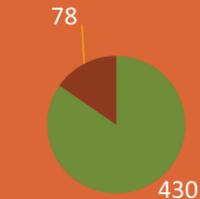


## Alameda Recreation and Park Department / Alameda Free Library

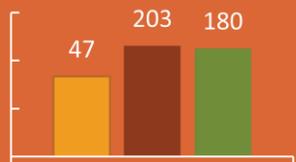
### FY 2011-12

#### Total Served



- Children
- Parents/Caregivers

#### Children Served By Age



- Under 3yrs
- 3yrs
- 4yrs

# 10

Home languages of families served: Bengali, Bosnian, Cantonese, English, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Spanish, and Vietnamese

**Program Context:** Through joint participation in the Neighborhood Partnership, collaboration has increased between the Alameda Recreation and Park Department and the Alameda Free Library. Together, we have reached underserved populations in the City of Alameda, introduced previously un-served families to library services and recreation programs, and enhanced the professional development of City staff who work with young children. Underserved populations include children with special needs, immigrant families, and low-income families. Many of these families reside in the West End of our City where there are significant disparities in health and educational outcomes.

**Services Provided:** Playgroups in English and bilingual English/Spanish for children ages 2-5 years and their parents/caregivers include parent education about early literacy led by Alameda Library staff. A parent-child playgroup for children with speech and language delays creates opportunities for parent-child bonding, helps support children’s social-emotional development, and provides parent education and support. “Library-in-a-Bag” kits rotate through Head Start and ARPD Small Fry and Tiny Tots classrooms on a monthly basis. Each themed kit contains manipulatives and songs, stories, and parent education materials in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Children’s books in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean are distributed to children in preschools served by the project and at the library’s annual Family Fun Day to encourage families to build home libraries and share books at home. Multiple staff members have participated in over a dozen professional trainings provided by First 5 Alameda County and other private and public agencies. Library, Rec and Park, and Head Start staff members have been trained in supporting literacy in young children (Every Child Ready to Read).

**Numbers Served (FY 2011-12):** 84 parent-child playgroups for 87 children and 78 parents/caregivers; new “Library-in-a-Bag” kits distributed each month to 14 Head Start classrooms and 6 ARPD Small Fry/Tiny Tots classrooms (20 classrooms total); 883 children’s books in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean distributed to preschoolers and/or their families through playgroups, Head Start classrooms, at ARPD’s annual tree lighting ceremony, and at the Library’s annual Family Fun Day.

**Results (Spring and Fall 2011):** When asked what, if anything, they are doing differently, parents/caregivers mentioned reading more, playing more games, doing more arts and crafts activities, and doing things to support their child’s learning at home. Some of the changes parents noticed in their children included greater

confidence and independence, sharing more with other children, following directions and paying attention more, and learning about numbers and the alphabet. 15 out of 29 (52%) parents surveyed reported reading, singing, or telling stories on a daily or more frequent basis.

“[Our daughter] is now not afraid to go to school since...[participating in] this program. It’s been a great experience for her and us.” (Parent quote)

### Program Cost (Fiscal Year 2011-2012)

F5AC Grant Funds	F5AC Technical Assistance (Est.)	Department Funds (Est.)	Other Sources of Funding	Total Cost (Est.)
\$69,761	\$12,942	\$8,300	\$1,500	\$92,503

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

Number of program staff: 5 (2.5 FTE)

### Going Forward: Sustainability Plan

**Revenue Development:** Use department funds (or transition from grant to department funds) to offer parent-child playgroup run by Tiny Tots staff. Develop a sustainable model for the special needs playgroup (e.g., establish cost-covering fee structure and/or partner with other agencies to co-deliver services).

**Staff Professional Development:** Identify, train, and support a pool of bilingual recreation staff and playgroup parent volunteers to periodically deliver bilingual story time series at library branches. Utilize “train-the-trainer” approach to maximize learning from “Every Child Ready to Read” follow-up training; Supervising Children’s Librarian will provide future early literacy trainings for local 0-5 service providers.

**Service Collaboration:** Program supervisors will participate in and (co)present at city meetings to promote city-wide collaboration and coordination of early childhood services. Library staff will continue to evaluate, refine, and maintain Library-in-a-Box literacy kits in Tiny Tots and Head Start centers.

### Opportunities for Partnership & Involvement:

- Looking for opportunities for staff to continue to participate in professional development trainings and workshops to ensure use of best practices
- Welcome support for literacy education, materials, and books to increase awareness about the importance of literacy in the home
- Welcome financial support and technical expertise to ensure all children have an opportunity to participate in playgroups

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ALAMEDA free library  
bigger on the inside