

First 5 San Joaquin

Making a Difference...

Enhancing Early Care



2008 Results Recognition Event

Literacy

What are we measuring and why it is important

The correlation between early exposure to literature and educational success is well documented. Research has shown that certain literacy-based skills can be used to predict future reading and language success. Some of these emergent literacy skills are: recognizing the sequence in a story, understanding the sequence of a story, having awareness of tonal use in language and recognizing names and shapes of letters in written form.

Reading and storytelling with children helps to develop these skills which contribute to an enhanced vocabulary, an ability to follow oral directions, and an ability to express thoughts and feelings in written and spoken forms, thus strengthening children's interpersonal skills and improving the academic environment. Research also shows that the literacy levels of parents is important, as this impacts the parent's ability to help their children learn throughout school.

First 5 San Joaquin investment

First 5 San Joaquin has identified Literacy as one of its eight priority areas in its Strategic Plan. During the fiscal year of 2007-08 the Commission invested approximately \$480,000 in programs designed to promote literacy skills in children ages 0-5. Three literacy programs supported by First 5 San Joaquin are: Raising A Reader (a research-based, take-home book bag rotation program), Reach Out and Read (an evidenced-based volunteer reader program in clinic waiting rooms) and Training Wheels (a mobile literacy library). These literacy services have been shown to increase the number of books in the home, increase adult-child interactions around literature, increase the number of times a child is read to weekly (especially with families that are English learners) and enhance vocabulary and language skill development. The early literacy exposure opportunities provided through multiple First 5 San Joaquin programs, increase the likelihood of school readiness and school success.

Who are the funded partners

There are 12 First 5 San Joaquin supported organizations providing literacy services through 23 different programs. These organizations include: Charterhouse Center for Families, El Concilio, Escalon Unified School District, Lao Family Community of Stockton, Lincoln Unified School District, Lodi Unified School District, Manteca Unified School District, NorCal Center on Deafness, San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton Unified School District, Tracy Unified School District, United Cerebral Palsy

Evaluation Highlights

+ Nearly 2,300 Families Participated in a First 5 Family Literacy Program in FY 07-08

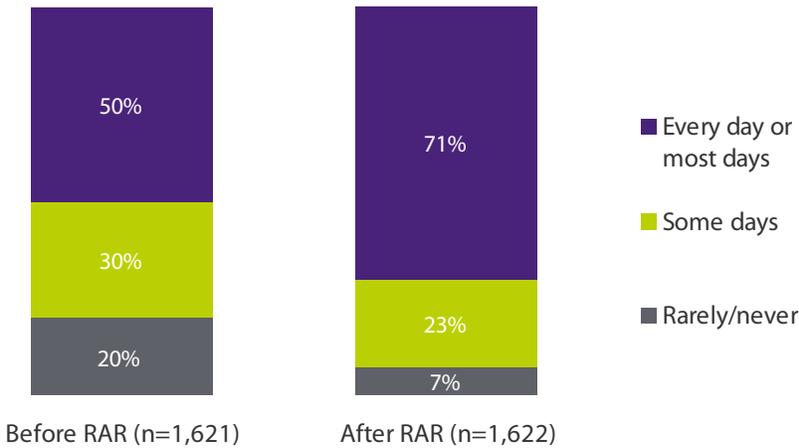
Number of Families Served

2007-2008	2,297
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- In 2007-08, 2,297 families participated in a family literacy program.
- Over 4,500 families have participated in a family literacy program since 2006.

+ More Parents Are Reading to their Children

Frequency of Reading to Child*



- Significantly more parents reported reading to their child at least most days of the week after participating in a family literacy program compared to the start of the program.

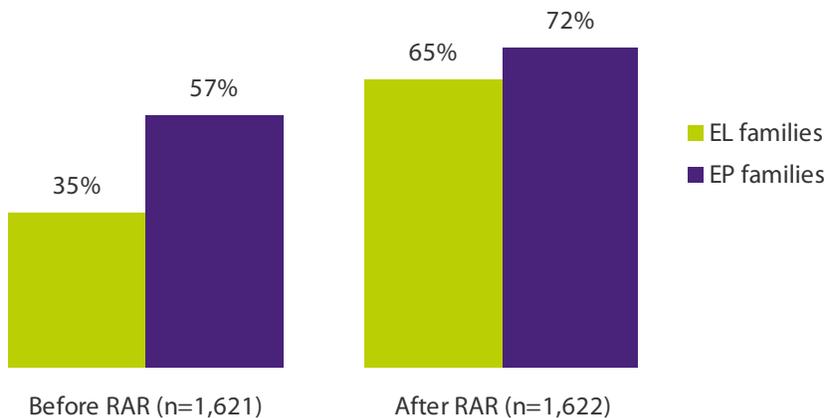
"I have to read to him in the afternoon and before I go to work and then in the morning when I get in...he loves the red book bag you bring every week."

-Parent

*Raising a Reader (RAR) is a family literacy program offered by First 5 contractors.

+ The Family Literacy Program is Closing the Gap Between English Learner Families and English Proficient Families

Reading to Child on Most Days or Every Day by Parent's Reading Language Preference*



- The proportion of English Learner families reporting more than ten books available at home increased from 27 percent before participating in a family literacy program to 47 percent after participation.

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