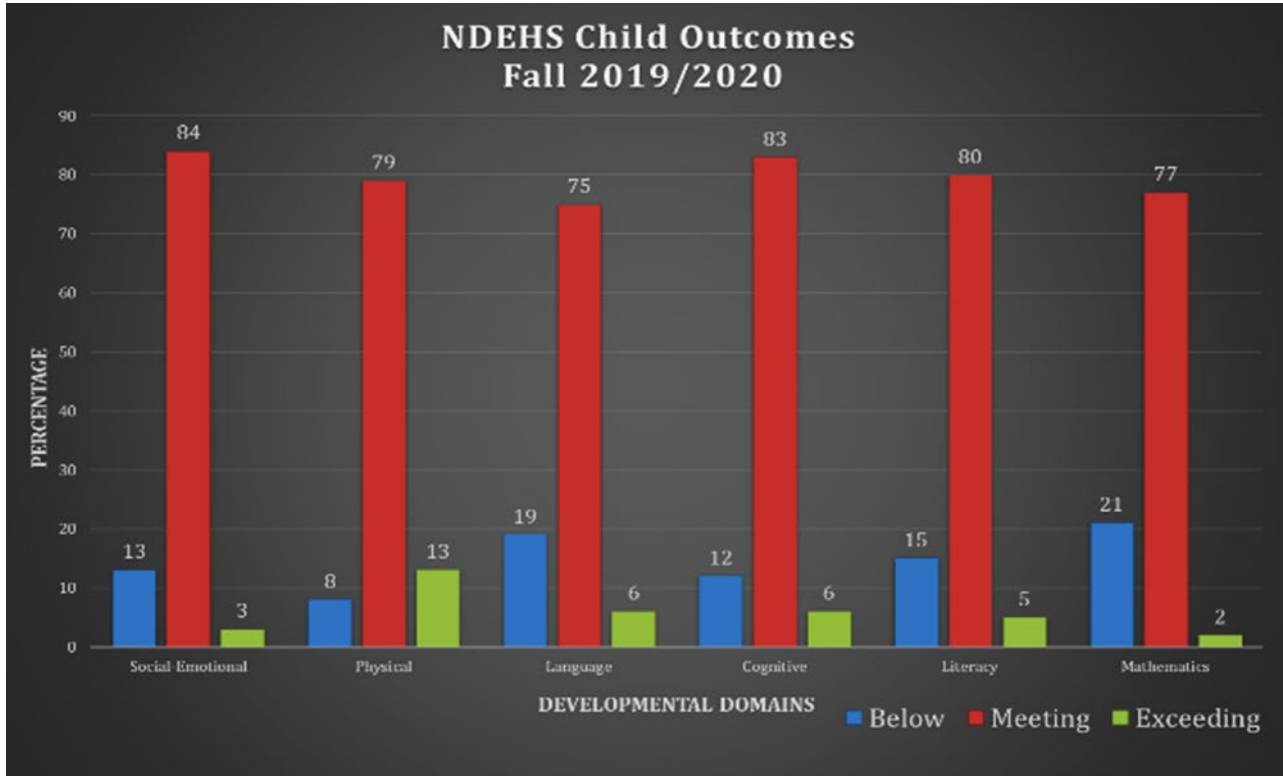


Family support staff working with center-based families quickly came together when the pandemic began to ensure parents, children and the center staff were connected and engaged families through virtual home visits.

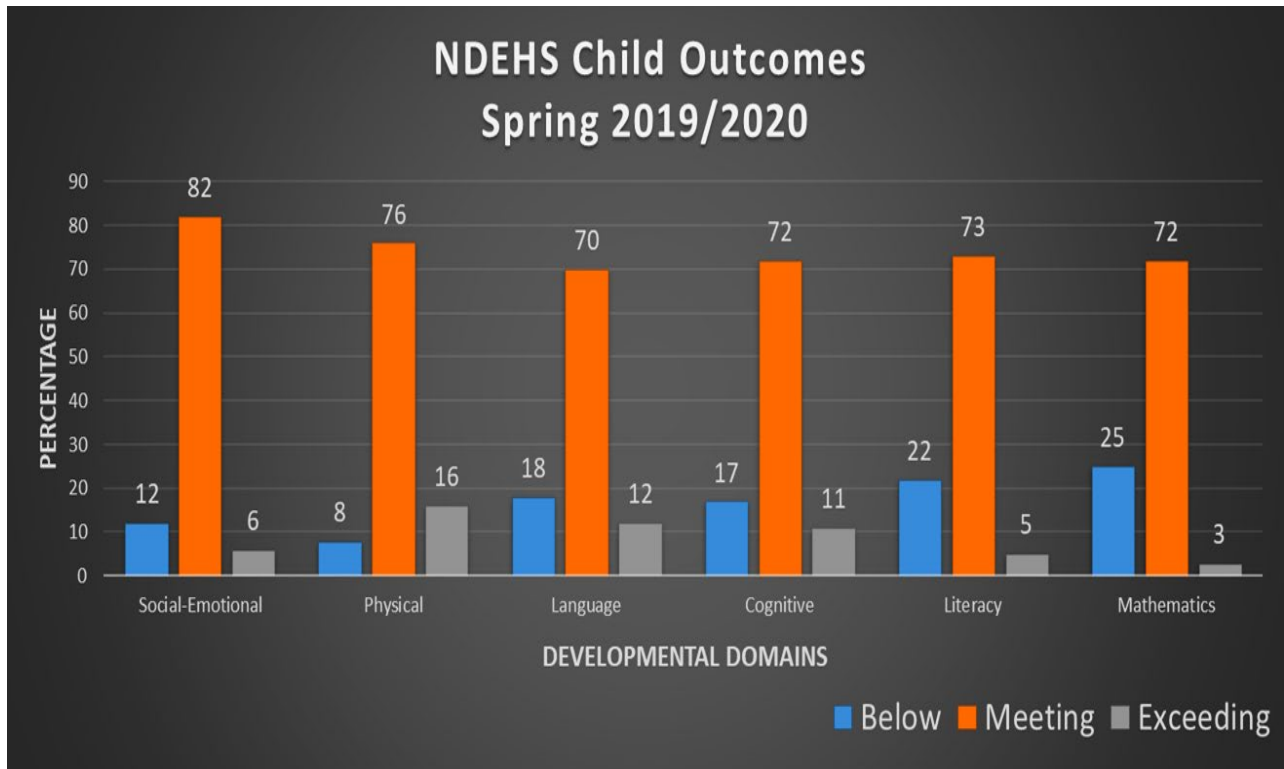
Virtual socialization experiences were planned and facilitated by staff to keep families connected with each other. Home Visitors have provided materials to assist families in meeting the educational needs of their infants and toddlers and to encourage caregivers to be the best first teacher for their child(ren).

Families were provided with diapers, wipes, thermometers, hand sanitizer and masks to deal with the pandemic.

NDEHS continued to assess the children’s development using virtual observations and parent observations. The following is our child outcome data for the year.



## Child Out Come Data



### COLOR FOR A CAUSE: We're strong together

As the nation grappled with racial injustice and inequities, Policy Council set out to ensure children and families embraced themselves and were proud of who they are. They launched “Color for A Cause”. Each family was provided with multicultural crayons and books and encouraged to:



- Make a family portrait.
- Learn about a babies all around the world.
- Fill your coloring book with all shades of all kinds.
- Draw a picture of yourself with a positive affirmation on it.
- Read I love my hair.
- Share your art and experience on Facebook or with your home visitor/ family support specialist

## Funding:

**Federal Funding from HHS Available: \$2,621,643.00**

**Non- Federal Funding: \$54,420.00**

TOTAL HHS Expenditures: \$2,524,307

Personnel	\$847,314.
Fringe Benefits	\$336,196.
Travel	\$4,252.
Supplies	\$52,685.
Contractual	\$1,101,901.
Other	\$75,253.
Indirect Cost	\$106,706.
TOTAL:	\$2,524,307

Training (T/TA) \$52,561

\*Included in above total.

In-Kind/ Match \$591,830

## A Special Thank You to Some of Our 2019-2020 Supporters

BJ's Wholesale Club  
Prospect  
Cover and Rossiter  
Newark Natural Foods  
Saint Thomas More Oratory  
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