



Business and Education Media Alert

Dayton's Performing Arts Receives Big Review from Small Visitors

Head Start Program Preschool Learning Adventure for
Students of Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.

February 3, 2012, Dayton, Ohio - Downtown Dayton was brimming with school buses and a few hundred adorable, smiling faces on February 1. The eager-to-learn preschool students traveled to Victoria Theatre Association for a special performing arts show. The stars of the colorful musical adventure, "Are you My Mother?" are Dog and Cat. When Baby Bird emerges from her shell, they seek to find a missing character, Mother Bird. The production is based on P.D. Eastman's whimsical and well-loved children's book.

Multiple classrooms from Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.'s Head Start programs participated in the field trip, including Hilltop, the Marilyn E. Thomas Center, Miami View, and Olive Hill. The children experienced the learning disciplines of English/language arts, music, social studies, social values, and theatre.



Sponsors of the production include ArtsPower, Physicians for Kids; The Frank M. Tait Foundation; The Berry Family Foundation; C.H. Dean, Inc.; The Gosiger Foundation; The Kuntz Foundation; The Dayton Chapter of the Links, Incorporated; Standard Register; Target; McGohan Brabender, Inc.; and Educational Initiative, Dayton Rotary Club.

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ABOUT Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc.

Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. was incorporated in 1964 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The agency began providing comprehensive Head Start services to low income children ages three to five years in 1965. Today, Miami Valley Child Development Centers, Inc. is funded to serve 2,421 children ages 3-5 years and 388 children ages 0-3 in Clark, Madison, and Montgomery Counties, Ohio. Funding is provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; and the Ohio Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. The agency manages 50 center locations and employs 450 employees.

MVDC's program outcomes focus on school readiness for children ages birth to five. Each child is assessed at the beginning of the school year and periodically throughout the year. Results are regularly reviewed and tabulated to determine each child's progress and what is required for continued development. Most services benefit families of low income.

A primary focus at MVDC is to promote successful families by teaching parenting and life skills, and to ensure children are ready to learn in kindergarten. A holistic and balanced approach is taken to work with each child and their family in the areas of parent engagement, health, nutrition, social competency, literacy, and numeracy development.

ABOUT Head Start

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. More than 22 million preschool aged children have benefited from Head Start.

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