

Oakland Public Library

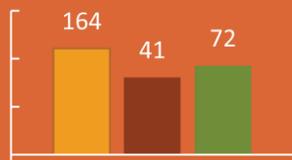
FY 2010-11

Total Served



- Children
- Parents/Caregivers

Children Served By Age



- Under 3yrs
- 3yrs
- 4yrs

4

Home languages of families served: Arabic, Cantonese, English, and Spanish

Program Context: Through our participation in the Neighborhood Partnership, the Oakland Public Library was able to enhance our services for families with young children from diverse backgrounds. About 19% of Oakland residents live below the poverty level, compared to 14% of California residents. More than one-fourth of Oakland residents are foreign-born. Almost 40% of Oakland residents speak a language other than English at home. The literacy rate in Oakland is low, with over one-third of the population able to read and write at, or below, Level 1, meaning individuals have difficulty with basic literacy skills considered necessary for everyday life such as filling out an application and reading a food label.

To help children and their families build a life-long connection with their local library starting at a young age, we altered aspects of our physical space to make the Library more comfortable for families with young children. We also expanded our collection of Chinese language books for children, and added Saturday programs geared for working families at branches in low income neighborhoods. In addition, children’s librarians received training in child development, kindergarten readiness, and supporting parents.

Services Provided: During the first year of grant-funded services, parent-child playgroups were offered at 5 library branches. The playgroups included a staff-led story time with tips and practice for reading with young children, a brief parenting workshop with supervised play for children, and open community-building time following the playgroup with food, small gifts, and self-directed activities. Since grant funding ended in June 2011, the Library has incorporated elements of this approach into regular story times offered at all 17 library branches.

Numbers Served (FY 2010-11): 36 parent-child playgroups for 277 children and 247 parents/caregivers; 633 children’s books in English, Spanish, and Chinese distributed to playgroup families; expanded the Library’s collection of Chinese language children’s books and increased circulation; tailored some of our story times to reach children of particular ages—infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Results: After receiving \$80,600 in the FY 2009-2010 grant cycle, Oakland Public Library chose not to reapply for funding at the midpoint in the Neighborhood Partnership project because the consultation we received during the first grant cycle sufficiently positioned us to sustain enhancements to our 0-5 programming. Since July

2011, we have continued to receive training and on-site consultation through the Neighborhood Partnership while fully supporting the costs of early childhood programming at all 17 branches. Oakland Public Library programs now “come in three sizes” for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Program Cost (Fiscal Year 2011-2012)

F5AC Grant Funds	F5AC Technical Assistance (Est.)	Department Funds (Est.)	Other Sources of Funding	Total Cost (Est.)
Program fully supported by OPL	\$12,942	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$18,942

Program costs include staff time, program materials, training, and other costs.

Number of program staff: 16

Going Forward: Sustainability Plan

Staff Professional Development: Continue to train Children’s Librarians, Library Assistants, and other library staff in early literacy concepts, child development, and using a strength-based, family-centered approach in delivering school readiness services for multilingual audiences. Continue to increase staff expertise in providing effective, developmentally-specific story times for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and their families.

Opportunities for Partnership & Involvement:

We welcome opportunities for

- You to join our Fall Story reading training course
- Trained volunteers to do story readings at preschool centers
- Your program to participate in summer reading incentive activities
- Other community agency collaborations
- Financial support of our programs

Contact:

Nina Lindsay, Supervising Librarian for Children’s Services, Oakland Public Library

NLindsay@oaklandlibrary.org

(510) 238-6706

