

# Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool

## Oak Ridge, Tennessee

### What We Believe

At the Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool Head Start Programs we provide a high quality learning environment for children identified at risk. We believe that all children have the capacity to learn and it is our goal to meet the unique and individual needs of each child and their family through developmentally appropriate programming and active family partnerships. We provide language-based full inclusion classrooms where teachers are highly qualified and provide programming to "light the fire" of learning in preschoolers while supporting families to take an important role in their child's education.

### Who We Are

For 40 years, Oak Ridge Schools' Head Start Program has provided a high quality preschool education to children and families in Oak Ridge. We are an integral part of Oak Ridge Schools which allows for continuity of learning, family services and support. We have a blended funding program that uses Head Start, Title I, Pre-K and special education dollars.



Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool  
Home of the Preschool Pup

### What Makes Us Different:

- Full inclusion classrooms with culturally diverse populations
- A developmentally appropriate, language rich program for 225 three and four year olds
- Tennessee Certified Early Childhood Educators in all 14 classrooms
- Highly Qualified Teacher Assistants
- Developmental, Vision, Hearing, Speech/Language screenings
- On site Special Education services including Speech/Language Therapists, Occupation and Physical therapists, part-time School Psychologist and Inclusion Specialist
- A BiLingual Family Resource Specialist
- Free school bus transportation to and from the program
- Creative Movement Program that builds gross and fine motor skills through dance, music and sport activities (each class has 60 minutes of Creative Movement per week)

### Special Programs for Kids:

- Literacy Enrichment programs that include Language and Literacy enhancement.
- Reading Buddies Mentoring Programs
- Food for Kids program (free snacks sent home on weekends for those in need)
- RIF and classroom volunteers

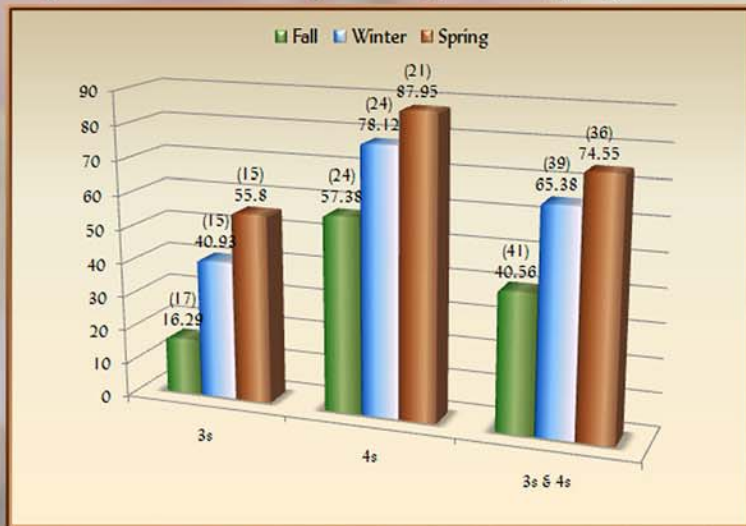
### Partnering with the Community for Families:

- Corporate and Civic Sponsorships
- Legal Clinics
- Money Management Altrusa Workshops
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Angel Tree (Christmas)
- Altrusa Women's Club, Kiwanis International of Oak Ridge

### We Involve Families!

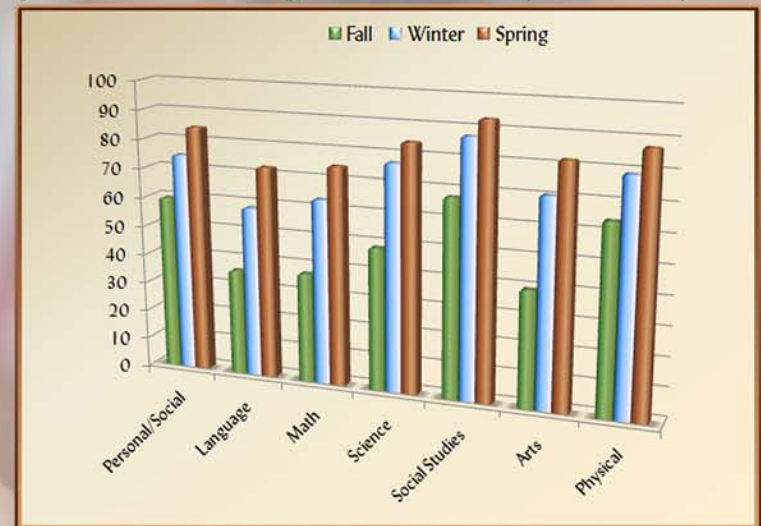
- Parent volunteers in the classrooms
- Fall Family Night and Open House
- Week of the Young Child Activities
- Dad's Night Out
- Classroom Family Night (at the public library, in the park)
- "First Friday" Family Education Breakfasts

## Progression of Learning for English Language Learners



# 2008-2009

## Progression of Learning for all 3 and 4 year olds by Domain



The Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool uses Creative curriculum with local goals and objectives aligned with national, state and local LEA curricula.

### Head Start Numbers and What They Mean

118 - Children funded by Head Start

For the first time, Oak Ridge Schools' Head Start was unable to serve the expected number of students (derived by formula)

107 - Other funding sources including Special Education

131 - Children served during the school year

14 - Classrooms

Head Start children are placed in all 14 Preschool classrooms with Title I, State Pre-K, and Special Education students

43 - Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Special Services, Family Support, and Administration

100% of our teachers are State-Certified Early Childhood; 3 are also certified in Early Childhood Special Education

100% of our students were up-to-date on immunizations and health exams

92% of our students received dental preventive treatment and exams including fluoride and cleaning

121 - Families served

48% - single parent families

27% - families in which head of household in unemployed

19% - families without a high school diploma (increase in the number of parents without a high school education and with the number of unemployed)

### 2008-2009 Trends

75% Increase in Spanish-Speaking students and families (24% of Oak Ridge Schools' Head Start students were Hispanic in 2008-2009)

37% Increase in poverty in the community served (based on free lunch eligibility from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009)

45% Increase in unemployed Head Start Heads of household from 2007-2008

17 Former or current Head Start parents are employed with Oak Ridge Schools' Preschool