

Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Anne Cain

SUBJECT: ANNUAL UPDATE ON EARLY
CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

DATE: 05-25-12

Approved

Date

5-29-12

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide
SNI AREA:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee accept the report on the Library's Early Care and Education Services for quality early care and education for children birth to five years of age.

OUTCOME

The Committee will understand the activities and accomplishments of the Library Early Care and Education (ECE) Services program.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José continues to be recognized locally and nationally as an innovative leader in the area of quality care and early education opportunities for its youngest residents. Since 1988, the City has provided resources and services to early educators, child care providers, and parents of young children to support children's success in the classroom and in life.

The 2008 Child Care Needs Assessment conducted by the Santa Clara County Local Early Education Planning Council identified a gap of nearly 13,000 child care spaces for children 0-5 years old in San José. The Santa Clara County Partnership for School Readiness research conducted over the past five years has found that less than half of all children entering kindergarten in Santa Clara County are fully ready to learn.

For 12 years, the City has provided support and services to increase the availability and quality of early education and child care programs through the Early Care and Education Services

program. Services include Smart Start San José (SSSJ), the Smart Start Family Child Care Training Program, Books for Little Hands, and other special projects that have addressed specific needs. Through effective collaborative efforts and successful leveraging of grant funds, the Library's Early Care and Education Services Unit has increased or improved nearly 7,000 early education spaces in the city, and helped to improve the quality of programming at countless other sites.

ANALYSIS

The work of the Early Care and Education Services Unit aligns with the goals of the "City of San José Early Care and Education Investment in the Future: Strategic Work Plan 2009-2014" approved by City Council in June 2009. Below is an update of activities and accomplishments.

National League of Cities Case Study: In recognition of the programs and services that the City of San José provides to early educators and families, the National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute for Youth, Education and Families selected San José as one of five cities to be a case study on best practices for early education programs and alignment efforts with elementary school programs. The Early Care and Education Services Unit has been supporting new and existing child care programs in assessing program quality, connecting programs to critical resources, and supporting alignment to the proposed California Quality Improvement and Rating System. As part of the Case Study project, staff presented a webinar on City-sponsored programs and services for young children. The final document, **Educational Alignment for Young Children: Profiles in Local Innovation**, was launched during a national webinar on April 30th. The case study can be found at <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/iyef/early-childhood/educational-alignment-for-young-children-profiles-of-local-innovation>.

Smart Start San José: For 12 years, the Smart Start San José program has used funds from the Redevelopment Agency, Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund, Packard Foundation and other grant sources to support construction projects and quality improvement activities at local child care programs resulting in new and improved child care spaces. All sites that received funding must comply with program quality standards for the duration of their contract. There are currently 49 active Smart Start sites including: nine private for-profit centers, nine family child care homes, two private-nonprofit sites, 13 Title 5 programs, five Head Start/Even Starts, eight elementary school district sites, and three high school sites.

This past year, Smart Start was restructured so that early education sites can voluntarily affiliate with the program without receiving grant funding. This was done to meet growing requests from early educators and increase the number of quality early care spaces in the city. The process for affiliation began in February and approximately 15 sites already have applications under review. All sites must meet the Smart Start Program Quality Standards and report annually on their ability to meet these standards and the strategies used to assess and address any gaps. Sites receive technical assistance, professional development opportunities, marketing support, early literacy resources, and social service support through a new partnership with San José State University's Social Work Intern Program. The long term goal is to make Smart Start San José the standard for quality early education programs in San José.

In February, Smart Start San José received the annual Program Design Award from the California Child Development Administrators Association for its innovation in programming benefitting young children. This statewide organization supports publicly funded child development programs and their leaders.

This was the final year of a two-year, \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to enhance program quality at Smart Start San José sites. During this year, staff supported Smart Start sites in using the newly designed Smart Start Program Quality Guidelines and assessment tool. Two trainings in response to site input were provided. The Anti-defamation League presented "A Classroom of Difference" to support cultural competency in preschool programs. Dr. Thomas C. Rector presented on Bio-Social Cognition methodology to identify children's needs based on biology, neuroscience research, and genetics.

Two new services were instituted for Smart Start sites this year. Through a collaboration with the San José State University Social Work Department, Bachelor of Social Work interns worked with families at the various sites. Interns connected families to a variety of community resources in areas such as medical assistance, employment support, and housing information. Secondly, some Smart Start sites participated in the Library's Summer Reading Celebration, with over 1,000 children reading at least 15 books.

Family Child Care Training Program: For the past 12 years, the Family Child Care Training Program has offered a 10-month business start-up and retention program for low-to-moderate income residents to support them in opening or retaining a licensed home-based child care business. In a 2011 survey of 207 past participants, 84% reported that they were still in business. This year, there were 79 program graduates with 32 opening businesses and 47 working to strengthen and retain their businesses. Since 2005, when the program moved to the Library, there have been 337 graduates. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies that have funded this program in the past will not be available in 2012-13 so the program may end.

24th Annual San José Children's Faire: The Faire attracted over 4,000 families with young children to Discovery Meadow on April 21st. Over 30 booths hosted by community organizations, governmental agencies, local businesses, and non-profits distributed information to families and provided hands-on activities for children. This year's theme, "Rock, Roll, Read!" focused on the importance of early literacy experiences. The Library's Summer Reading Celebration program was also highlighted as a means to prevent summer learning loss for children. This event is part of the City's Month of the Young Child celebration.

City of San Jose's Early Care and Education Commission: The Library Department provides staff support to the City of San Jose's Early Care and Education Commission. The Commission facilitates communication between persons interested in the field of early education and advises the City on early education and child care issues.

Leadership Roles: ECE Services Unit staff represents the City and participates in leadership positions with several local and state organizations and initiatives including the All America City Award for Grade Level Reading Committee, Santa Clara County Early Childhood Planning

Council, California Child Care Coordinators Association, Santa Clara County Early Learning Master Plan, and the Santa Clara County Race to the Top Consortia.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This is an annual update provided to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater.
(Required: Website Posting)
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This memo does not meet any of the criteria listed above.

COORDINATION

Not applicable.

CEQA

Not a project, File No. PP10-069(a), City Organizational & Administrative Activities, Annual Report.

/s/

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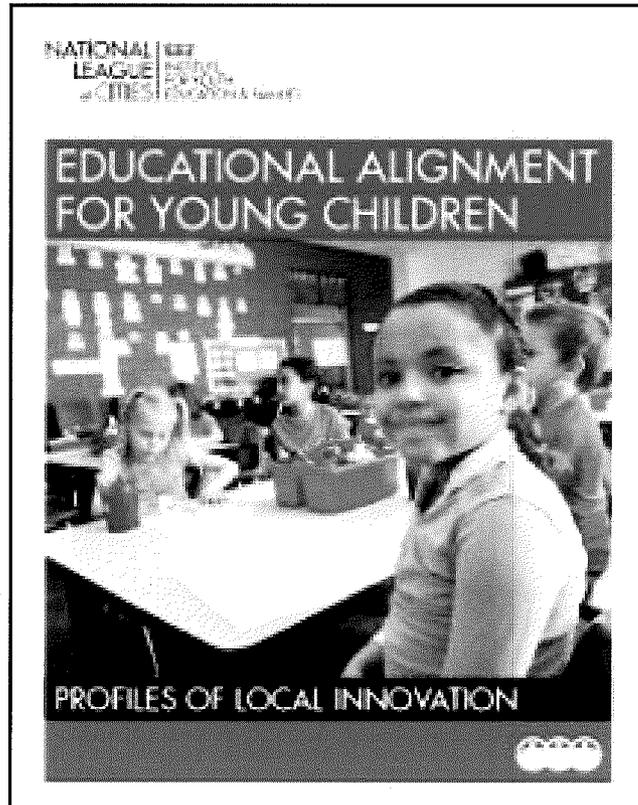
Interim Library Director, Library Department

For questions please contact Dawn D. Perry, Manager, Early Care and Education Services at (408) 808-2624.

San José Public Library
Early Care & Education Services Report
June 14, 2012
Item # d(2)

City of San José

Library Early Care & Education Services Update

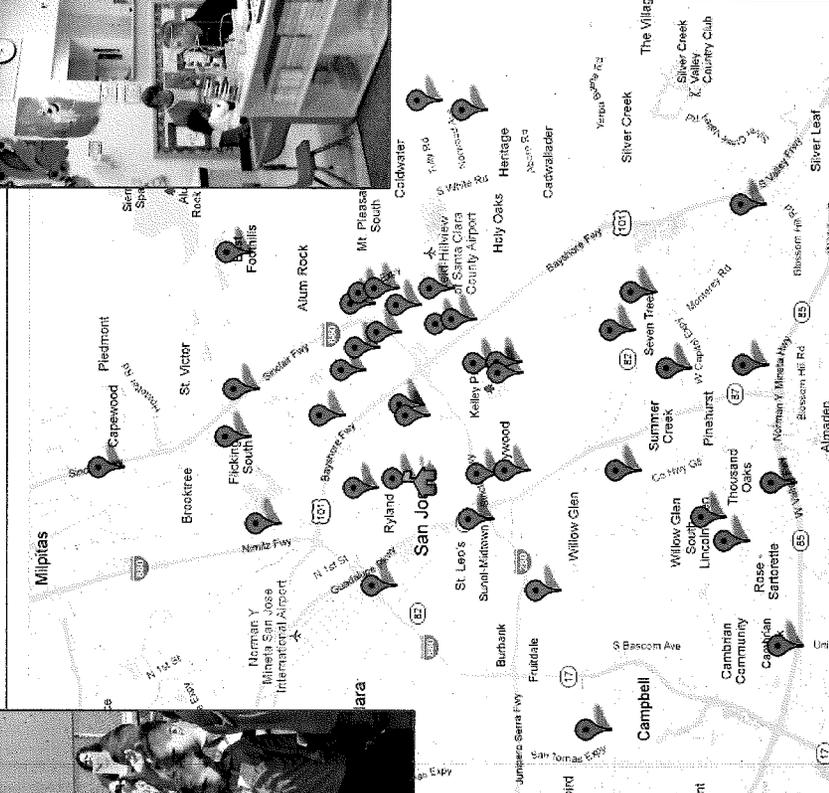
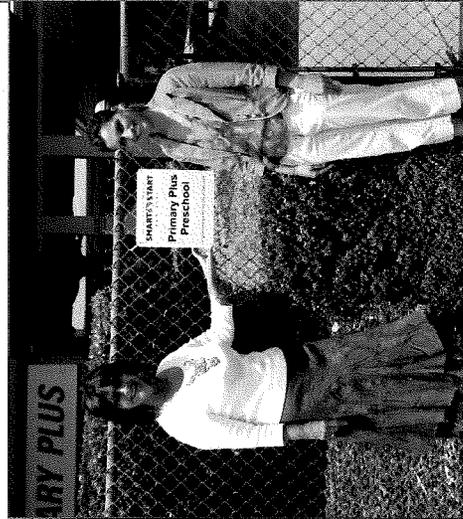
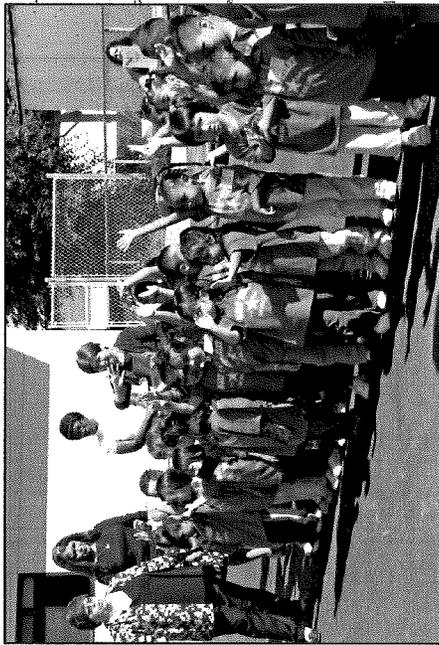


“Educational Alignment for Young Children: Profiles of Local Innovation”

Five cities on the leading edge of creating a seamless educational pipeline for children ages 0-8.

Innovative alignment strategies in Boston, Hartford, San Antonio, San José, and Seattle aim to ensure that more children are succeeding in school and reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Library Early Care & Education Services Update



Smart Start
San Jose

Program Quality Standards Guidelines
For Smart Start Sites

SMART START
San Jose Public Library

Library Early Care & Education Services Update

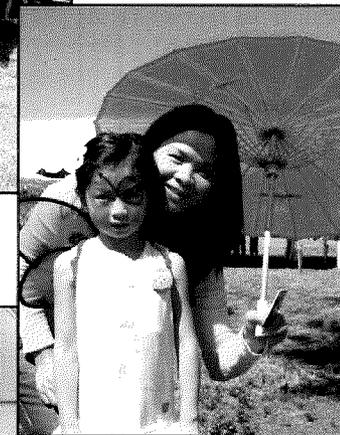
Smart Start Family Child Care Training Program – 10-month program of academic and professional development courses for providers that result in retaining or creating new home-based child care businesses.



Library Early Care & Education Services Update

2012 City of San José
Children's Faire

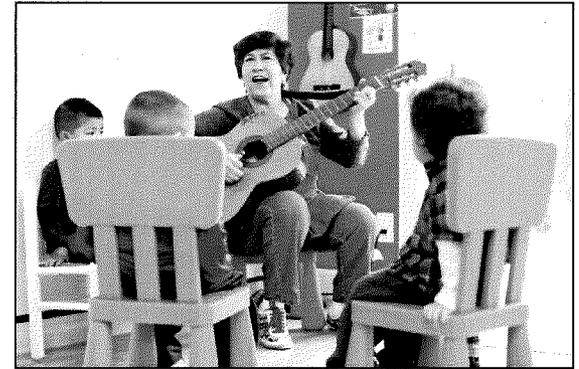
Over 4,000 in
Attendance



Library Early Care & Education Services Update

Representing City of San José at:

- All America City Award for Grade Level Reading Committee
- Santa Clara County Early Learning Master Plan/ SJ 2020
- Santa Clara County Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant
- NLC Institute for Youth, Education, and Families Peer Learning Network



Library Early Care & Education Services Update

2012 Highlights

- National League of Cities selection for national case study on best practices for early education and alignment
- Presented webinar for National League of Cities Peer Learning Network
- Received California Child Development Administrators Association annual award for Program Design
- Graduated 79 from Family Child Care Training Program
- Instituted Smart Start Affiliate process
- Partnered with SJSU Social Work Dept. Internship program
- Over 1,000 children at Smart Start sites participated in the Library's Summer Reading program