



**Delaware Technical Community College
Child Development Center
Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)
Annual Report 2019-2020**

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Delaware Technical Community College Child Development Center is an integral component of the Education Department. The Child Development Center focuses on the development of a child as a whole person from six weeks through age twelve. Integrated within the preschool setting is our state funded Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP). Fifteen of our thirty-seven preschool slots are funded by the ECAP Grant. This grant follows Head Start Performance Standards and innovative practices recognized in the field of Early Childhood Education. Through the use of carefully guided activities, emphasis is placed upon developmentally appropriate skills. Culturally diverse learning experiences are provided each day in the areas of language arts, social-emotional awareness, music, art, science, math readiness, and reading readiness. Based on the theory that children learn through play and developmentally appropriate practices (DAP), daily routines encourage active involvement, meaningful experimentation and positive reinforcement. The Center serves children of Delaware Tech students, staff, and the community and is licensed through the state of Delaware to care for up to 121 children.

Program demographic information for 2019-2020:

Funded Enrollment: 15

Age of Children: 3 years of age – 7 children 4 years of age - 8 children (age by August 31, 2019).

Total Number of Children/Families Served: 16

Average monthly enrollment/Funded enrollment: 15/15 (100%)

Percentage of eligible children served: 100%

Number of children with an identified disability: 2

Number of families, that English is not their primary language: 3

Number of families over income eligibility: 1

Number of father/father figures who participate in DTCC CDC ECAP activities: Family assessment & Goal Setting – 5

Developmental Experiences- 6 Policy Council or Parent Committee – 2 Parent Education Workshop - 0

Number of homeless families served: 1 Children: 1

Number of foster children served: 0

Medical Services:

Percentage of children up-to-date on physical examinations: 100%

Percentage of children up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for age: 100%

Preventative Dental Services:

Number of children having completed dental screening: 11

Number of children requiring follow-up dental care: 0

Number of children having completed required follow-up dental care: N/A

Primary Language:

Number of families whose primary language is English: 12



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Family Partnerships and Services:

- ❖ Families participated in the family goal setting process which resulted in individualized family partnership agreements.
- ❖ All families received parenting education support through trainings, handouts, or parent teacher conferences. Family services during the program year also included:
 - Emergency/crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter -2
 - Mental health services -23
- ❖ During the course of the year (prior to COVID-19 restrictions) parents had an opportunity to participate in a variety of in person activities such as:
 - Classroom activities including a month where families came and shared cultural and family traditions
 - ECAP Policy Council (completed annual meetings through online platforms)
 - Job Fairs
 - Southern Delaware Health Advisory Committee
 - Harvest Parade
 - Winter Holiday Activities with holiday gift support
 - Hispanic Heritage Celebration (SCHC, ACF, & IRSD LYC)
 - Working Collaboratively with Mental Health Specialist
 - Fatherhood Training
- ❖ During the course of the year many activities took place pre-Covid-19 in person and then utilizing virtual tools to prepare our children and families for the transition to kindergarten such as:
 - Parent Conferences
 - Home Visits
 - Transition Resources
 - Transition Planning
 - Kindergarten Registrations
 - Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum Components
 - Enhanced formal collaborations with local school districts

DTCC CDC ECAP provided 173 days of service in our center based Early Childhood program. After the State of Emergency was declared in March, 2020, as we were an Emergency Child Care Center, we provided in person services for those families that were essential workers. The remaining families received remote learning opportunities.



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This year's review mirrored the strengths shared during previous reviews:

An exceptional strength noted in Early Childhood Education was the implementation of the adult/child ratios in the classrooms. The benefit of this practice for the enrolled children was an increase in individualized planning, instruction, and intentional programming for children. ECAP children are currently enrolled in two classrooms at the Child Development Center, housed at the Delaware Technical Community College. Each classroom was staffed with three individuals (one classroom teacher and two assistant teachers), which currently exceeds the recommended adult/child ratio. In addition, the alignment of the Child Development Center with the Delaware Technical Community College enhances the adult/child ratios through the use of student volunteers from various departments within the college (i.e., lab students, early childhood education student interns, nursing practitioners, mental health professionals, etc.). These individuals further reduce the adult/child ratios in the classroom as well as provide assistance with every day classroom operations. Adults and children have multiple opportunities to interact with each other individually and in group settings; adults encourage parallel and independent student play activities, and guide authentic learning practices. Research shows that low teacher/student ratios during the early childhood years helps to close the "achievement gap" between minority and nonminority students, especially for those students who are at risk.

Program Strengths

The program had a strength related to collaboration with its parent institution, Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC). Located on the DTCC campus, the ECAP program received tremendous support from the college in its mission to provide care and education for the children of Delaware Tech students and for at risk children in the Georgetown area. Supports from the college were evident across the service areas.

Starting with the area of early childhood health and developmental services, the DTCC Nursing Department assisted in providing and monitoring health services. The DTCC Occupational Therapy Department may also assist with screening services. These services bolstered the program's ability to administer health services with appropriately qualified content area expertise.

With regard to the service area of education and early childhood development, the program enjoyed the benefit of being on the campus of a college that offered two early childhood degrees. DTCC offered an A.A.S. Degree in Early Care and Education (Birth to Second Grade) and an A.A.S. Degree in Early Childhood Development. The Birth to Second Grade degree prepared students for transfer to a four-year in-state institution to complete requirements for a bachelor's degree in early care/education (Birth to Second Grade). This option had approval from the Delaware Department of Education as the first half of an associate/bachelor's preparation for a Birth to Second Grade teaching certification. Having these academic resources was a tremendous resource for staff development and parent educational pursuits. Also, the DTCC Education Department utilized the Child Development Center classrooms, including the ECAP program, to provide laboratory experiences for its students. An observation room adjoined one classroom to facilitate observations without distracting the classroom itself. Additionally, college students placed in the classrooms were an asset to having volunteers in the education and early childhood development service area of the program.



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In the area of program design and management, DTCC's three full-time legal consultants served as a resource for all matters related to the program. The college also incorporated the ECAP audit into its own annual financial audit. The DTCC Campus Director, Business Manager, Dean of Instruction, and Education Department Instructional Director served on the ECAP Governing Board. In all of these ways, connections with the college enhanced the program's implementation of its oversight responsibilities. The program developed strong collaborative relationships within its parent institution, thereby enhancing the quality of services provided to children and families.

Funding Sources:

Delaware Department of Education - \$111,350

Delaware Technical & Community College - \$150,361

2019-2020 Budget Expenditures:

Personnel serve two preschool classrooms totaling 37
children of whom 15 are ECAP funded
\$7140per child x 15 children = \$107,100 total
\$4,250 Training and Technical Assistance

BUDGET AMOUNT

PERSONNEL	\$102,474
CONTRACTED SERVICES	0
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	4326
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	4,250
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT / TRAINING	300
TOTAL BUDGET	\$111,350

***ECAP is included in over-all college budget audit and may be accessed though:**

State of Delaware FY2019 Single Audit Final Report
http://accounting.delaware.gov/singleaudit/fy_2019_single_audit_report.pdf

State of Delaware FY2019 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
<http://accounting.delaware.gov/2019cafr.pdf>