

Maricopa County Head Start: Supporting Success for Children and Families



All children need and deserve a good start. Attending high quality early childhood programs is an important part of starting early and starting right.

Entering Kindergarten	Children from Lowest SES Families	Children from Highest SES Families
Counts to 20	48%	68%
Writes own Name	54%	76%
Recognizes letters of the alphabet	39%	85%
Identifies initial sounds of words	10%	51%

When children enter kindergarten, there are already significant differences in literacy and math skill between children of low, middle, and high socio-economic status (SES)

S. Neuman, "From rhetoric to reality: The case for high-quality compensatory prekindergarten programs (2003)"

	Children from Lowest SES Families	Children from Highest SES Families
Hours Read to Before Kindergarten	25	1000
	Children from Welfare Families	Children from Professional Families
Words addressed to child by age 4 (cumulative, estimated)	13 Million	45 Million

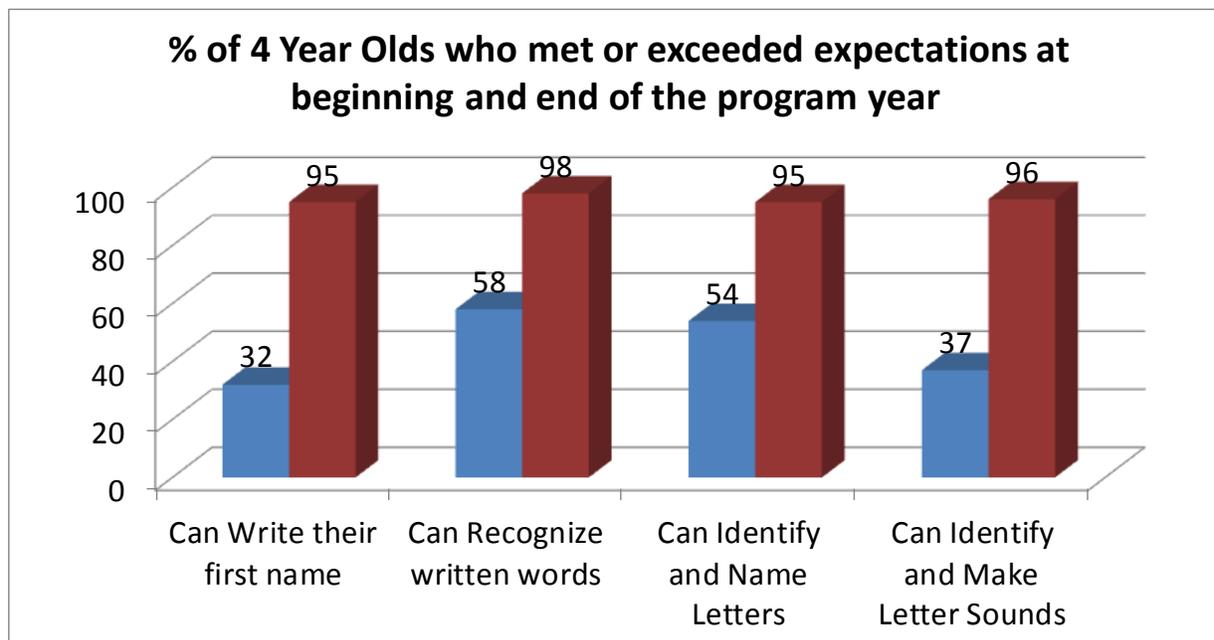
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CLOSING THE GAP

Children who have a Head Start preschool experience are better prepared for school and more likely to succeed

Maricopa County Head Start Assessment Data: Teaching Strategies GOLD obj.19,14, 16, 15 (2013)



The long-term impact of early childhood education program (including Head Start) found multiple benefits for low-income children

- ⇒ Children were less likely to be held back in school
- ⇒ Children were less likely to be placed in special education classes
- ⇒ Children were more likely to graduate from high school
- ⇒ Children were more likely to be rated as behaving well in class and being better adjusted in school