

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of Early Literacy Network

April 16, 2015

Goals of the Effort

The goals of the Early Literacy Network (ELN) are to bring support, information, and skills to early childcare educators, and to help families develop their children's literacy skills.

Focal Population of the Effort

The target population of the ELN is all young readers in San Francisco, especially children in neighborhoods with less resources available to support families' literacy development.

Impact

The ELN holds a four-hour workshop and breakfast once a year to facilitate a morning of learning, as well as opportunities for networking, for educators and preschool leaders. The ELN also partners in events like "Dia de los ninos, dia de los libros," an early literacy promotional event in the Mission.

The greatest strength of the organization is the many different organizations they collaborate with.

Challenges

Maintaining membership can be a challenge for the ELN because its work is demanding. Staff turnover at member organizations can erode the group's consistency.

Origins of the Effort

The ELN began when the early literacy coordinator at the library was attending many workshops and meetings and noticed the same people attended all the meetings. She decided to partner with a woman who was doing consulting and training with schools at the time to form the network.

Leading the Effort

Rebecca Alcalá, the early literacy coordinator at the public library, co-chairs the ELN with a member of Pulsing Word.

Members of the Effort

The ELN is made up of seven member organizations. Membership includes:

- Raising a Reader
- Jumpstart
- Pulsing Word
- First Book
- Book Pals
- Children's Council
- The Library

Structure of the Effort

The membership meets monthly to plan early childhood literacy workshops with an average of 5 of the 7 members attending.

The Role of Data

The ELN performs surveys and evaluations after their trainings to drive their future planning.

Related Documents

The ELN's blog can be found at <http://sfearlyliteracynetwork.blogspot.com/>.