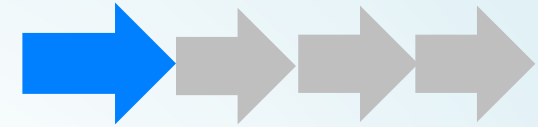


# Early Childhood Success



*“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul  
than the way in which it treats its children”*

*Nelson Mandela*

# Early Childhood Success - Summary

**How are the youngest children in Santa Fe doing? Are they receiving the nurturing and stimulating support they require to thrive? The current reality tells a mixed story.**

Growing awareness of the importance of early childhood development for success later in life has brought more services to Santa Fe's youngest children and their families, including greater access to high quality PreK as well as several promising collaborations and programs (See Bright Spots on page 18). But significant work remains when it comes to improving birth outcomes and ensuring that children are ready for kindergarten.

## **Outcome: Babies Are Born Healthy.**

- **Indicator: Low Birth Weight Babies.** Santa Fe has a higher rate of low birth weight babies compared to state and national averages. In 2013, 9.9% or 129 babies were born at low birth weight in Santa Fe.
- **Indicator: Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester.** Santa Fe County's rate of early prenatal care exceeds that of the state by over 10 percentage points. However, this recent trend is worsening. Approximately 25% or 328 pregnant mothers in Santa Fe did not receive prenatal care during the first trimester in 2013.

## **Outcome: Children Healthy, Safe & Nurtured**

- **Indicator: Children Ages 0-4 Meeting Social, Emotional, Cognitive, Language and Physical Development Milestones.** We do not know if children ages 0 to 4 in Santa Fe are meeting their developmental milestones. We do know that about 25% are screened through early childhood programs using ASQ-3 or a similar tool. However, there is limited tracking and reporting of data on these screening results and referral follow-ups (with the exception of CYFD-funded Home Visiting programs and within federal Head Start.)
- **Indicator: Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect Cases per 1,000 for Children Under 5.** Santa Fe's rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect is lower than the New Mexico statewide average. However, in the past year, the rate has increased substantially. There were approximately 20 per 1,000 children or 158 total substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in 2015.

## **Outcome: Children Are Ready for School**

- **Indicator: % of 4 Year Olds Attending PreK or Head Start.** Through rapid expansion in PreK capacity over the past few years, approximately half or 733 four-year olds are currently attending publicly-funded NM PreK or Head Start programs in Santa Fe.
- **Indicator: % of Children Who Are Ready for Kindergarten (Proxy Indicator: % Meeting DIBELS Benchmarks).** According to DIBELS First Sound Fluency assessment, only about 54% of students entering kindergarten in Santa Fe currently meet the early literacy benchmark. State PreK results using Early Learning Guidelines show a more promising picture for students who participate in the program. 76% of the Santa Fe County PreK students met the literacy benchmark by the end of the PreK program in 2014-2015. The NM Public Education Department (PED) is in the process of implementing a "Kindergarten Observation Tool" (KOT) as a Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA).

*Learn more details about how we are doing on these Early Childhood Outcomes and Indicators in the following pages.*



**What if we focused earlier, making sure that our youngest children were nurtured, stimulated and ready to learn and succeed?**

[www.santafeyearofthebaby.com](http://www.santafeyearofthebaby.com)

# Early Childhood Report Card

1,310







Live Births per Year  
2013

7,532

Children Under 5  
2013

31%

Children Under 5  
Living In Poverty; 2013

Status	Trend from previous year
 Better than State & Similar or Better than Nation	 Improved
 Similar or Better than State but Worse than Nation	 No/Minimal Change
 Worse than State & Nation	 Worsened

? / DDA: Data Development Agenda



Outcome:  
Babies Are Born Healthy

9.9%  
2013

Low Birth Weight Babies  
(<5.5 lbs or 2,500 grams)

74.8%  
2013

Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester



Outcome:  
Children Are Healthy, Safe & Nurtured

?  
Data Development Agenda (DDA)

Children Ages 0-4 Meeting Social, Emotional, Cognitive, Language and Physical Development Milestones

20  
Per 1,000 in 2015

Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect Cases per 1,000 for Children Under 5



Outcome:  
Children Are Ready for School

49%  
2014

% of 4 Year Olds Attending PreK or Head Start

54%  
2014

% of Children Who Are Ready for Kindergarten  
(Proxy % Meeting DIBELS Benchmarks)

## Where Is Santa Fe Now?

Status Trend

? / DDA

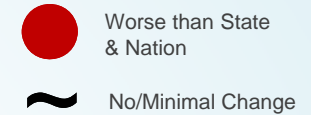
The early childhood outcomes and indicators were adapted from the early work of the Early Childhood Steering Committee and the Early Childhood Indicator Project of the Baby Fund. Santa Fe Community Baseline Report 2015 – DRAFT 2015 September

## Early Childhood Success

Outcome:  
Babies Are  
Born Healthy

Indicator:  
**% of Low Birth Weight Babies**  
(<5.5 lbs or 2,500 grams)

Where Is Santa Fe Now?



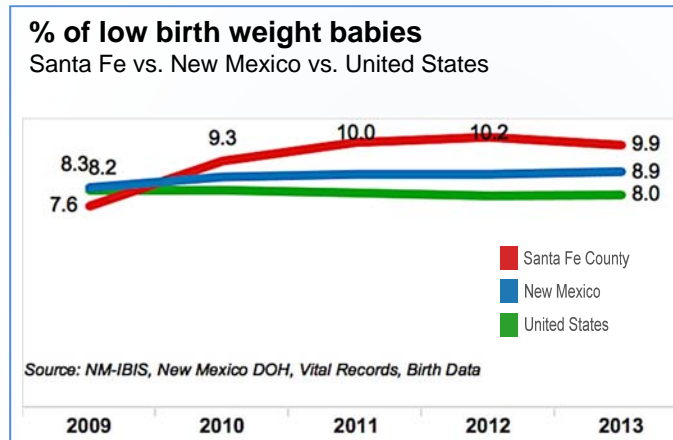
### Why Is This Important?

Babies born at low birth weight are at an increased risk of infant mortality. Low birth weight babies require intensive care at birth, may develop chronic illnesses, and later may require special services due to delayed motor or social development or learning disabilities. Health care costs and length of hospital stay are higher for low birth weight infants.

Low birth weight is influenced by a number of factors: substance abuse, nutrition, general health, teen pregnancy, obstetric intervention earlier in pregnancy, older maternal age at childbearing, and greater use of fertility therapies that result in more multiple births.

### How Are We Doing?

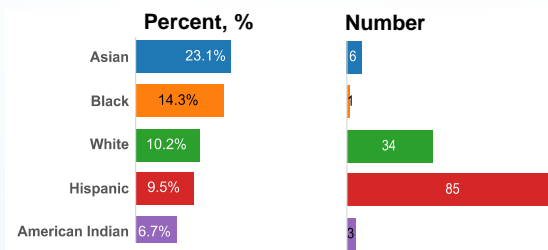
Santa Fe has a **higher rate** of low birth weight babies compared to state and national averages.



**9.9%** or **129**  
of total **1,310** live  
Births in Santa Fe in 2013  
were low birth weight Babies.

The rate has changed minimally over the past few years and is higher than the **national target of 7.8%** - even after adjusting for multiple births (typically lower birth weight). See Appendix 1a.

### Race/Ethnic breakdown of low birth weight babies % and Number, 2013\*



Source: NM-IBIS, New Mexico DOH

### Race / Ethnic Disparities:

**85 Hispanic babies** make up the majority (66%) of the total low birth weight babies in Santa Fe due to the large number of total Hispanic births (891 births).

**Appendix 1.** % of low birth weight babies in Santa Fe 2010-2014: All vs. Single births

\*Numbers of births for Blacks and Asians in Santa Fe County are so small that percentage data cannot be considered reliable for identifying problems or trends.

## Early Childhood Success

Outcome:  
Babies Are Born  
Healthy

Indicator:  
% of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in  
First Trimester

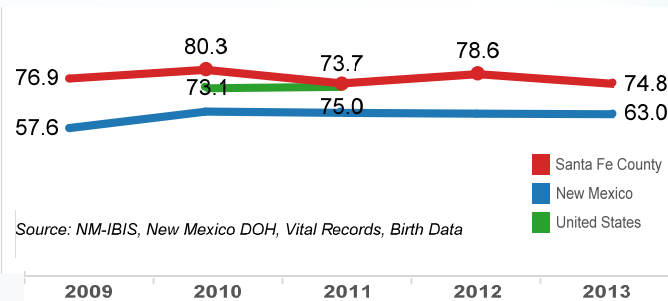
Where Is Santa Fe Now?

- Better than State  
Similar to Nation
- Worsened  
from Previous Year

### How Are We Doing?

Santa Fe County's rate of early prenatal care exceeds that of the state by over 10 percentage points. However, the most recent year shows a worsening trend. The current rate falls short of the national target of 77.9%.

**% of Pregnant Women Receiving Prenatal Care:**  
Santa Fe County vs. New Mexico vs. United States



Approximately  
**25%** or  
**328**

Pregnant mothers in  
Santa Fe do not receive  
prenatal care in their  
First Trimester

### Why Is This Important?

Women who receive early and consistent prenatal care enhance their likelihood of giving birth to a healthy, full term child. Prenatal care can improve birth outcomes and prevent medical complications and their costs associated with premature births, low birth weight babies, and maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

### Facts and Factors

- **Department of Health Recommended Prenatal Care Schedule**  
Go before week 13. Get 13 visits before birth.
- **Lack of health insurance** affects both the timing and frequency of prenatal care visits, resulting in poor pregnancy outcomes such as premature birth, low birth weight, and complicated delivery.
- Availability of **family planning services** is another system factor that reduces the risk of unintended pregnancy. If a pregnancy is planned, a woman is more likely to seek early and adequate prenatal care.

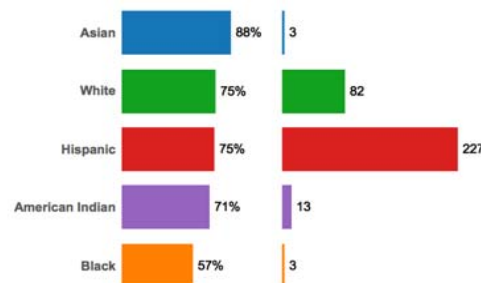
Source: <https://ibis.health.state.nm.us>

### Race / Ethnic Disparities:

Majority (69%) of the approximately 330 women not receiving prenatal in the first trimester in Santa Fe were Hispanic followed by White (25%). Native Americans and Blacks have lower rates of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, however, the small sample sizes make it difficult to draw conclusions.

% receiving prenatal care  
in first trimester, 2013

Estimate # of Mothers NOT  
Receiving Early Prenatal Care,  
2013



Source: NM-IBIS, New Mexico DOH



# Early Childhood Success

**Outcome:**  
**Babies Are Born Healthy**

**Indicator:**  
 Children Ages 0-4 Meeting Social, Emotional, Cognitive, Language and Physical Development Milestones

Where Is Santa Fe Now?  
 ? We Do Not Know. This is a Data Development Agenda

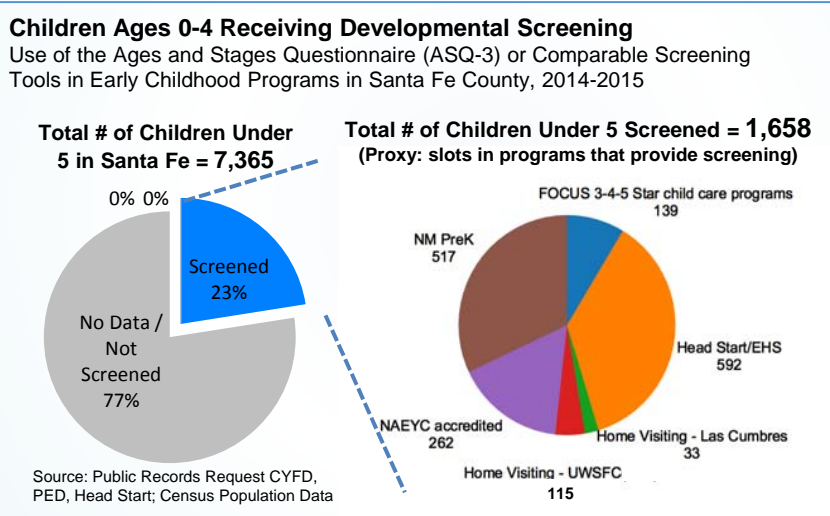
## Why is this important?

Formal developmental screening is primarily used to identify children who may be at-risk for delay, in order to refer the child for further evaluation, and treatment if needed. Early identification and treatment of delays often result in the child overcoming delays and achieving normal development. Developmental screening is not designed to be used as a child outcome measure.

For practitioners of all types, use of a fairly simple developmental screening tool such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) helps them learn about milestones and stages of child development. Using such a tool with parents has the added benefit of helping parents understand and celebrate their child's development across time.

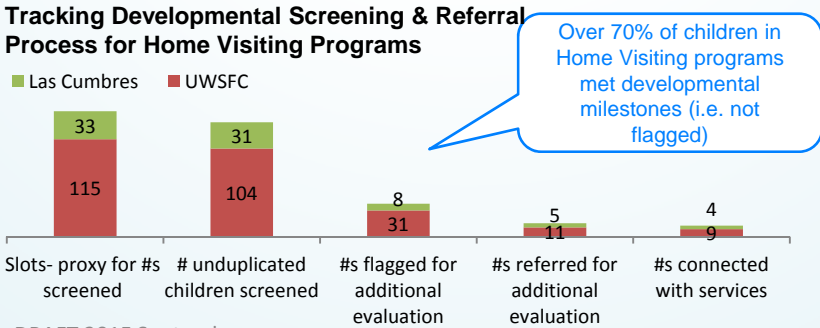
## How Are We Doing?

We do not know. About 1 in 4 children in Santa Fe receive ASQ-3 or similar developmental screening through Early Childhood Programs. However, there is limited tracking of data on screening results and referral follow-ups except through CYFD Home Visiting Program.



The major providers of early care and education in Santa Fe County conduct regular developmental screening and share results with family members to achieve appropriate referrals for additional evaluation and treatment. However, strategies and process for reporting-tracking the results of developmental screening to state or county oversight agencies are almost non-existent. Current CYFD, PED and Head Start policy does not require reporting (except CYFD Home Visiting). Lack of data management systems and capabilities may be additional barriers. Medical providers do not currently report screening results.

**Appendix 2.** Programs providing routine developmental screening of children 0-4



The **CYFD Home Visiting Program** has stringent policies for tracking developmental screening that could serve as a model for other programs. Home visiting is also emerging as an effective family support service increasing parenting capacities and supporting appropriate child development and learning. Home visiting is provided in Santa Fe County by United Way and Las Cumbres through CYFD contracts.

Children identified with possible developmental delay are referred to New Vistas Family Infant Toddler-FIT program (ages birth-3) or to Santa Fe Public Schools Child Find (ages 3 and up) for further evaluation and treatment if needed.

## Early Childhood Success

Outcome:  
Children Are  
Healthy, Safe &  
Nurtured

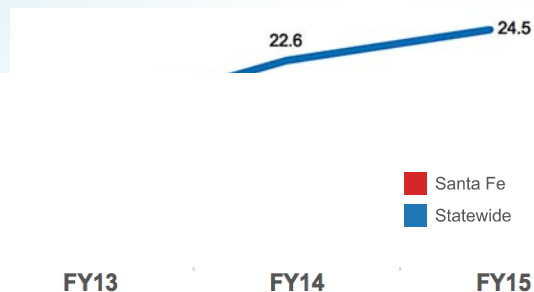
Indicator:  
Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect Cases  
per 1,000 for Children Under 5

Where Is Santa Fe Now?

- Better than State (Nation: unknown)
- ▬ Worsened from Previous Year

**How Are We Doing?** Santa Fe's rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect is lower than the statewide average. However, the rate has increased substantially in the past year.

Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect Cases per 1,000 for Children Under 5

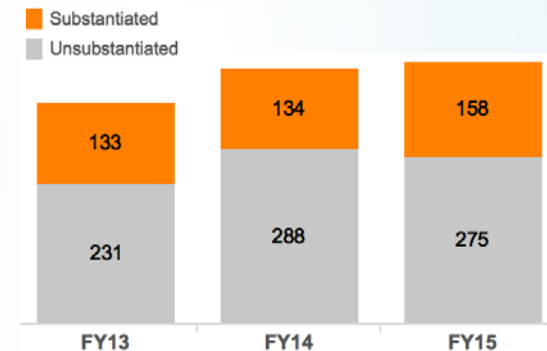


**20** per 1,000 substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in Santa Fe for children under 5 in 2015

**158** total substantiated cases in 2015. (Additional 275 unsubstantiated cases)

stakeholders indicate potential unity to advocate for significant positive with new leadership at New Mexico n, Youth and Families Department ) showing commitment to tackling Child ive Services policies and practices.

Substantiated vs. Unsubstantiated Investigations



### Why is this important?

Any instance of child abuse and neglect is too many. Maltreatment and neglect of infants, toddlers and young children can have devastating effects on their development. Recently we have begun to learn so much more about the effects of trauma on very young children. The emerging studies about Adverse Childhood Experiences (or ACEs) bring into focus the often life-long negative effects of early maltreatment.

# Early Childhood Success

**Outcome:**  
Children Are Ready for School

**Indicator:**  
% of 4 Year Olds Attending PreK or Head Start

Where Is Santa Fe Now?

- Similar to State\*\*\*\*
- + Improved from Previous Year

## Why is this important?

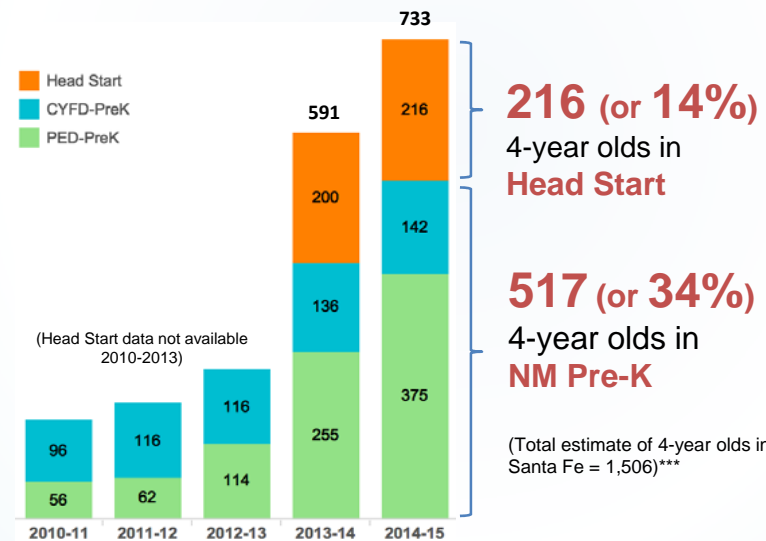
According to a Pew Center report, "Children who attend high-quality PreK programs do better in school from the first day of kindergarten through their postsecondary years. Compared with peers who have not completed PreK, they have higher achievement test scores, they repeat grades far less often, they need less special education, they graduate from high school at substantially higher rates, and they are more likely to attend college."

**About NM PreK:** NM PreK is a voluntary program created by the Pre-Kindergarten Act of 2005 to serve Title 1 (low-income) schools and child care, tribal and Head Start programs serving children in Title 1 attendance zones. It is jointly administered by the Public Education Department (PED) and the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD).

**About Head Start:** Head Start is a federally-funded comprehensive early childhood education program for children living at or below Federal Poverty. In Santa Fe, the Head Start (ages 3-5) and Early Head Start (prenatal-age 3) program is provided by Presbyterian Medical Services.

**How Are We Doing?** Through rapid expansion in PreK capacity over the past few years, approximately half or 733 4-year olds are currently attending publicly-funded NM PreK or Head Start programs in Santa Fe.

**Estimated Number of Capacity for 4 Year Olds Attending PreK\* and Head Start\*\* in Santa Fe**



Source: Pre-K Annual Reports, CYFD Public Records Request, PMS Head Start/Early Head Start, SFPS

PED-funded PreK program slots through Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) more than tripled over the past two years contributing to increased rate of 4-year olds attending PreK and Head Start in Santa Fe. As of the 2014-2015 school year, 67% of the Title 1 designated SFPS elementary schools (12 out of 18; Total elementary schools = 22) provide PreK programs.

NM PreK and federal Head Start programs are publicly funded and are free to families. Being funded at rates far above most private child care, NM PreK Standards and Head Start Performance Standards are also more demanding than basic state child care licensing requirements. Free tuition and high standards make PreK and Head Start primary options for low income families looking for quality, affordable early childhood education.

**Appendix 3.** Increasing Access to Quality, Affordable Early Childhood Education and PreK

\*PED PreK provided Elementary Schools, 2014-15: Atalaya, Camino Real, Cesar Chavez, Chaparral, Francis X Nava, Kearney, Nina Otero, Pinon, Sweeney, Tesuque, Turquoise Trail. **CYFD PreK Sites 2014-15:** Nambe Head Start, UWSFC Children's Project, SFCC Kids Campus, TLC-The Learning Curve (new 2014-15)

\*\*Head Start: 7 sites around the County for 2013-14 and 2014-15: Flores del Sol, Nambe, Arroyo Seco, La Comunidad, Tierra Contenta, Ramirez Thomas, Sweeney.

\*\*\*Estimated # of 4 year olds 2013 from 0-4 census data, American Community Survey

Note: In 2013-2014 School Year, approximately 27% of New Mexico and 29% of US 4-year olds attended Pre-K vs. 26% in Santa Fe. Additional 12.9% of NM and 10% of US 4-year olds attended Head Start programs.

Data Source: NM PreK Annual Reports; PMS Head Start Data Request; National Institute for Early Education Research. Estimated NM cohort of 4-year olds = 28,000.





# Early Childhood Success

**Outcome:  
Children Are  
Ready for School**

**Indicator:  
% of Children Who Are Ready for  
Kindergarten**

Where Is Santa Fe Now?

 Similar to State\*  
 No/Minimal Change

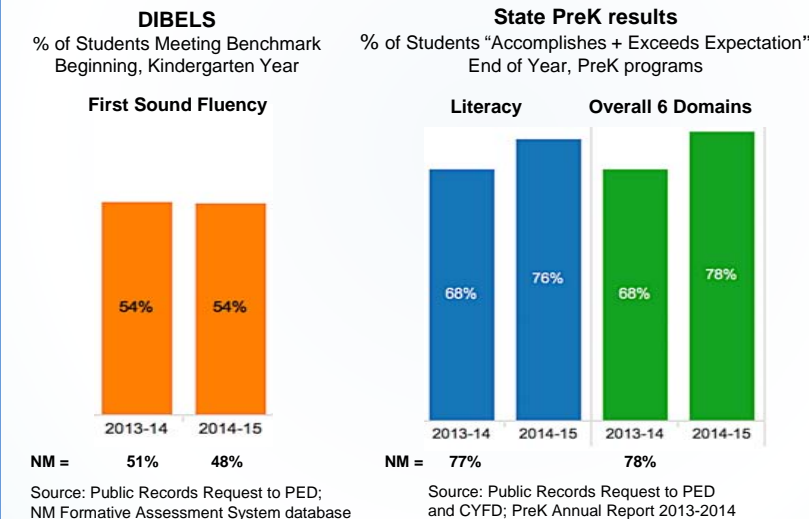
## Why is this important?

Children who enter kindergarten unprepared – physically, socially, emotionally, developmentally, cognitively – typically fall further and further behind as they move through the K-12 system, putting them at higher risks of academic failure and potentially dropping out of school. Research has proven that children’s brains are equipped for learning from birth, and that the first three years may be the most important time for setting in place a child’s joy of learning. But the burden cannot be carried by children. School readiness is often described by the equation: **Ready Communities + Ready Families + Ready Services + Ready Schools = Ready Children** (Bernalillo Early Childhood Accountability Partnership, part of Mission: Graduate).

It is important to remember the entire ecology involved in ‘school readiness’ and advocate for families to have full access to needed resources and services, while keeping the focus on all the domains of child development.

**How Are We Doing?** According to DIBELS assessment, only about 54% of students entering Kindergarten in Santa Fe currently meet the early literacy benchmark. State PreK results show more promising picture for students who participate in the program.

### Proxy Indicator for Kindergarten Readiness: DIBELS vs. State PreK Results




The NM Public Education Department (PED) is in the process of implementing a “**Kindergarten Observation Tool**” (KOT) as a Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA). It is to be used in 50% of the Districts including Santa Fe Public Schools, starting fall 2015, and to be fully implemented in fall 2016. Developed as part of NM’s Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge federal grant, KOT is an authentic observational assessment of the whole child, rating 24 Essential Indicators. The KOT is constructed to reflect the state’s Early Learning Guidelines and incorporate Common Core Standards.

The **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) **First Sound Fluency** evaluates phonological awareness and is currently being used as a proxy indicator for kindergarten readiness in Santa Fe. When measured at the beginning of the year, only about 54% of all kindergarten students at SFPS met or exceeded benchmark in the last two years.

In contrast to DIBELS, the Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) used in the PreK Observation documentation tool measure broader domains of child development including:

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy and Spatial Relations
3. Scientific Conceptual Understandings
4. Self, Family and Community
5. Physical Development, Health and Well-Being
6. Approaches to Learning

State PreK results using ELGs show a substantially higher 76% of Santa Fe children meeting a literacy benchmark by the end of the program. The results also show an improving trend over the past year with 8-10 % point gains in both “Literacy” and “Overall”.

 **Appendix 4.** Contrasting DIBELS “First Sound Fluency” assessment with PreK Results for “Literacy”

## Bright Spots: Promising Practices and Collaborations in Early Childhood

### HOMEVISITING

From prevention to intervention and treatment, there is a continuum of home visiting services in Santa Fe. Programs target different populations and services including: first time parents, substance-addicted prenatal mothers, children with development delays, infant mental health and postpartum services.

**Partners:**

United Way First Born, Las Cumbres, New Vistas, PMS, La Familia Medical Clinic, Many Mothers



### EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Establishing a love of reading early in life sets a foundation for a lifetime. The *Books for Babies* program celebrates the importance of reading to your child everyday, from nearly day one. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library helps build a child's own library by sending a book a month until age 5.

*Books and Babies* is offered at Santa Fe public libraries, and *Reach Out and Read* provides books at participating pediatric clinics.

**Partners:**

SF County Community Services Division, United Way, Brindle Foundation, CHRISTUS St Vincent Regional Medical Center. Libraries



### SANTA FE EARLY LEARNING CAMPUS AT AGUA FRIA

The comprehensive campus will welcome more than 1,000 children and adults through its doors each year. Teachers and caregivers will gain useful tools to help families succeed and each child who completes the program will be ready to succeed in kindergarten. The integrated stream of culturally appropriate, two-generation, wrap-around support services will be a demonstration model for the entire state of New Mexico.

**Partners:**

United Way of Santa Fe County, Santa Fe Public Schools, PMS and PMS Head Start, CHRISTUS St Vincent Regional Medical Center, Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe Community Foundation



### EARLY PRENATAL CARE & DRUG TREATMENT

The CHRISTUS St Vincent hospital launched its *Healthy Babies* campaign to ensure that all pregnant Moms get early prenatal care. At La Familia pregnant Moms struggling with addiction can receive specialized drug replacement therapy and prenatal care. A public awareness campaign is underway to get more Moms enrolled.

**Partners:** CHRISTUS St Vincent Regional Medical Center, La Familia Medical Center, SF County, SF Baby Fund



### INCREASING PREK AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Santa Fe Public Schools recently increased its PreK slots with increased state funding, ensuring that more children are ready to succeed at the beginning of kindergarten. Innovative models of professional development are working with early care teachers across many programs in Santa Fe to increase the quality of learning for children and teachers.

**Partners:** Santa Fe Public Schools, Santa Fe Community College, Collaborative Teachers Institute

