

2019 Annual Report



TLC Learning Center

Nurturing Success in ALL
Children Since **1956**

A Letter from our Executive Director, Matt Eldred

I am excited to share the news from this past year and how fortunate I feel to be part of such a great organization that is so loved and supported by our community.



2019 was an amazing year for TLC Learning Center. As we review 2019, probably the most notable events were our 5th Annual Kentucky Derby party, and 38th annual Christmas Tree Festival. Both were a huge success and reminds me of the supportive community we have here in the Longmont area.

We have waitlists in every classroom and are particularly experiencing long waitlists for children with special needs. To address this, we converted the last available space in the building to another toddler/preschool room. This room opened in the fall of 2019 bringing our total classrooms to nine in the building!

Our fundraising events for full classrooms and therapy caseloads are major accomplishments as we seek to continue our mission which is to provide, in a fiscally responsible manner, comprehensive early childhood education and therapeutic services to assist each child in reaching his or her highest potential.

The year 2019 was also a milestone year for TLC Learning Center as we maintain quality staff. Over 65% of our staff have been at TLC for at least 5 years! Some have been here 20+, even 30+ years!

Financially, TLC continued to exceed goals during 2019. Both our education and therapeutic services revenue exceed expenses, which has been a large focus for us in recent years. For the past few years, we have been able to give staff bonuses twice a year and, in 2019, we were able to give staff sustainable raises, not just bonuses!

For the fourth year in a row, we finished the year with a healthy and positive bottom line! This is in large part due to our education and therapeutic services efficiency, our two special events, and to our dedicated supporters who contributed to TLC.

2019 was also our time to renew our Colorado Shines Rating with the State of Colorado. We once again received a level 4 rating which is awesome!

We continue to look for opportunities to expand our services for more children, expand programs, continue to diversify our funding sources. We want to maintain this level of success for the next 60 years and with your support, we know this is possible.

Our door is always open for a tour of the facilities and we are eager to share the message of TLC to civic groups, youth organizations, and other community partners.

Serving Our Community Since 1956!



Mission

We will be recognized as an exemplary community partner and group of caring and dedicated professionals who – through commitment to our mission and core values – provide unique, comprehensive early childhood development and therapeutic services that are measured by the success of each individual child.



Vision

To provide, in a fiscally responsible manner, comprehensive early childhood education and therapeutic services to assist each child in reaching his or her highest potential.



TLC Learning Center

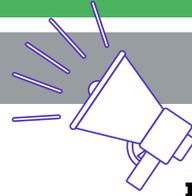


Educational Services

TLC Learning Center provides educational services to children from 6 weeks to 6 years old. The overarching goal of our inclusive child development program is to prepare all students for kindergarten through research-based curriculum, social and emotional development, and fine and gross motor skill development.



A Update from our Educational Services Manager, Lisa Stratton



Awarded, in our first review, a four-star rating by Qualistar Colorado for infant, toddler and preschool programs!

2019 was a successful year! I am excited to be the “new” Educational Services Manager since May 28, 2019. Here are highlights:

- April: We received our Colorado Shines renewal/maintained Level IV status.
- June: Our new pay scale gave raises for staff.
- August: 11 new ES staff hired.
- Over 100 years collective ES staff experience!
- Fall: 11 TLC staff attended Pyramid Plus Approach, our social-emotional curriculum.
- Teaching Strategies’ Creative Curriculum and GOLD assessment continue to be TLC’s curriculum for teaching staff.
- August: new Toddler room opened giving us nine classrooms!
- Farm to ECE: provides fresh fruits, vegetables and Veggie Bucks for the Farmer’s Market monthly.
- Enrollment – 88, 28 with therapy and 7 considered for it. We have a wait list with availability dependent on age group/ therapy needs. Enrollment for January of 2020 is predicted to be 93 total children enrolled.



Building the Vegetable Garden



Big Results from the Vegetable Garden

Therapeutic Services

Since 1997, TLC has provided pediatric occupational, speech and physical therapies to children in our community, allowing them the opportunity to grow up equipped with the tools necessary to succeed throughout school and life.

www.learningwithtlc.org



A letter from our Therapeutic Services Manager, Shari Karmen

Hello TLC Community!

It's hard to believe another year has passed. In 2019 we continued to support children, birth up to 12 years of age, in the center, at home, and in the community through OT, PT, and ST. Our staff and therapists scheduled over 7,000 therapeutic visits this past year, reaching over 225 families.

Always excited to learn more to better serve our community, our therapists have participated in trainings that include integrating primitive reflexes, treatment of torticollis and plagiocephaly, Alternative and Augmentative Communication systems, social communication via Storybook Journey, and literacy. Our YogaKids program is increasingly popular, providing classes to full time preschool students, older toddlers and an after-school community program.



Teaching Dad Yoga



The Pyramid Plus Approach is a tool we use center-wide for impacting positive social and emotional relationships and development. With the support of our group of parents, teachers, therapists, and administration, we held five successful Parent Toolkit Nights this year, providing tools for helping children to understand expectations and routines, how to cultivate friendships, self-care for families, and understanding our own sensory needs.

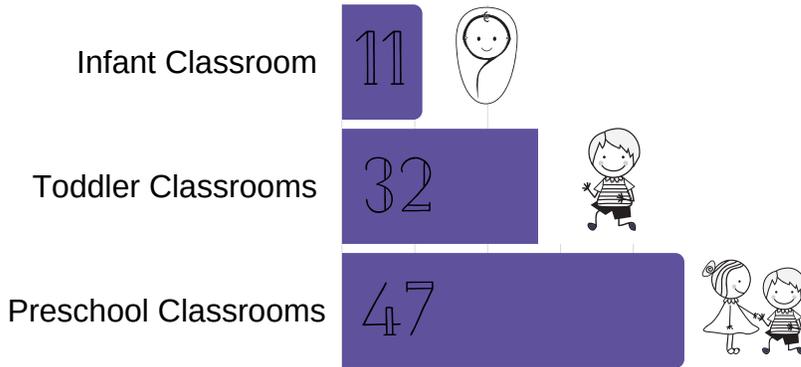
Collaboration is Key to Our Success

Thanks to our partners ABCD of Boulder County, Boulder County Breastfeeding Coalition, and Community Infant and Child Collaboration.

Creating a Foundation for Life-Long Learning and Health for All Children

2019 Stats

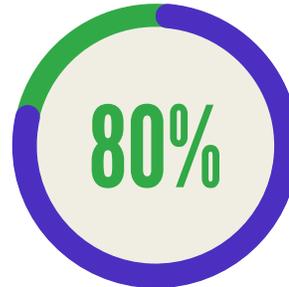
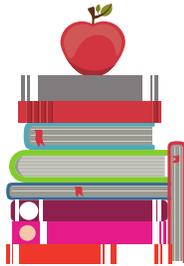
Education Services



Colorado Shines
Rating: 4 Stars



33% of our families receive support for tuition



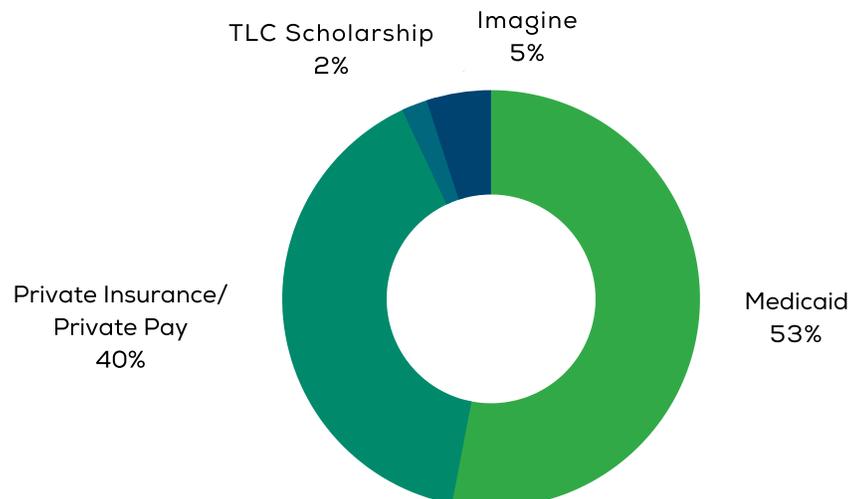
of our preschoolers are at or above the cognitive growth range

Therapeutic Services

225+ Children Provided Therapeutic Services



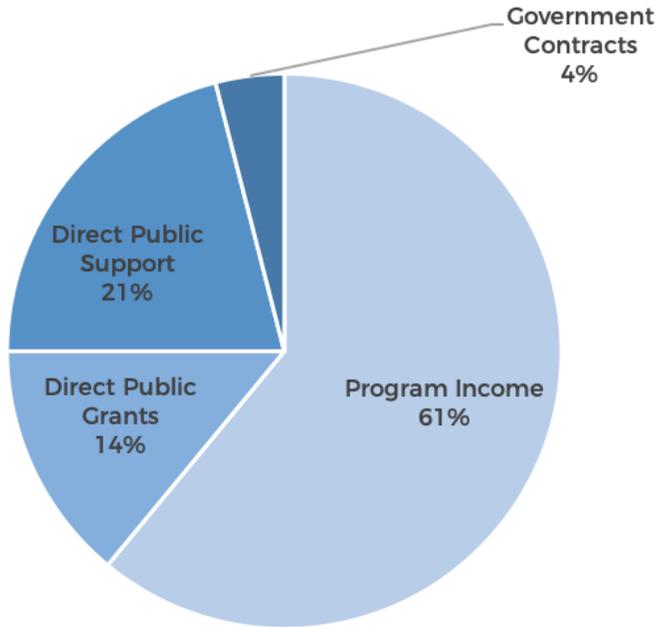
% of revenue for Therapeutic Services received from various sources



2019 Financials

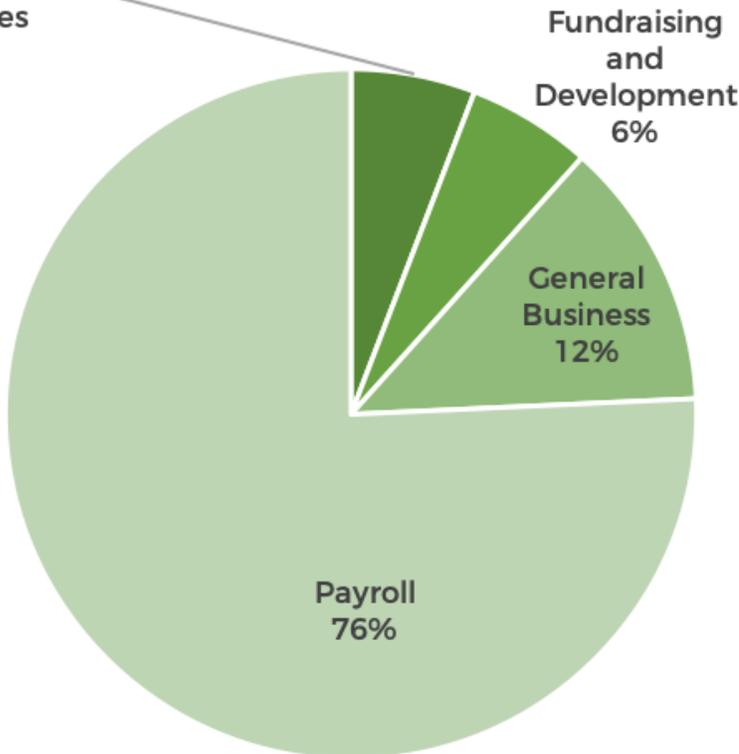
Revenue by Source

Total Revenue:
\$2,325,434.71



Expenses By Category

Direct Program Expenses
6%



Total Expenses:
\$2,089,449.04



Family Story



Anna is 6 years old. Having graduated in August 2019 from TLC's preschool she is now in Kindergarten at a local school. Anna's family began their journey with TLC when Anna was only a few days old. After she was born, she was placed in the NICU to monitor her oxygen levels. While there, her parents were visited by Shari Karmen TLC's Manager of Therapeutic Services. Unaware of TLC's program, they did not anticipate how much they would rely on Shari in the years to come. Shari was "the calm in our world of chaos...giving practical advice to us who had no idea what to do as parents of a child with Down syndrome."

A few months after bringing Anna home from the hospital, the family started Early Intervention services for Anna. All her therapists were from TLC. First Shari as her occupational therapist, then a physical therapist and eventually a speech therapist. For three years, the team from TLC would faithfully come to Anna's home every week to work with her, and provide comfort and encouragement to her parents. Always reassuring: Yes, she will crawl. Yes, she will walk. Yes, she will talk one day. And finally, yes, she will do it in her own time. And sure enough, she did all those things, just as the TLC therapists said she would.

When Anna turned three years old, her parents had to make a decision about preschool. Like every parent, they wanted her to be in a caring environment. They wanted her to be challenged. They wanted her to learn alongside typical kids. They wanted her to have friends. Anna would also still need therapeutic services. They wondered, where will we ever find a place like that? Shari Karmen told them about TLC's preschool. After taking a tour they were sold. It had everything they wanted, but they were concerned about how they would afford it. Anna's mom had stopped working a few years before when their middle daughter was two and older son was five. The thought of going back to work with three young children to care for was a little daunting for the family. TLC talked to them about the scholarship fund and the family received some support for their tuition. Because of TLC's fundraising efforts, and the generous support of donors at the two annual events, scholarships like the one Anna received can have a significant impact for families in our community.

Even though they loved the idea of preschool at TLC, they were scared to think about Anna's future and what it might look like. But as everyone at TLC worked with and loved on her, showing Anna's family her potential and teaching her parents that it is okay to have big dreams for her.

Anna's Story cont.

Even Anna's sister benefitted from TLC. Executive Director, Matt Eldred, worked with her American Heritage Girls troop to teach the children about disabilities and how to interact with kids who have special needs. The girls were then able to use these skills when they volunteer at TLC and play with the kids on the playground. After seeing the work that TLC does, some of the moms from the troop referred their friends to the therapy side of TLC. It had all come full circle.

A year ago, when Anna turned five, her parents had another decision to make – whether to move on to Kindergarten or do another year of preschool at TLC. After consultation with TLC teachers, she stayed a third year because they loved the inclusive setting with both typical and special needs kids, the low child to teacher ratios and the personal attention all children are given.

It was a good decision. The progress Anna made that third year was remarkable! As she started Kindergarten, the teachers were surprised at her vocabulary, how well she knew her letters and numbers, and how well she could listen and follow directions. Ms. Mia had even taught her to write her name. All of this progress is because of Anna's time at TLC.



Anna still comes twice a week before school for physical and occupational therapy. She works on skills that she does not get help with at school, such as using buttons and zippers, personal grooming skills, walking on a balance beam and hopping on one foot.

Like all the children at TLC, Anna is very special. Her success is why TLC's educational and therapeutic services are so important to our community.



Thank you to Anna and her family!

Our Board of Directors

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TLC thanks our Board of Directors for
continued support and guidance!



As of July 1, 2020

Administrative Staff

Matthew Eldred
Elizabeth Martinez
Breanna Palomarez

Therapy Staff

Jessica Fiegland	Kathleen Keith
Camilla Girard	Bernadette Koppang-Miller
Fawn Gold	Grace Levasseur
Christy Griffith	Christina Ramirez
Bethany Kaiser	Nicole Sauer
Shari Karmen	Amy Thrasher



Education Staff

Susan Balchunas	Daniele Gold	Shawna Marler
Teresa Beers	Aaliyah Grimaldo	Ashlee McDonald
Mary Boyer	Tavita Grimaldo	Maria Morales-Ramirez
Amanda Brunning	Richard Grine	Kathleen Porter-Peden
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TLC Learning Center

Nurturing Success in All Children

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