Only forty-four percent of Alameda County Kindergarteners were strong in all domains of Kindergarten readiness.

Children who did not attend preschool and English language learners were less likely to be ready for school.

Applied Survey Research
“One Foundational and three advanced Building Blocks of Kindergarten Readiness”
THOSE WHO ARE NOT READY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FALL BEHIND BY THIRD GRADE
Every family is able to walk to joyful, play based, adult-child school readiness activities in their neighborhood.
Alameda County Kindergarten families reported that prior to school entry:

- 92% used public parks
- 69% used libraries
- 52% used recreational programs
THE OPPORTUNITY
OVER 120 EXISTING SERVICE SITES

Alameda County Libraries:
48 library branches

Alameda County Recreation Centers:
73 recreation centers
- Long standing community relationships and services
- Existing physical assets in multilingual, multicultural neighborhoods
- Part of city, county or district infrastructure
Children are ready for Kindergarten and 3rd grade success through increased:

- Access to school readiness services
- Knowledge and use of best practices
- Increased collaboration
- Increased capacity for and commitment to sustainable early childhood programming
PARTNERS 2010-13

- 5 grantees up to 2 grant cycles
- 6 library and park & recreation institution partners
- 3.5 years
- After initial funding grantees can continue as MOU partners
CURRENT PARTNERS 2013-17

- 5 grantees 2 grant cycles
- 6 library and park & recreation institution partners
- 4 years
- Former partners can continue as MOU partners
AREAS SERVED

Cities
- Alameda
- Berkeley
- Hayward
- Livermore
- Newark
- Oakland
- San Leandro
- Union City

Unincorporated Areas
- Ashland
- San Lorenzo
CAPACITY BUILDING

- Professional development
  100+ Staff Trained

- Peer learning and consultation
  2000 hours

- Program quality improvement

- Sustainability planning
NEW SERVICES

- Enhanced child and family environments
- Developmentally specific story times
- Parent-child playgroups
- Support to parents as first teachers
- Parent education
- Groups classes for children
- Family enrichment activities
- Resource referrals
NEW SERVICES

- 2,834 Parent – child playgroups
- 780 Story times
- 307 Parenting education classes
- 678 Group classes for children
Current Partners served

- 599 parents & caregivers
- 617 young children
- 88% of children not enrolled in licensed child care
- Spanish is the home language of a majority
Current Partners
Services were respectful of their background

97%
2015-16 FAMILIES APPRECIATE

“I think it is a great program, especially because it is introducing my child to a school structured environment.”

“I think this program is giving my child a strong foundation.... I can see that she is more confident and happy.... I love this play group!!!”

“I am very glad I found a group in my neighborhood of West Oakland.”

I’m glad I found this program, my daughter really likes it and she learned a lot.
2015-16 FAMILIES REPORT

2015-16
Learning something new about their child’s strengths or needs because of program participation

91%

“[I learned] he loves letters! Inspires me to help him identify new letters and words.”

“I have found out curious she is and she likes to explore and learn.”
2015-16 FAMILIES REPORT

2015-16
Knowing more about how to help their child express their emotions in positive ways now

87%

“We learned more coping skills when she has a melt-down.”

He’s very observant of others and likes to discuss when something upsets him or someone is doing something he doesn’t understand.
2015-16 FAMILIES REPORT

2015-16
Playing more with their child now

86%

“We are taking more responsibility as our son’s first teacher to explore nature, games, parks and healthy eating. We are also putting ourselves in my son’s shoes when we see he is unhappy and try to understand him better.”

“We take more time to do activities similar to the ones in class. Such as, practicing his name, cutting, [and] learning colors.”
2015-16 FAMILIES REPORT

2015-16
Doing things differently as a family because of their participation

71%

“[As a family, we are doing] more activities, more reading, more explaining things.”

“We take more time to do activities similar to the ones in class. Such as, practicing his name, cutting, [and] learning colors.”
2015-16 FAMILIES REPORT GROWTH

“I love this program. It has greatly improved my child’s learning, his social skills, his language skills, his bilingual skills. He is happier, more confident and more capable of following directions.”

“My son is] …more social and comfortable being around other kids, he learned to listen to story time and he improved his Spanish a lot. He loves coming to the library, too.”

“My child] has improved… with] listening, sharing, communicating, and focusing.”

“My child] interacts better and participates more. She's no longer shy and gets along with other children.”
All cohort and partners made improvements in promising practices for kindergarten readiness
CAPACITY BUILDING OUTCOMES

5 initial cohort institutions continued in capacity building efforts as unfunded partners
All institutions in first cohort continued early childhood programming
For more information, please contact Margaret Jerene
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