Early Head Start Update

The 21-22 Early Head Start contract requires that our 8 slots for children ages 6 weeks through 2 years of age be housed in one room. In the past, the contract has not stated this. They have not required our center to create a classroom this way even though they said this was the intent of the grant from the start. Therefore we would have a room that has a mixed age group that requires a 1 to 4 ratio. No other students may be accommodated in this classroom unless they qualify for Early Head Start and it requires 2 teachers in the classroom at all times regardless of the number of students. Since low income is a major factor to qualifying for EHS, this is also putting all of our low income students in one room.

The grant has proven many benefits over the years for Chapman such as collaboration for Ms. Kim and her staff with their peers; playground equipment; diapers and wipes for the center and diapers for parents enrolled; a refrigerator; laptops; a printer; curriculum materials and various classroom supplies. They have also provided training hours for the teachers that were in an Early Head Start Classroom.

We also receive a per child allotment for our Early Head Start slots which for the 21-22 school year would be $625.00 per child. At this time, we have 3 students that are enrolled that would qualify for these slots. Should we continue with the Grant, one parent will pull their child from Early Head Start as she is an older 2 year old and her mother wants her with children of her own age. There are now 2 possible children that could possibly enroll making a total of 4 slots filled.

From a parent’s view: I have one parent that states that having diapers provided to her by EHS helps her family needs. One parent has a Toddler the age of most children in the single classroom right now, but she states she would not like a mixed age group and prefers her son to be in a group of children his own age. The third parent will pull her two year old from EHS (not the Center) if we go to one mixed age group. One prospective EHS parent is indifferent and does not mind the mixed group.

Other solutions:

1. Discontinue our partnership. If we do, the items that will need returned are the printer, laptops, and curriculum materials.

Current Enrollment

| Room | # of Children | # of Teachers | STARS Ratio | Children to Enroll |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Infants | 7 | 2 | 1:4 | 2 possibly 3 |
| Toddler One (1 year olds) | 5 | 2 | 1:6 (EHS is 1:4) |  |
| Toddler Two | 5 | 1 | 1:6 |  |
| Preschool | 13 | 2 | 1:10 |  |
| Float |  | 1 |  |  |
|  | 30 | 8 |  |  |

We are open 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. because of the 10 hours mandated by our Early Head Start Partnership. With the open hours and ratios I am currently staffed to cover open to 4:30 p.m. Rooms must combine at the beginning and end of the day to keep 2 teachers in the EHS classroom. I stay until 4:45 p.m. to cover the children left for that time (EHS children are gone by this time). I also help in covering lunch breaks.

Recommendation: To discontinue partnership based on above information: I feel like combining all of our EHS children in one room goes against “inclusion strategies that respect the **unique developmental trajectories** of young children in the context of a **typical setting**, including children with disabilities and/or developmental delays” that is mentioned in their contract and I feel is at the center of our program. Segregating our children who qualify for EHS is not providing them a typical developmental setting.