

February 21, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:


Abriendo Puertas has been a critical strategy in our comprehensive support for families with young children in Santa Clara County. Abriendo Puertas is an evidence-based series of curriculum and activities that are carefully designed to engage parents and sustain their support for their children's growth and development. In addition, parents participating in Abriendo Puertas gain skills and knowledge about their roles and responsibilities in school and the critical part they play in the success of their children in life.

Abriendo Puertas has also served as an important professional development effort that is multidisciplinary approaches with the staff of family resource centers that include such organizations as Catholic Charities, Health Trust, Somos Mayfair, and Mexican American Community Services. These are only a few examples of the organizations that have participated in the development of skills and knowledge to better serve Latino communities specifically, and developing culturally appropriate activities for Vietnamese and Chinese populations. Beyond our county boundaries, we have engaged individuals representing First 5 organizations, family resource centers, county offices of education, Head Start programs and ethnic based agencies.

We value the opportunity to participate in this important program to ensure that what children gain in preschool is sustained over time, and as children move to elementary school these gains are supported and serve as a foundation. Abriendo Puertas reinforces parents' confidence to play in this essential role. There is no other program that positively engages parents using their own cultural and linguistic strengths to reinforce the importance of their role in their children's development. We have surveyed parents and community workers on the importance of their use of the activities and we are unequivocally convinced of the value of Abriendo Puertas.

I am proud and ready to provide any other information about Abriendo Puertas. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or have a need to discuss our use of and experience with this program.

Respectfully,



Yolanda Garcia, Ed.D.  
Director