

# Wheaton Park District Early Childhood Report



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## Table of Contents

### Statistical Data

Introduction	Page	3
Wide Horizons Preschool Participation	Page	3
Community Center Early Childhood Classes & Holiday Events Participation	Page	4
Toohy Park Early Childhood Participation	Page	5
Safety City Parties & Field Trips by Groups	Page	6
Safety City Parties & Field Trips by Participants	Page	6
Graph of Attendance (Wide Horizons, Community Center and Toohy)	Page	7
Wide Horizons & Early Childhood Summary (Data)	Page	8
Summary of Wide Horizons & Early Childhood Programming	Pages	9
Highlights	Pages	9 - 12
Recommendations for 2013	Page	13

## Introduction

The Wheaton Park District Wide Horizons Preschool located at the Community Center and Rathje Park House, as well as Early Childhood programming at Toohey Park and the Community Center provide numerous educational and recreational opportunities. Early Childhood programs are fortunate to have a staff of dedicated and caring teachers who strive to meet the needs of our participants. Over 90% of our teaching staff has degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Special Education and many have current Illinois teaching certificates.

## I. Participant Numbers

### Wide Horizons Preschool

Location	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	W/Spring 2011	W/Spring 2012
Rathje	20	34	20	33
Community Center	99	103	103	102
Total	119	137	123	135

### Participation Summary

2010 – 2011: 242 participants

2011 – 2012: 272 participants

Variance: 30 participants (11% increase)

## Community Center Early Childhood Classes & Holiday Events

Class	Winter 2011	Winter 2012	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2012
Two By Two's	14	0	10	0	0	0
Lil Chefs	14	22	8	20	17	13
Come Play with Me	13	0	16	0	0	0
Kindergarten Cookery	8	16	16	8	6	10
Yippee I'm 3	0	9	8	11	6	0
Terrific Two's	7	12	6	12	10	10
Me & My Daddy	13	6	10	8	10	7
Totin' 2's	16	11	18	11	7	12
Artfully Scientific	--	5	--	9	--	0
Hola Amigos	--	0	--	8	--	8
Donuts with Santa	--	--	--	--	60	0
Holiday Cookie Craze	--	--	--	--	6	9
Theme cooking classes	16	81	25	13	60	55
Kid Rock	44	31	23	13	46	49
Music Together	117	94	117	93	101	106
December Sing-A-Long	--	--	--	--	65	81
Masks & More	--	--	--	--	6	8
Candy Cane Hunt	--	--	--	--	51	57
Santa Claus Home Visits	--	--	--	--	12	18
Princess Ball NEW	--	106	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	262	393	257	206	465	443

-- Seasonal programs.

### **Participation Summary**

2010: 846 participants

2011: 984 participants

2012: 1042 participants

Variance: 58 participants (5.8% increase)

**Toohy Park Building Early Childhood Participation**

Name	Winter 2011	Winter 2012	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2012
Two's Go To School	14	15	15	10	13	7
Simply 3's	0	14	13	16	0	13
Tiny Tots 1	12	12	9	12	10	12
Tiny Tots 2	11	10	12	12	10	12
Afternoon Adventures	34	25	32	32	17	25
Time Out! At Toohy Park	15	16	16	16	14	0
Safety City Class	24	21	8	9	--	0
Safety City Back to School Event	--	--	--	--	39	33
Santa's Workshop for Tykes	--	--	--	--	33	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>135</b>

--Seasonal programs.

**Participation Summary**

2010: 379 participants

2011: 351 participants

2012: 355 participants

Variance: 4 participants (less than 1% increase)

### Safety City Birthday Parties & Field Trips by # of Groups

Type	Winter 2011	Winter 2012	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Summer 2011	Summer 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2012
Birthday Party	2	5	7	5	6	3	5	8
Field Trip	0	2	3	7	1	0	7	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

### Party and Field Trip Summary

2010: 31

2011: 31

2012: 34

Variance: 3: (8.8% increase)

### Safety City Birthday Parties & Field Trips by # of Participants

Type	Winter 2011	Winter 2012	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Summer 2011	Summer 2012	Fall 2011	Fall 2012
Birthday Party	27	80	114	75	90	46	85	120
Field Trip	0	15	46	113	20	0	72	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>176</b>

### Party and Field Trip Participation Summary

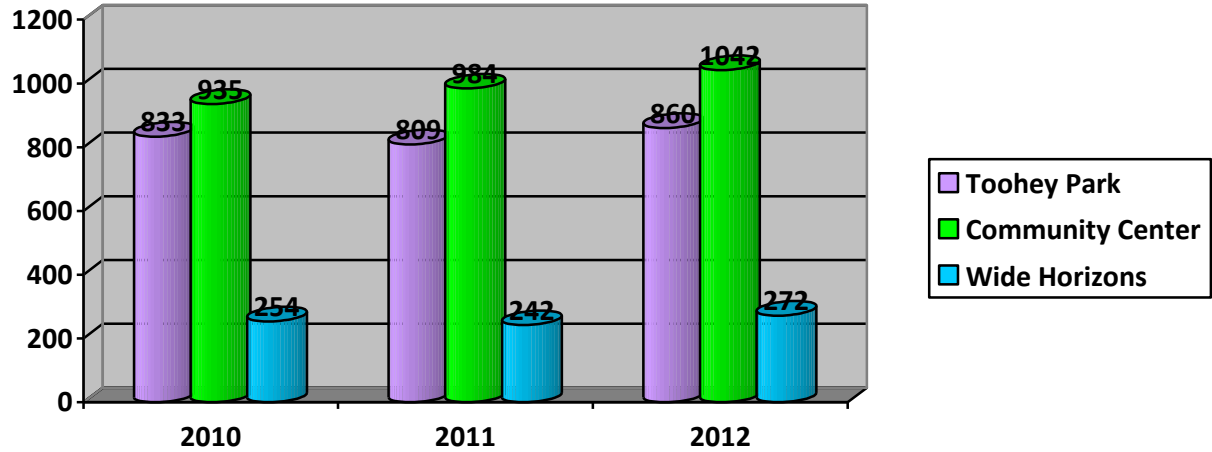
2010: 454 participants

2011: 458 participants

2012: 505 participants

Variance: 47 participants (9.3% increase)

2010 - 2012: Total Wide Horizons/Early Childhood Program Participation



# Wide Horizons & Early Childhood | 2012

## II. Data – Budget Summary

Program Group	Salaries (5000)	Supplies (7000)	Contractual (8000)	Revenues (4000)	Total Expenses	Net Revenue
Wide Horizons 2008-2009	59,830.68	1,635.46	134.88	104,166.00	61,601.02	42,564.98
Wide Horizons 2009-2010	61,326.22	1,804.75	292.82	97,907.60	63,423.79	34,483.81
Wide Horizons 2010-2011	57,446.09	1,200.00	250.00	98,432.00	58,896.09	39,535.91
Wide Horizons 2011-2012	66,495.00	2,303.35	449.99	125,598.00	69,248.34	56,349.66
Toohey Park 2009	23,611.85	586.02	0	34,591.00	24,197.87	10,551.13
Toohey Park 2010	21,501.73	665.77	0	31,672.80	22,167.50	9,505.30
Toohey Park 2011	21,471.57	672.12	0	33,202.50	22,143.69	11,058.81
Toohey Park 2012	23,922.11	773.32	0	37,433.00	24,695.43	12,737.57
Community Center 2009	13,341.53	315.52	56,436.31	95,883.50	70,223.36	25,660.14
Community Center 2010	11,299.31	326.27	47,603.31	87,055.75	59,228.89	27,826.86
Community Center 2011	15,859.90	735.77	47,714.96	90,652.80	64,310.63	26,342.17
Community Center 2012	17,130.64	1,952.74	42,109.32	79,332.40	61,192.70	18,139.70*
Total 2009	96,784.06	2,537.00	56,571.19	234,798.50	155,892.25	78,906.25
Total 2010	94,127.26	2,796.79	47,896.13	216,636.15	144,820.18	71,815.97
Total 2011	94,777.56	2,607.89	47,964.96	222,287.30	145,350.41	76,936.89
Total 2012	107,547.75	5,029.41	42,559.31	242,363.40	155,136.47	87,226.93

\*Revenue decreased \$5,605.64 for Music Together.

\*Salaries increased \$1,270.74 due to an increase in wages.

\*Supplies increased \$1,216.97 due to purchasing equipment to replace broken equipment.



### **III. Summary of Programming**

The Wheaton Park District provides affordable, educational and recreational preschool and early childhood programming to the residents of Wheaton. Classes are designed primarily on the philosophy of play-based learning. The atmosphere in the classrooms, whether it is Wide Horizons or one of the early childhood classes, emphasizes socialization, school readiness, motor skill development, arts and crafts, music, and indoor/outdoor play.

Teachers are required to develop their own lesson plans and fashion a classroom atmosphere that will change with each different unit themes. All teachers must send children home with newsletters to keep parents informed of classroom happenings.

### **IV. Highlights for Wide Horizons Preschool**

- Patty McGrath, Wide Horizons Preschool Coordinator/Teacher celebrated 20 years with the Wheaton Park District on February 7.
- The Wide Horizons Preschool program held an Open House on April 25 from 5 – 8 pm to allow those enrolling in the program an opportunity and see the classrooms, view the curriculum and meet some of their potential teachers.
- Wide Horizons visited Cosley Zoo for a field trip on October 17, 24 & 25.
- Wide Horizons participated in the “Mittens for Many” mitten drive from November 19 – December 12. Students were asked to donate one pair of new mittens to benefit the People’s Resource Center in Wheaton. One hundred and seventy-three pairs of mittens were collected and donated.
- The Lincoln Marsh taught a recycling program to all of the Wide Horizons Preschool to promote “America’s Recycle Day.”
- Wide Horizons students were treated to an in-house field trip by the Sea Beast Puppet Company in May.
- Wide Horizons classes participated in the “Take Five for Your Child” event during class time. Parents and/or guardians were invited to come and enjoy five or more minutes of their child’s preschool day: reading, making a craft or playing games and activities.
- Staff participated in the “Lean and Green” event at the Taste of Wheaton by promoting their program curriculum in the business expo.
- Visual Image Photography took the school photos in 2012.

- Wide Horizons classes held parties throughout the year to celebrate the holidays which included: Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, and a multicultural December holiday party.
- A new program called "Preschool Plus" was added to extend the Wide Horizons school day for working parents.
- Staff began advertising and promoting a new dual language section of Wide Horizons Preschool. This class will provide curriculum in both English and Spanish.
- Curriculum, parent handbooks and health forms were made available on the park district website for easy download and accessibility.

## **V. Highlights for Early Childhood programs**

- Two new early childhood classes were introduced this year. They were Hola Amigos, a Spanish class for 3 – 6 year olds and Artfully Scientific for 4 – 6 year olds which combines science projects and using different mediums for art projects.
- 1st Inaugural Daddy Daughter Princess Ball took place this year with 53 couples; 106 participants at the Community Center. They enjoyed an ice cream sundae bar, a princess visit, crafts, photos and dancing.
- The Toohey Park Building and staff hosted the annual "Back to School Event" on Saturday, August 25 from 10 am – Noon. The Wheaton Fire Department, Police Department and First Student Bus Company provided vehicles for the children to explore. The Lincoln Marsh provided an educational area and representatives from New York Life provided child identity kits.
- Toohey Park served as a polling location on March 20 and November 6.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural "Week of the Young Child" event took place on April 23 – 28.
- The Easter Bunny Home Visits took place on Saturday, March 10 & 17 with 15 families participating.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Candy Cane Hunt took place at Northside Park on December 15. There were 60 participants attending this year. I would like to thank Al Zamsky for volunteering to be Santa and the Wheaton Warrenville South High School Key Club.
- Fifteen early childhood and Wide Horizons Preschool staff were recertified in CPR/First Aid.
- Eighteen families took advantage of the Santa Claus Home Visits.

- Toohey Park began offering a class called “Outdoor Fridays at Safety City”. Participants ride trikes on the outdoor Safety City layout, utilize the playground and park areas and enjoy lunch in the gazebo.
- The Sportstars program offered a Frisbee Golf class.

## VI. Highlights for Week of the Young Child

The Wheaton Park District held its first inaugural “Week of the Young Child” events the week of April 23 – 28, 2012. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The Wheaton Park District is proud to have taken part in this important nationally recognized week long celebration of the young child. The 2013 event is scheduled for April 12 – 20, 2013.

### Week of the Young Child Event Schedule and Participation Numbers

Date	Event	Location	Participant #'s
Monday, April 23	Kid Rock ‘n’ Roll Demo	Community Center	60
Monday, April 23	Sensational Nature Hikes	Lincoln Marsh	22
Tuesday, April 24	Prairie Path Mini Golf Clock	Tower Commons	63
Wednesday, April 24	Go Go Robics	Community Center	14
Wednesday, April 24	Creative Movement Dance Class	Community Center	24
Wednesday, April 24	Pre-Dance Class	Community Center	16
Wednesday, April 24	Museum Explorers	Community Center	15
Wednesday, April 24	Musical Theater Dance Class	Community Center	11
Wednesday, April 24	Wide Horizons Open House	Community Center	37
Wednesday, April 24	Safety City Open Road	Toohey Park	24
Thursday, April 26	Prairie Path Mini Golf Clock	Tower Commons	116
Thursday, April 26	Kidz Kingdom Play date	Community Center	20
Friday, April 27	Ice Cream Social	Community Center	405
Saturday, April 28	Party for the Planet	Cosley Zoo	77
		TOTAL	904

- Kids Towne donated \$100 towards the purchase of ice cream for the ice cream social. They were also included on promotional material as the ice cream sponsor.
- Happy Baby Organic Food Products donated \$250 towards, the Week of the Young Child event. In return for the sponsorship they were provided add space on all flyers and posters, and had a table at both the Wide Horizons Open House and at the Ice Cream Social to promote their products.
- Special Facilities passed out 266 Wheaton Park District coupon books, worth over \$6,100 as a promotion. The coupon book included a pass for a bucket of balls at Arrowhead Golf Course's driving range, one free day pass for either Rice Pool and Aquatic Park or Northside Aquatic Center, and one round of golf at Prairie Path Mini Golf.
- The Scholastic Book Fair was a giant success with patrons purchasing over \$900 in merchandise. In return, Wide Horizons Preschool and Kidz Kingdom received scholastic dollars' worth 55% of the sales to purchase new books and/or classroom supplies.
- The Ice Cream Social on Friday, April 27th was an enormous success with over 405 participants.
- A raffle Passport was created to encourage families to visit all the tables at the Ice Cream Social.
- Two (2) \$25 gift cards were raffled at the Ice Cream Social with 55 families completing the raffle post card.
- The following companies and Wheaton Park District facilities were present at the Ice Cream Social: Happy Baby Organic Food Products, New York Life (fingerprinting), Summer Day Camps, Wide Horizons Preschool, Parks Plus Fitness, Kidz Kingdom, Rice Pool and Aquatic Park, Northside Aquatic Center, Music Together, DuPage Historical Museum, Pottery, and WDSRA (Western DuPage Special Recreation Association).
- Jen Bruggeman and her pottery employees set-up a hands on demonstration and activity area at the social allowing children to make necklaces.

## VII. Recommendations for 2013

- To continue to work with Kidz Kingdom to promote programs and events together.
- Incorporate into the lesson plans items about cultural diversity and people with special needs/disabilities.
- To work with the marketing department in order to secure more donations for the Safety City Back to School Event and the Daddy Daughter Princess Ball.
- To develop additional programs in the evenings and on the weekends.
- To create a mother/son night out event for the fall.



**The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.**

**B.B. King**