

Yoncalla Early Works

Key Findings From 2015-2016

What is Yoncalla Early Works?

Yoncalla Early Works prepares young children for kindergarten and sets them on the path to third grade readiness. When children read at grade level by the end of third grade, they are four times more likely to graduate from high school.

To get kids ready for school, Early Works focuses on three key areas: high-quality early learning, health, and supporting family connections to their children's education.

What's new at Yoncalla Early Works?

Yoncalla Early Works supported a variety of activities and events for children and families last year, including:

- Expanding preschool and other early learning programming at Yoncalla Elementary.
- Parenting classes, kindergarten readiness workshops, and other family-friendly activities at the school and in the community.
- Hosting community events to get ideas from families about YEW services.
- Piloting parent-teacher home visits for preschool through 6th grade families.
- Opening the parent lending library.

How can I get involved with Early Works?

- Attend semi-annual Community Café events.
- Join the Yoncalla Early Works Leadership Group.
- Visit the Family Room at Yoncalla Elementary.
- Attend the annual community baby shower.
- Visit the Yoncalla Early Works Facebook page to stay connected to school activities and opportunities.

For more information about how to get involved or any questions about Yoncalla Early Works, please contact Erin Helgren: erin@childinst.org | 541.525.5096 or visit the YEW Facebook page.



Umpqua Valley
Breastfeeding Coalition



Yoncalla Library

Douglas ESD



"Supporting the growth of happy, healthy children"



Yoncalla Elementary - School Profile

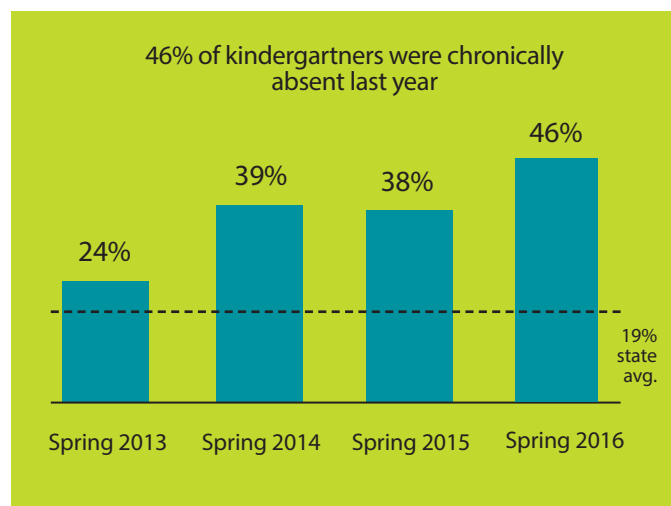
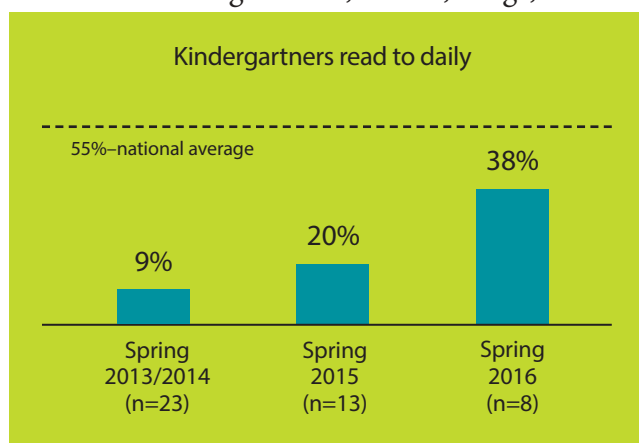
- 24% of students meet third-grade math benchmarks
- 43% of students meet third-grade English language arts benchmarks
- 86% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- 24% of students are absent on a regular basis
- 46% of kindergarteners are absent on a regular basis

Early Works strengths

- Over the past three years of Early Works, kindergarten students have started school with increasingly stronger self-regulation skills (managing emotions, listening attentively) that keep improving over the year.
- Entering kindergarteners also had strong early math skills and showed growth in this area over the course of the year.
- Parents reported feeling welcome in the school, using the library more often, and having more books in the home compared to before YEW started.

Early Works opportunities for growth

- **Regular school attendance.** Students in Yoncalla are missing too much school (see graph). Regular school attendance in the early grades is essential for learning important reading, writing, and logic skills.
- **Daily reading.** Yoncalla Early Works is working to encourage families to tell their children stories and to read to them every day.
- **Building early vocabulary.** Expose children to more words through books, stories, songs, and talking.



Help your child build reading skills

Literacy and reading skills are important for kindergarten readiness and lifelong success. Here are a few ways you can help your child develop a love for reading.

- Read and talk to your child as much as you can starting at birth.
- Visit the family room.
- Find **10** minutes each day to sit and look at books with your child. Mark it on your calendar.
- Ask your child about the pictures and stories in the books you read together.
- Make reading a family affair. Older siblings, aunts and uncles, and grandparents can read to your children, too.

Many thanks to the families, teachers, school staff and community partners for their participation in this project!