

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac, Early Childhood Iowa (BVCS ECI) Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Early Childhood Iowa Vision: “Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful”.

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac, Early Childhood Iowa (BVCS ECI) is one out of 39 Early Childhood Iowa Areas identified across the State of Iowa representing all 99 counties. Early Childhood Iowa Areas use identified results to develop the capacity and commitment for achieving the results of: Healthy Children; Children Ready to Succeed in School; Safe and Supportive Communities; Secure and Nurturing Families; Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments.

Strategic Highlights

The BVCS ECI mission guides the actions of the organization, provides a path, and guides decision-making. BVCS ECI Mission Statement: *to improve the quality of life for children and families by strongly supporting safe environments, lifelong learning and facilitating a coordinated system for community services.* Stemming from the mission the BVCS ECI 3-County Board has developed priorities to guide them. They are: Parent Education, Quality Preschool Programs, Nurturing Child Care, Health Prevention Measures, Early Literacy, and Coordination of Services.

Funded programs in State Fiscal Year 2016 include: Family STEPS Family Support; Preschool Scholarship and Support; Child Care Consultant; Child Care Nurse Consultant; Oral Health –Screenings, Varnish, & Education; Early Care & Education Provider Development; Quality Improvement Grants; and a Program Director.

Family is a child’s first and foremost environment. If we want to help children, then we need to reach out to parents and meet them where they are at in terms of their life experiences to provide the support they need to develop caring, supporting relationships with their children. The more connections, the more relationships, the better it is for children/s developing brains, for parents and families, and ultimately, for our communities. By providing the programs we fund we are reaching out to families both directly and indirectly.

“Every young person should have a caring adult in their life. When parents can’t be there, teachers, coaches, and mentors can make a difference.”
Fenton Report, 2015



An infant’s brain doubles in size during the first year of life and is

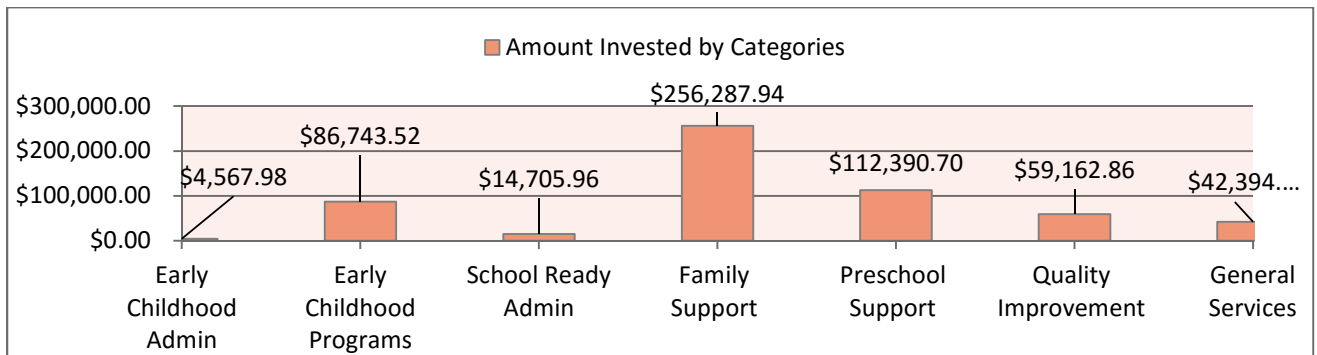
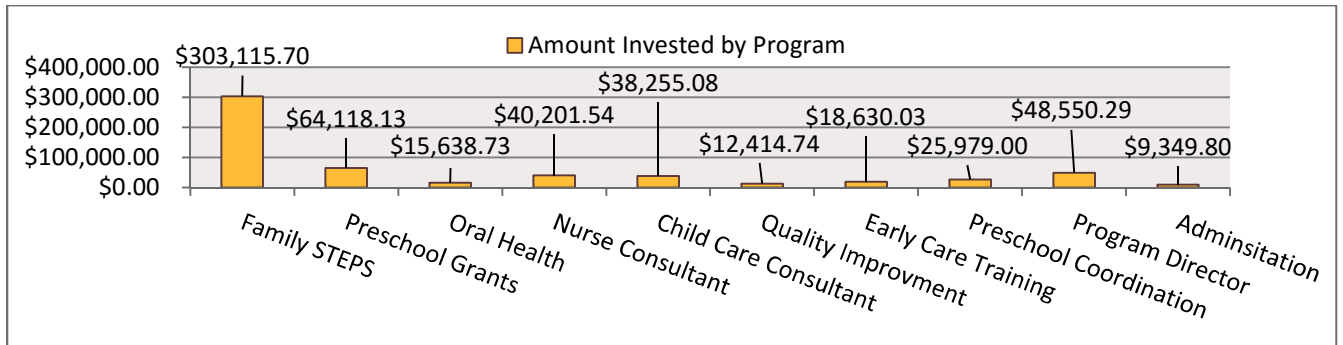
approximately 80% of its adult size by age 3! But the capacity of our brain to develop and change is far from over. Whenever we learn something new, we can make new brain connections. Everyone’s brain learns best from social interactions --that’s why Connection Matter!

References:

- . *Overview: Evidence for Strengthening Families Messaging* by Fenton Social Change Communication and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, March 2015.
- . <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/>;
- . *The Developing Brain: Birth to Age Eight* by Marilee Sprenger, 2008, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA;
- . *Your Brain: A User’s Guide*, 2009, TIME Books, New York, NY;
- . Restak, Richard. *The Secret Life of the Brain*. Companion book to the PBS Series (The Secret Life of the Brain produced by David Grubin), The Dana Press and Joseph Henry Press, New York, NY.
- . *Connections Matter* developing brain-relationships-community, connectionsmatter.org

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Financial Highlights & Outcomes

State Fiscal Year 16 funding summary.



Outcomes

Family Support

- Healthy family functioning
- Social supports
- Concrete supports
- Child development
- Nurturing & attachment

Preschool Scholarships/Transportation

- Age appropriate skills
- Attendance

Oral Health

- Screenings
- Detection
- Referral

Preschool Support - 94% of children demonstrating age appropriate skills.

Transportation – 95% of days that children attended preschool that were provided transportation.

Oral Health - 71% Children who are cavity free.

94% families that improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving & communication.

68% families that increase or maintain social supports.

90% families that are connected to additional concrete supports.

74% families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting.

65% families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and children.

Child Care Nurse Consultant – 89% of children with special health care needs have a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility.

Child Care Consultant – 50% of programs working with Consultant have met goals.

Quality Improvement – 79% of programs that improve, or maintain at the highest level, in a quality initiative.

Professional Development – 4 early provider trainings and one conference held, 100% in early learning content.

Child Care Nurse Consultant

- Special health care needs
- Onsite assessments
- Trainings

Child Care Consultant

- Registered/Licensed child care
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Quality Improvement Program
- Child care slots

Professional Development

- Quality Rating System
- Licensing
- Quality Preschool Program Standards