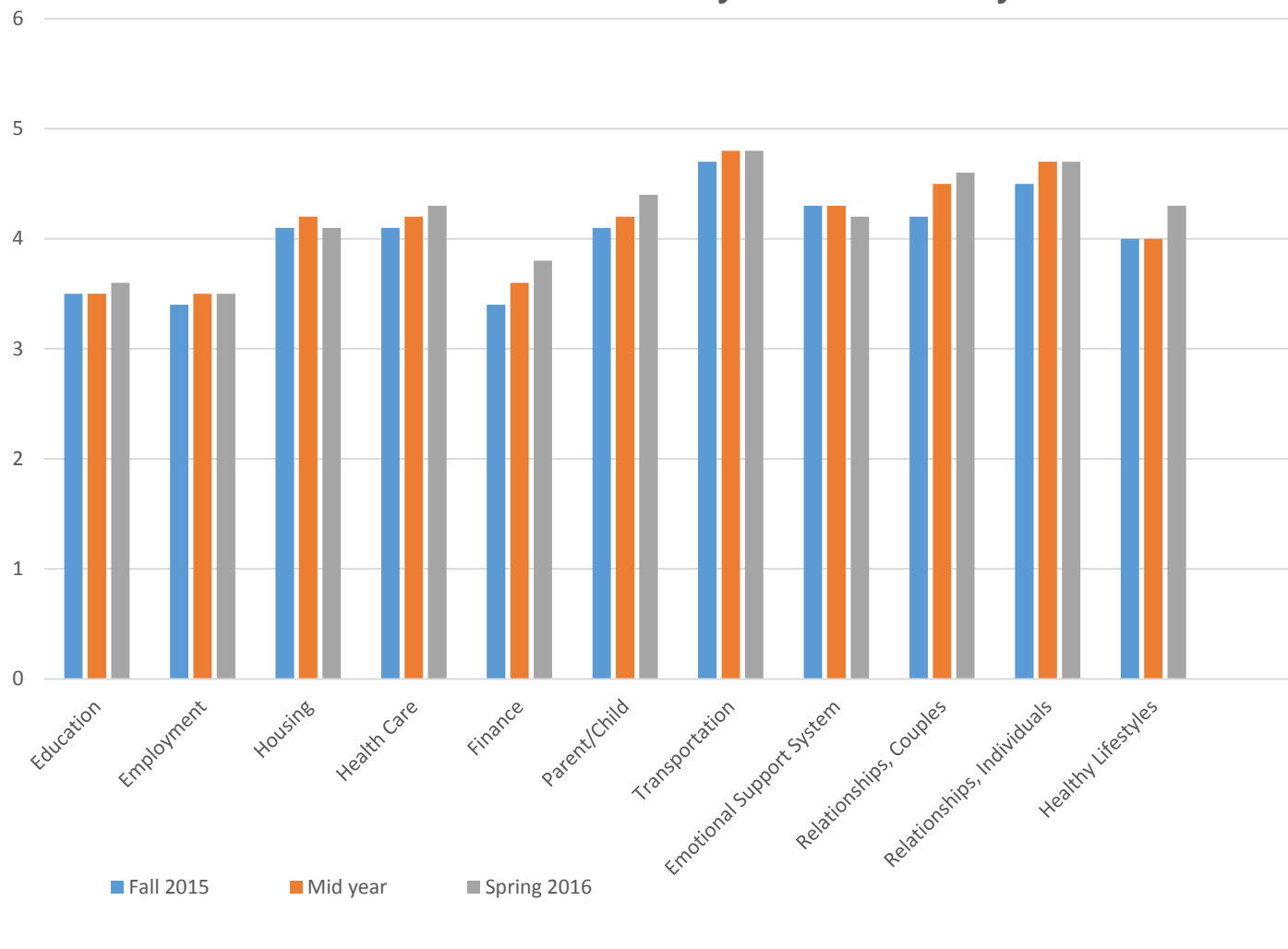


2015-16 MVCAA Head Start Family Outcomes Analysis



About Gains

Family progress checkpoints were fall of 2015, midyear January/February, and then spring in about April. Families start at different times in the year so some only had two check points and still made progress!

The life areas represented in this chart are tied to the National Head Start “Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework (PFCE)” Family Outcomes. A total of 520 families are represented here and they made steady gains in most areas with the exception of housing and emotional support systems. While some individual families gained up to 16% across the board, all families in the program achieved an average of 1.3% gain in stability.

Head Start Offers Opportunities for Parent Engagement

MVCAA Head Start Offers a variety of opportunities for parents to be engaged in their child's education and the program. All parents are encouraged to spend time volunteering in their child's classroom in order to see how their child is learning and pick up on pointers to help their child at home. Teachers partner with parents to decide on goals for their child each month. An activities calendar is provided to each family where they track all of the learning activities they do with their child toward the child's goals during the month.

When parents do not reside in the same household, fathers are given the same opportunities to be engaged in their child's education as the mothers. Staff often hold family visits with each parent separately so they both get the same information. Family nights are designed to interest fathers or father figures as well as mothers. Popular themes for family nights include "Reading Roundup" which is a rodeo theme, Science nights with all sorts of experiments, Math nights with lots of fun math related activities, and presentations by the Missouri Department of Conservation with animal pelts and bones to see and touch, and fishing nights. Fathers, mothers, and guardians have been involved in Parent Committee, Policy Council, and on the program hiring teams.

If a parent is interested, they can attend training to be a substitute for the center, and can work either in the kitchen or in the classroom as they are needed. In a substitute capacity they can gain paid work experience to add to their resumes. At any time there is a job opening within the program, parents are encouraged to apply and interview for the openings for which they qualify.

Other activities that parents play an important role in is the Policy Council, Parent Committees, involvement in prospective staff interviews, and planning activities for their local center Family Nights or Connections meetings monthly. The program welcomes grandparents and other family care givers who are in the role of guardians and works with their particular family dynamic to encourage their engagement with the program and the child's education.