


2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Paladin

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

 Head Start of LaPorte County



Our Mission

Head Start of LaPorte County promotes the school readiness of young children from low income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

The National Head Start Association (NHSA)'s mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.

Our Vision

The National Head Start Association (NHSA)'s vision is to lead—to be the untiring voice that will not rest until every vulnerable child is served with the Head Start model of support for the whole child, the family and the community—and to advocate—to work diligently for policy and institutional changes that ensure all vulnerable children and families have what they need to succeed.



What is Head Start?

Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Head Start programs enhance the social and cognitive development of children and actively engage families in their children's learning so that children will be successful in kindergarten.

Head Start is a program run by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The program is funded primarily by the federal government, but also relies on the community to cover a portion of the operating costs, generally through volunteering or donations. The services provided by the Head Start program come at no financial cost to the enrolled families.

Head Start serves over a million children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories, including many American Indian and migrant children.



Our Service Area

We serve children ages 3-5 and their families who reside in La Porte County and meet the Head Start federal eligibility guidelines.

Our Locations

Our program offers center-based services at two locations in Michigan City, Indiana, and we are expanding to La Porte, Indiana in 2022!



137

Families served

For the 2021-2022 school year, 137 children and their families were served. Our average monthly enrollment was 58.8%. Of the 192 eligible families that applied for the program, 71.3% were served in our high-quality model of three teachers per classroom.

During this school year 100% of enrolled children were up to date on their physical exams, and 95.1% on their dental exams.





Program Goals



1

Increase the quality of Early Childhood Education Programs in La Porte County



2

Increase healthy lifestyles and well-being for children, families, and staff in our service area



3

Improve healthy family functioning in our service area



4

Increase literacy in our service area



5

Instill a culture of reciprocal partnerships in our service area where agencies work in concert to meet community needs



School Readiness Goals



Language and
Communication/Literacy
Development



Mathematics Development and
Scientific Reasoning Approach to
Learning



Perceptual/Physical and Motor
Development



Social and Emotional Development



Connections to Global Learning
Outcomes

Staff Wellness

"Staff wellness...refers to staff's mental and physical health and how it shapes their engagement, job satisfaction, and overall quality of life. Staff who are happier, healthier, less stressed, and experience less depression are able to engage in higher quality interactions with children..."

Through this lens, our wellness program was crafted to address each area of staff's well-being by infusing a culture of wellness throughout all program services.

Excerpted from: Supporting the Wellness of All Staff in the Head Start Workforce ACF-IM-HS-21-05



Family Engagement

Advocates build meaningful relationships with families to determine where families need support or access to community resources. 80% of families reported that their needs were met.

Family events are determined based on interests and needs of families. Staff engaged families with at-home projects for most of the 2021-2022 school year due to the pandemic

FAMILY
NEEDS

ENGAGEMENT
EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS

LEARNING
GENIE
PLATFORM

Families serve as volunteers to support program goals in different capacities including helping in classrooms, serving on Policy Council, or setting up events. Our program engaged 45 family members as volunteers

Teachers and Families can engage in regular 2-way communication to share ideas, updates on progress, and resources. 100% of families have access to this platform

Kindergarten Readiness

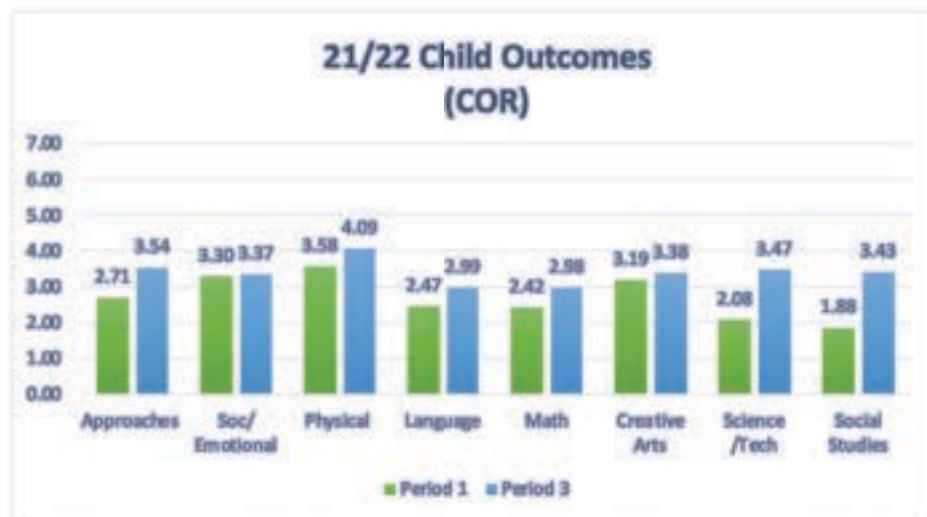
At Paladin's Early Childhood Programs, we strive to provide our students with experiences that honor the unique qualities of each child while fostering growth in every area of development. Here, we believe that every child has the right to quality early education, meaningful experiences, playful friendships, and nurturing relationships.

21/22 Developmental Outcomes (TSG)



Kindergarten Readiness

It is our commitment and passion that children and families in La Porte County will be prepared for school and develop a genuine love of life-long learning. This means that children are provided with rounded experiences to nurture growth in all eight areas of development. The data from our 2021-2022 assessments provide a glimpse into our children's progress towards meeting these developmental milestones over the course of the year.



Welcome to Paladin's Early Childhood Programs

Through our unique blended program model, Paladin's Early Childhood Programs are able to provide the highest quality services in the most inclusive and accessible model of Early Childhood Education.

By leveraging Imagination Station's NAEYC accredited program and the comprehensive services of the Head Start Program, we provide a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children and give them the strongest start on the path to college or a career.

Young children are still learning how to learn, and our high-quality preschool helps them develop learning competencies like focus, self-regulation, memory, flexibility and motivation.

Paladin's Early Childhood Programs Mission

In Paladin's Early Childhood Programs our mission is to provide the highest quality Early childhood experiences for all children and to advocate for the importance of quality early childhood experiences.





Paladin's Early Childhood Programs



Infant &
Toddler Care



All-day Pre-K



Head Start



Reggio-Emilia



Summer Camp





Paladin Children's Services Totals



1,015

Hours of Service
Head Start

FINANCIAL AUDIT:

A general audit of Paladin is performed each year. The 2021 fiscal year audit was conducted by Applegate & Company CPAs, with a finding of ineffective internal control system. Paladin corrected this issue by implementing detailed procedures for processes involved with the Head Start grant, and staffing has been restructured to accommodate the segregation of duties to properly monitor control of the funds received. A full copy of the audit is available upon request.



Paladin 2022 Expenses

Wages & Benefits: \$11,358,312.87
Agency Insurance: \$354,075.39
Building & Grounds: \$963,278.16
Technology & Software: \$148,930.45

Program Supplies & Services: \$331,821.87
Vehicle Expenses: \$258,629.26
Human Resources & Development: \$320,547.56
Prof. Fees & Services: \$146,174.03

Other Expenses: \$1,380,107.00
Depreciation & Amortization: \$375,579.18
Total Expenses: \$15,637,455.77

Paladin 2022 Revenue

FEES FOR SERVICE: \$9,237,171.17

GRANTS & DONATIONS: \$4,442,827.54

COVID FUNDING: \$1,616,565.10

CONTRIBUTIONS: \$473,475.54

OTHER: \$174,438.89

SALES, NON-GOVT.: \$87,966.45

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Paladin, Inc. as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

APPLEGATE & COMPANY
Certified Public Accountants
Michigan City, Indiana
March 28, 2022

Philanthropic Partners

- ARC County
- Healthcare Foundation of La Porte
- Crown Point Community Foundation
- Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation
- Legacy Foundation
- Unity Foundation
- UW of Greater LaPorte County
- St. Anthony Franciscan

Board of Directors

Connie Gramarossa
Mike Breakey
Cheryl Chapman
Carol Connelly
Alan Sirinek
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Paladin

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



Head Start of LaPorte County

www.Imagination.care

Niemann School
Head Start of LaPorte County
811 Royal Rd Michigan City, IN 46360

Bethany Lutheran Church
Head Start of LaPorte County
102 G St La Porte, IN 46350