



SANTA CLARA COUNTY
**Early Learning
MASTER PLAN**

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
AND LEADERSHIP
WORKING COMMITTEE**

**Serving all young children from birth
through third grade and their families**

2011 Fact Sheet

The Santa Clara County Early Learning Master Plan has goals in six strategic areas, including **family engagement and leadership** (along with facilities, data management, articulation and alignment, workforce and quality).

The vision of the Family Engagement and Leadership Working Committee is that the entire Santa Clara County community will be inspired and supported to create partnerships where families are valued, nurtured and engaged in children’s education and healthy development.

The Committee’s purpose is to:

- Inspire and support families’ hands-on engagement in each child’s education and development;
- Ensure schools and agencies value, nurture and rely upon families as reciprocal partners in their children’s education and development;
- Value the unique assets of each individual family; and
- Respect all families as empowered and authentic

partners in supporting their child’s education and program quality through their engagement.

Strategic Objectives for Family Engagement 2011-2012

- Develop family engagement principles that are endorsed by families and adopted by family and child-serving agencies, schools and districts in the county.
- Ensure child-serving agencies, schools and districts adopt the family engagement principles.
- Support collaborating agencies, schools and districts in piloting strategies aligned with the family engagement principles.
- Develop and make publicly available a calendar of upcoming trainings for early learning and school district staff concerning family engagement and leadership.
- On an ongoing basis, catalogue and report relevant training activities of agencies participating in the Family Engagement Working Committee.

How to get Involved

Become an official partner of the Family Engagement and Leadership Committee by:

- Sharing your knowledge and expertise to shape our guiding principles;
- Joining our network; or
- Attending one of our meetings. (Contact Judy Kritikos at 408-453-3606 for the meeting schedule.)



Selected Partners include:

- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Choices for Children
- Family Engagement Institute, Foothill College
- FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and WestEd-E3 Institute
- Grail Family Services
- Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa Clara County
- Professional Association for Childhood Education (PACE)
- Raising A Reader National Office
- SJB Child Development Centers
- Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE)
- SCCOE Head Start/Early Head Start
- Stretch to Kindergarten

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The Santa Clara County Early Learning Master Plan is a countywide plan that also serves as the early learning strategy for SJ2020. Early learning sets the foundation for the educational continuum, which is critical for student achievement and long-term success. High quality early learning enables children to develop the skills they need to succeed in school; helps to reduce the readiness gap, which turns into the achievement gap; correlates to higher levels of education, and ultimately employment; and lowers the rate of incarceration.

The Early Learning Master Plan was unveiled in fall 2010 after a year-long community engagement process that involved local school districts, early education professionals, community members, civic leaders, community colleges and universities, business representatives and other stakeholders. To learn more about our work, go to www.sccoe.org and click on Early Learning Plan under Featured Programs and Services.

