



CHILDREN OF THE WORLD
LEARNING CENTER

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



A message from our Director

Dear Families and Friends,

As we close another remarkable school year, I sit at my desk reflecting on the past eight years at Children of the World Learning Center (COTWLC). I am reminded that every year has been its own unique journey. Each has brought new opportunities to learn, grow, overcome challenges, and celebrate the incredible progress of our children, families, and staff.

This school year marked our eighth anniversary, and I am filled with both pride and gratitude. Pride because, together, we have continued to build a learning community where every child is safe, valued, and inspired to grow. Gratitude because none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of Central United Methodist Church, our Board of Directors, families, teachers, volunteers, founders, donors, friends, and community partners. Since opening our doors in 2018, each of you has helped strengthen the foundation of our mission and vision.

Looking back over these eight years, I am especially proud of how our school has grown while staying true to our commitment to multicultural early childhood education. We began with one classroom and a small group of children, and today we have had the privilege of serving over 600 families through our preschool and parent programs. Along the way, we expanded to two classrooms while maintaining the individualized attention and nurturing environment that defines COTWLC. Every graduating class has left us kindergarten-ready with strong academic, social, and emotional foundations. One of the greatest joys has been watching our earliest graduates continue to thrive as they progress through elementary and middle school, demonstrating the lasting value of a strong early education.

Our success has never been measured only by the number of children we serve. It is reflected in the confidence of a child learning to communicate in two languages, the excitement of discovering a love for reading, the friendships built across cultures, and the meaningful partnerships we have formed with families. These everyday moments remind us why early childhood education matters and why our work continues to have a lasting impact on children, families, and our community.

As we celebrate all that we have accomplished, I want to offer a special thank you to our COTWLC families. You are truly five-star families. Your partnership, volunteerism, trust, and commitment to your children's education have been at the heart of everything we have achieved together. You are leaders in our school community, and your involvement makes our mission possible. Thank you for being part of our story and our continued growth. We look forward to welcoming returning and new families as we begin another exciting year together in August.

Maria Antonietta Cardarelli
Director
Charlotte, June 2026



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Every day at Children of the World Learning Center was filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and build meaningful connections. Behind every number is a child discovering something new, a family finding support, and a community coming together to invest in the future.

100+ Families served through workshops and referrals

175 Instructional days

36 Students and families enrolled in preschool

18 children graduated kindergarten-ready

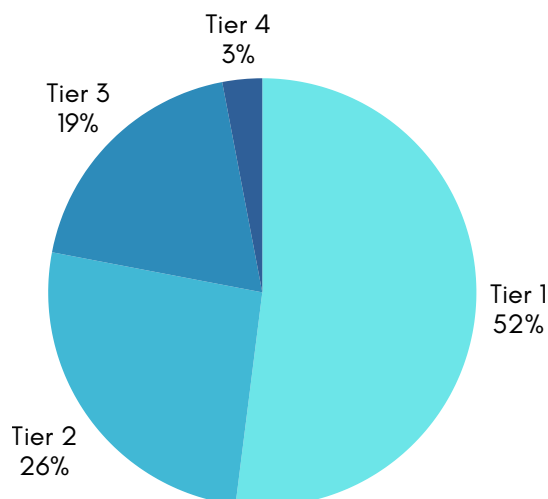
11 Nationalities represented by our families

18 Community partners serving our families

NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED BY FAMILIES

Colombia
Democratic Republic of Congo
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Mexico
Rwanda
United States of America
Venezuela

SOCIOECONOMIC REPRESENTATION OF STUDENTS



LEARNING IN ACTION

Throughout the school year, our classrooms came alive with hands-on learning experiences. Student outcomes reflected exceptional growth throughout the school year.

- While 100% of students began the year below age-level expectations, **83% met or exceeded expectations across all learning domains by year-end** on the GOLD assessment.
- Brigance assessments also showed an average of **15 months of developmental growth in one school year**, demonstrating strong gains in school readiness for literacy.

HOW WE ACHIEVED THESE OUTCOMES

700+

Hours of classroom instruction led by our licensed, bilingual lead teachers

600+

Minutes of individual occupational, behavioral, and speech therapy sessions

5,000+

Books read together, captured by home reading logs

100%

Participation of parents in Active Reading Strategies training



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our preschool continued to build a joyful, inclusive learning community where children developed academically, socially, and emotionally while strengthening their multicultural identities. Through meaningful classroom experiences, family partnerships, and community connections, our students made remarkable progress and created lasting memories.

THREE AUTHOR VISITS!



A special thank you to these three authors for bringing stories to life through their own voices and inspiring our students with the joy of reading and storytelling.



- The Dream Catcher by Marcelo Verdad
- Rohan Mouse Journey to the Nebulous a Space Oddity by Alfred Trapier Marshal
- Butterfly Gardening in the Carolina Piedmont by Pamela Grundy



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships with families aim to support the development of the whole child and offer stability between home and school. We honor parents as a child's first teacher, seeking to integrate their relationships with our teaching, as well as offer them services and resources to make their responsibilities a little easier!



INSPIRING FUTURE CAREERS



TO-GO BREAKFASTS



CONFERENCES



Caregivers were invited into the classroom to share their knowledge, careers, and cultures! We built connections among families through workshops, celebrations, and even meals!

Teachers and caregivers communicated and collaborated frequently to discuss their child's progress. **Perfect attendance** at conferences this year enabled shared strategies, stories, and successes!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partnerships strengthen our organization and expand opportunities for every child and family. From music and storytime to speech and occupational therapy, children benefit from a wide range of enriching services. Fitness and wellness classes, along with positive discipline workshops, give families tools and resources to thrive.



MUSIC CLASS!



This year community partners offered families so many incredible opportunities:

- CM Library's Story Time & Día (author visit)
- YMCA's Parent as Teacher Program
- Central United Methodist Church's ESOL Classes
- Read Charlottes' Active Reading Workshop
- Therapy Services from OT Milestone, Charlotte Speech & Hearing, Thompson Child & Family Focus, Ready Set 4 ABA



PARENT PERSPECTIVE



Our families are an integral part of our community. From attending workshops to support their own child's development to volunteering in the classroom to share their cultures and talents, they make our multicultural curriculum and global learning come alive! We greatly value their input, perspectives, and contributions. Families have expressed resounding satisfaction with their child's learning and development at COTW.



2025–2026 Parent Satisfaction Survey

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

94%

Literacy

90%

Mathematics

90%

Understanding the World

90%

Cultural Awareness

100%

“Overall we loved our experience with COTWLC. We wanted to start our child in preschool earlier but were really struggling to find a truly bilingual experience for him. We really appreciated the multicultural exposure and balance of intellectual and emotional learning. In our opinion, there is truly no comparable preschool experience in the city. We also appreciated how affordable the program was.”