



2021-2022



# Head Start Annual Dental Program Report



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# Dear Friends



We are pleased to present our 2021-2022 Annual Dental Program Report.

This year we were excited to celebrate our ninth year partnering with Samuels Sinclair Dental Center (Samuels) at Rhode Island Hospital to support good oral health for our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. We are tremendously grateful for our continued collaboration!

In partnership with Samuels, we ensure that children receive regular dental care, which is vital for overall good health. Together, we raise awareness of how critical it is to have dental care provided by a licensed dentist in a comprehensive, accessible, coordinated, and family-centered manner, also known as a dental home.



Over the past three years, our Dental Program has seen a successful, positive upward trend – more families are making dental arrangements with private dentists. Most of our families have dental homes!

We are grateful for the outstanding leadership of all those who make the comprehensive Dental Program at Children's Friend a reality. In particular, I would like to thank Samuels, the Policy Council, the Board of Directors, our talented team of Health Project Coordinators, Teachers, and Nurses, and David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts to ensure our children receive the necessary care that promotes good oral health.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2021-2022 Dental Program Report.

Sincerely,

*Lindsey Brannon*

Lindsey Brannon  
Health and Nursing Manager



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# A comprehensive Dental program



## A Wonderful Partnership



Providing age-appropriate oral health education is an essential part of our curriculum. Children who practice good dental habits - brushing twice a day, flossing between teeth daily, and limiting sugary beverages and snacks - reduce their chances of developing problems later in life such as plaque, gum disease, and cavities. We help children and their families to establish healthy oral habits early along with providing dental care through Samuels.

When the 2021-2022 school year began, we were thrilled to have Samuels back at our centers, providing dental care to the children. Unfortunately, as COVID continued to rise in our communities, we had to make tough decisions on how to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Children's Friend and Samuels are committed to providing the best dental care. We take every safety precaution and strictly adhere to guidelines mandated by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. Following appropriate health and safety practices, we temporarily stopped dental visits to prevent the spread of COVID.

With Samuels' visits on pause, our Dental Team - comprised of our Health and Nursing Manager and Health Project Coordinators - and our powerhouse team of Nurses and Teachers immediately increased oral health teaching in the classrooms. We read books about teeth, engaged in fun dental health arts and crafts activities, and the children practiced brushing their teeth daily in the classrooms.

We filled our family Health & Nutrition Newsletters with information on good oral hygiene habits. We encouraged all families to have their children seen by their dentists; even our infants and toddlers! If children did not have dentists, they could see them at Samuels' office. We helped interested families in securing dental appointments.

We are pleased that by working together, we met the educational and individual oral health needs of our children and families, despite COVID.



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# Key Accomplishments and Continued Progress



Although we needed to pivot due to COVID, we provided some dental care at our centers at the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, we worked on connecting our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to dental homes.

## Head Start

Total enrollment:  
629 preschoolers

- 151 children had a dental screening
- 64 children had a dental cleaning
- 610 preschoolers have a dental home

## Early Head Start

Total enrollment:  
206 infants and toddlers

- 179 infants and toddlers have a dental home

## Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships

Total enrollment:  
69 infants and toddlers

- 40 infants and toddlers have a dental home



## From the Good News File



We are excited to have Samuels back in our centers for the new academic year (2022-2023). Samuels has already begun seeing our children in our Head Start programs. We look forward to sharing our successes next year!

Until then, we can continue to help children brush their teeth at least twice a day, floss daily, and eat healthy foods. A sugary treat is ok here and there, but not too many!

We can help children to take good care of their teeth and keep their smiles beautiful!



# Children's FRIEND





# our Fantastic Nursing Team and Where You can Find Us!



## Friendship Center

Lindsey Brannon

## King and Hartford

Donna Hulstyn

## Althea, Dorcas, and Partnerships

Katy Killilea



## Berkshire and Kizirian

Peggy King

## Heritage Park and Dean

Carissa Kennedy

## Dexter and Carter

Brittany Pratt



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See You Next Year!



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