Seventeen different countries are represented in one Head Start classroom graduation here

WEST HAVEN (June 15, 2014) - Each June is a very happy time at the West Haven Community House Head Start pre-school program as the older students “graduate” and will move on to Kindergarten in the Fall.

In mid-June this year, five separate Community House Head Start classes held specially themed graduations. In all, 84 pre-schoolers took part in the ceremonies that were held before parents, siblings, grandparents, guardians and friends.

One of these classes had a very unique situation. When Head Start Teacher Sheila Casey and her staff reviewed their class list for the 2013-2014 school year that opened in August 2013, one thing stood out to them: the class had an extraordinary number of students whose parents came to West Haven from a foreign country.

When they added it up, a total of 17 countries including the United States were represented in their 1500-A classroom of less than 20 students!

So when it came time to pick a theme for the 1500-A class graduation this year, it was fairly easy, Teacher Patricia Rosete said.

“We are the Children of the World” was the class theme for the graduation ceremony held before more than 40 parents, grandparents and siblings on June 13 in the main building auditorium on Elm Street.

Adding to the international flavor was the fact that two sets of grandparents in attendance were visiting West Haven from Guatemala and Mexico, respectively.

The program included pre-school students singing the Disney favorite, “It’s a Small World After All” in five languages including English:

Spanish: “Muy pequeno el mundo es”

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very special day for children, family members and staff alike.

Best of luck to all 84 of our Head Start preschool graduates this year as they enjoy the summer prior to entering Kindergarten in the Fall.