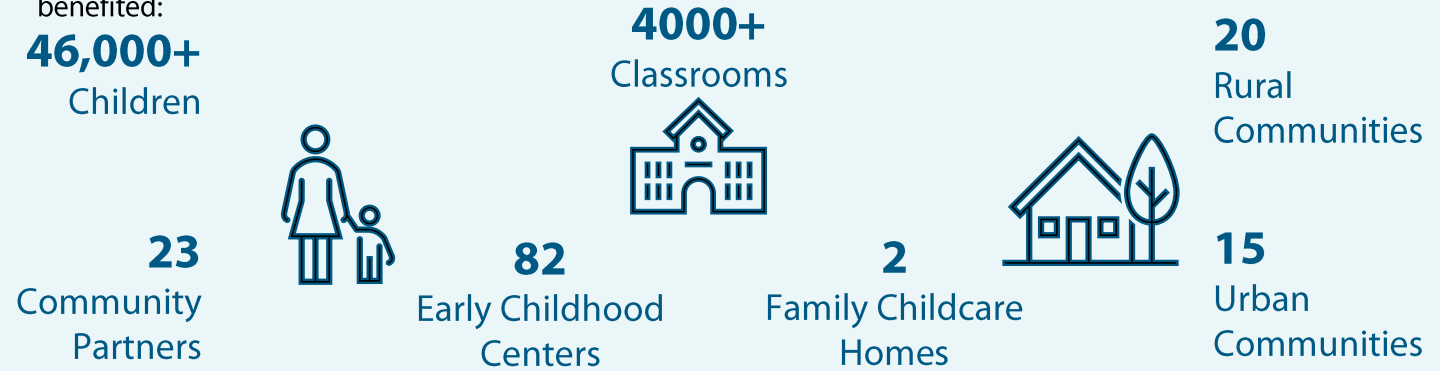


The **Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OECF)** leverages public funding with matching private dollars to expand the supply of high-quality early education for income-qualified children from birth through age three.



Created in 2006, eligible partners include childcare centers, family childcare centers, school districts, tribal and community agencies, and local Head Start and Early Head Start program operators. Since its inception, OECF has benefited:

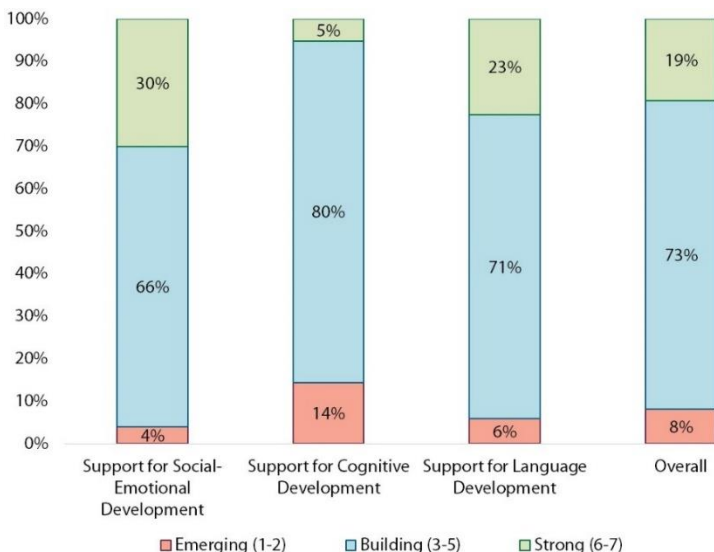
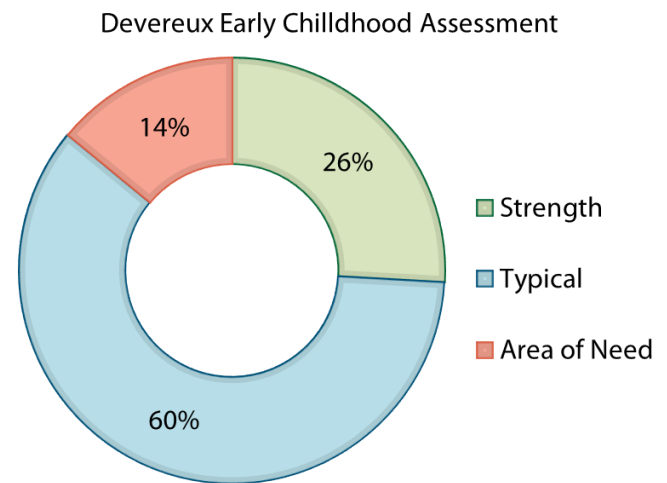


Evaluation

The Oklahoma Early Childhood Program implements a robust annual evaluation that is aligned with the strategic goals of OECF. This evaluation seeks to understand children’s developmental and cognitive growth throughout enrollment, as well as the quality of OECF classrooms.

To assess children’s growth, our evaluation includes the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) and the Infant Toddler Literacy Assessment (ITLA).

Spring 2025 results highlight the resilience skills of children in OECF classrooms. As shown to the right, 86% of children were rated as having age-typical resilience or as possessing strength in resilience skills. Children in OECF classrooms also demonstrated age-expected growth of early literacy skills.



To assess the quality of OECF classrooms, our evaluation includes the observational tool known as the Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers (QCIT).

Recent results highlight the percentage of OECF classrooms rated as building and strong, those promoting higher quality of classrooms. As shown to the left, overall (composition of the three support domains listed), 92% of OECF classrooms were rated at a 3 or higher on a 7-point scale.

Quality: All centers and family childcare homes must meet the OK Human Services licensing requirements. Participating childcare programs are required to meet selected requirements from the Head Start Program Performance Standards and must be in the process of being accredited by an Oklahoma Human Services approved accrediting organization or the National Association for Family Childcare (NAFCC)

Teacher Qualifications: Every classroom is staffed with credentialed teachers

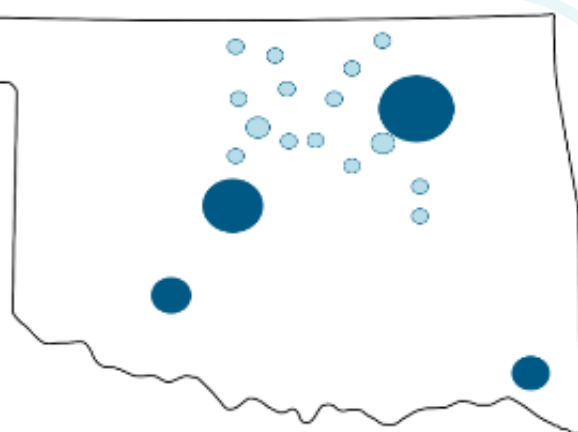
Pay Equity: Lead teachers with a bachelor's degree are paid comparably to public school teachers

Training: Teachers receive specialized training from WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care during their first year of employment, and partners receive additional support for creating quality early childhood programs

Technical Assistance: Provide ongoing support to partners to ensure they fully meet compliance standards and implement pedagogical practices with the highest level of fidelity.

Time: Services are provided 44 weeks of the year and at least 8 hours per day

Family Support: Credentialed staff provide wraparound services to meet basic family needs



-Dark blue dots denote traditional partner locations
-Light blue dots denote professional development partner locations

In a recent survey, teachers...

Report planning to remain in early childhood education for at least five more years.

Note that the impact they have on children and supporting families is the main reason they continue!

Agree that they have the foundational support needed at their school, like professional development.

In 2024-25, our training reach:

98

Training
Hours



797

Attendees



Professional Development Partners

All OECP partners involved in the program prior to 2021-22 are considered "traditional," and they receive financial assistance, trainings, and ongoing technical assistance to support daily operations and program enhancements. Beginning in 2021-22, the program's reach expanded to include professional development partners. These partners are offered robust training and support for implementation of practices learned.

In four years, we have facilitated 32-hours of WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care training with teachers, offered tailored training to support partner's individualized needs, contracted with Dr. Barbara Sorrels to learn more about trauma-responsive practices, and contracted with Conscious Discipline to learn more about promoting child resilience.

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OECP
Oklahoma Early Childhood Program