



Dual Language Learning Project

Illian is a 31-year-old mother of four children...She first began English as a Second Language classes at the Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative location in 2019 and began to go to Parent Café in 2020. While she was participating in the Parent Café series, the pandemic was just beginning, and she began to get worried about how that would affect Sofia (two years old at the time). During Parent Café, she found out about the opportunity to join the ParentChild+ program. She became interested because home visiting/virtual calls were offered alongside the toys and books. She wanted to ensure Sofia got an education without having to enroll her in a preschool/toddler facility...she knew socializing Sofia would be extremely difficult during the pandemic. After she found ParentChild+ and she had a couple of virtual calls, mom saw a difference in Sofia's social-emotional development. She initiates play with guests who come over to their home and engages them in whichever activity she is doing.

"Mom is so happy with the program and is excited to see what is next in store with the program and Sofia's development"— Staff





Parents Helping Parents

The provider is an Associate Teacher working in the Head Start program through the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). She became involved with Parents Helping Parents (PHP) through trainings and webinars offered through her employer at SCCOE. She was interested in trainings for professional growth and gaining new knowledge in certain areas of child development.

The provider participated in a number of webinars such as Evidence-Based Interactions for Young Children with Autism, Tool kits for Inclusion of Young Children, Positive Behavior Supports - building relationships and identifying feelings from October 2020 to March 2021.

The program has made a great impact on the provider. Because of the trainings and workshops, she has gained new knowledge and skills that will help her perform better in her work.

"I have gained new knowledge useful to me for the work I do. PHP has given me a new perspective on working with children with special needs and how to help them learn at their level and be successful. PHP has given me resources by providing trainings, tools and e-packets to perform better at my job."





MA Cohort Graduate

After 18 years working in family child care, one of our MA Cohort Program students graduated and obtained a position as a consultant to support teaching staff, center directors, parents/caregivers, and children focusing on the social emotional climate. As part of this work, they will be supporting more centers which offer early intervention services for infants and toddlers. Their experience in the MA Cohort Program was described as a “personal transformation” with the opportunity to listen to cohort experience, and research as it applies to their future in early childhood education.

The participant has become involved with Parents Helping Parents to improve e-learning for families with children, young adult dependents, or children with special needs. In addition, they have started supporting new families involved with social services as foster parents, adoptive parents, or kinship relatives through the nonprofit Help One Child. The MA Cohort graduate is using this experience to fuel their drive to support families and early learning.

"I had no idea how much my life and the world would change. My personal transformation applying the learning during my BA/MA cohort programs, listening to the cohorts experiences, and research related to writing my personal narrative thesis, prepared me further for the path I continued to explore and the new people I would meet...I am so grateful for the opportunity that FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County and WestEd gifted me. Now, it's time to pay it forward."





SEEDS of Early Literacy Coaching

Early education programs operate within social systems that are interconnected and collectively impact families, educators, administrators, and ultimately, the healthy development of children. When operating in isolation without access to information and resources, family child care home (FCCH) providers face the challenge of adequately supporting their families and children. To address this need, FIRST 5 has expanded professional development opportunities intentionally designed to support building the capacity of FCCH providers.

The SEEDS of Early Literacy (SEEDS) is a relationship-based professional development program designed for parents/caregivers and FCCH providers. The model takes a community-centered approach by building quality improvement supports and networks for family child care providers within the FIRST 5 funded FRCs across the county. SEEDS has offered FCCH providers an avenue to introduce parents/caregivers in their service to the importance of early literacy for their toddlers, and ways they can facilitate this process at home. Through conversations with FCCH providers, parents/caregivers felt connected and informed with their child's care provider, because they had shared the information being taught at the SEEDS workshops. It also gave them the knowledge and introduction to child development and its different stages. Providers and parents/caregivers noticed the difference that conversation makes in their child's communication and development.

Mari is a Family Child Care Provider. Her center is located on the East Side of San José, and she cares for 10 children between the ages of 4 months and 42 months. Mari was recruited for SEEDS through phone calls arranged at the beginning of the year. This was the first time she heard about SEEDS, and she was extremely enthusiastic and willing to participate. Mari was looking for curriculum to apply at her center to help prepare her children to enter preschool or kindergarten. Mari is very grateful that she took the opportunity to participate, since she is relatively new to the Child Care field.

