

## City of Berkeley, Recreation Division

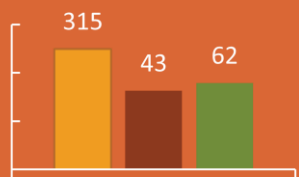
### FY 2011-12

#### Total Served



- Children
- Parents/Caregivers

#### Children Served By Age



- Under 3yrs
- 3yrs
- 4yrs

# 10

Home languages of families served: English, Italian, Japanese, Kikuyu, Korean, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Urdu

**Program Context:** The City of Berkeley, Berkeley Unified School District, Berkeley Alliance, and the University of California are jointly leading the planning and implementation of the city-wide 2020 Vision plan, which aims to eliminate the student academic achievement gap in Berkeley by the year 2020. This past year, our efforts focused on improving kindergarten readiness, third grade reading levels, and school attendance. Participation in the Neighborhood Partnership has enabled the City’s Recreation Division to create programs and train City staff in order to expand services to families living in South and West Berkeley, where low socio-economic levels and low standardized test scores are prevalent.

**Services Provided:** “Pre-K Power Play” uses a version of the Scaffolding Early Learning curriculum (based on the Tools of the Mind approach) to foster kindergarten readiness by helping children ages 3-5 years acquire literacy and self-regulation skills.<sup>1</sup> Role-playing in theme-based stations helps children develop these skills, along with skills in problem-solving, self-expression, negotiation, empathy, and listening. Parents participate in the program by sharing their theme related experiences and talents. “Wee Play Together” facilitates drop-in playgroups for children ages 1-5 years and their parents/caregivers. As families form a community, staff encourages parents/caregivers and children to bond, play, and learn together. Parenting workshops are offered several times per year. They offer a way for parents to network with each other and learn about topics such as nutrition, child development, and community resources.

**Numbers Served (FY 2011-12):** 15 parenting classes for 29 parents/caregivers; 180 classes for 54 children; 96 parent-child playgroups for 366 children and 320 parents/caregivers.

**Results (Spring 2011):** Parent comments on Home Activity Surveys provide evidence that parents are making changes in their own behavior (e.g., spending more time playing with their children, focusing more on literacy activities) and are noticing, and supporting, positive changes in their children that are related to the goals of the program, such as more planning, decision-making, awareness of the world around them, and stronger communication skills. City of Berkeley Recreation programs

<sup>1</sup> According to ASR’s 2011 School Readiness Study in Alameda County, the skills in which students in the study had the greatest needs as they entered kindergarten were self-regulation skills.

serving tots and preschoolers have more than doubled during the past 2.5 years of grant funding.

“We love having our daughter go to Pre-K Power Play. She comes home with lots of ideas and new things to talk about... We definitely try to do more of what she does in the program at home (reading, singing, arts/crafts, etc.).”

(Parent quote)

“My son changed from a shy, crying dependent toddler to a miniature college bound, independent student. During the short span of 2.5 hours a day, 3 day[s] a week program, my son learned [so much].... [He became] motivated to participate in every detail of our day... [In class, he explored] the role playing at the various play stations...such as the cashier register, the farmers market, the restaurant and the kitchen, and [began to] transfer it to the real world.... The kids are so inspired...that they carry their experiences from class to the playground...[to] home.” (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.)
\$64,502	\$12,942	\$64,445	N/A	\$141,889

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

Number of program staff: 11 (3 FTE)

### Going Forward: Sustainability Plan

**Staff Professional Development:** Train a core group of career staff in child development, family-centered care, and “Scaffolding Early Learning” curriculum who will participate in team-building and cross-training in order to lead a variety of programs for children ages 0-5 years in the City of Berkeley.

**Revenue Development:** Use Recreation Division funds to offer programs for children ages 0-5 years with a range of fees to find a balance of programs from subsidized to self-supporting. Seek additional funding to continue/expand grant-funded services. Make every effort to retain grant-funded positions through general fund and/or self-sustaining fund allocations. The Recreation Division will host Open Houses and present information to City Council, Commissions, and the community to inform them of the impact of these programs and their continued need for support.

**Service Collaboration:** Continue as an integral part of the City of Berkeley’s 2020 Vision to eliminate the achievement gap. Compile and analyze program evaluation data in collaboration with Youth Services staff.

### Opportunities for Partnership & Involvement:

We welcome opportunities for

- Staff professional development
- Community agency collaboration
- Monetary or in-kind contributions to support our programs

### Contact:

Denise Brown, Acting Recreation & Youth Services Manager, City of Berkeley, Recreation Division

[DBrown@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:DBrown@CityofBerkeley.info)

(510) 981-6707

