



HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START SERVICES

602 E. 22nd Street • Tucson, AZ 85713
Tel: (520) 832-9100 • Fax: (520) 623-1969

August 30, 2022

Dear Chair Bronson and Pima County Supervisors,

Pima County

- Ajo
- Catalina
- Marana
- Tucson

Cochise County

- Benson
- Bisbee
- Douglas
- Sierra Vista
- Willcox

Graham County

- Pima
- Safford

Greenlee County

- Duncan

Santa Cruz County

- Nogales
- Rio Rico

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Child-Parent Centers (CPC), we are writing to express our gratitude for your support of early education in Pima County. CPC implements the federal Head Start/Early Head Start early education program in southeastern Arizona, serving about 3,000 young children per year in Pima, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties.

In our current partnership with Pima County, we receive funding to expand service hours in 11 of our Head Start classrooms to better meet the needs of enrolled children as well as working parents. Our most recent Pima Early Education Program (PEEPS) contract will expand services to an additional 20 children who are not enrolled in Head Start but will receive similar comprehensive services (early learning, food services, oral and physical health, mental health, family support and engagement) that address all aspects of child development. This classroom is part of the collaboration with Pima Community College - Desert Vista Campus and the United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona.

We have spent our careers serving children of all ages in school and child welfare settings and have only grown increasingly vigilant about the importance of high-quality early education. 90% of a child's brain develops by age five; what job is more critical than creating learning environments and human interactions that facilitate the healthy development of a young child? This foundation significantly affects the trajectory of a person's entire life.

Your implementation of the PEEPS program is bringing to fruition a longstanding goal within the early childhood community in Pima County. For years, we have talked about the gap in access to high quality early learning experiences in the county. PEEPS does more than provide funding; it supports the vision of other entities – local, statewide, and national - to ensure that all children have the opportunity to build the foundation that will enable them to thrive for a lifetime. We are proud to partner with the County to bring together other entities in true collaboration to make this vision a reality.

Thank you for listening to the voices of individual families, school districts, early childhood providers, and community coalitions such as The Preschool Promise and the Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children. We are truly excited about our participation in this collaborative effort and the impact it will have on our enrolled children, their families, and the community at large. We look forward to sharing successes and updates with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Lyons
Chief Executive Officer

Eleanor Droegemeier
CPC Board President

**CLERK'S NOTE:
COPY TO SUPERVISORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

DATE 08-30-22