

Playgroups and Resource & Referral (R&R) in California

An evaluation by Engage R&D found the following...

After attending the playgroups:

- 96% FFN caregivers felt more supported as a parent or caregiver in their community
- 100% FFN caregivers described more things they do and see to the child in their care
- 96% FFN caregivers increased their understanding of the importance of having a nurturing relationship with their child in care and in the role they have in helping the child in care to be ready for kindergarten

Parents described noticing improvements in their child's:

- social interactions with other children
- fine motor skills
- verbalizing through talking and singing
- learning to share toys

Why R&Rs?

- R&R's existing connections with caregivers helped to recruit participants for the playgroups.
- Program was successful because of the trusting relationship between family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers and the knowledgeable facilitators (R&R staff).
- Facilitators provided links to the community for (FFN) caregivers, who are not part of a formal system of care.
- Caregivers who consistently attend playgroups felt more comfortable talking to other caregivers and facilitators about issues and needs.

In 2015-18, the following R&R agencies successfully piloted the Kaleidoscope Play & Learn curriculum, hosting playgroups open to family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers and parents, along with the children in their care:

BANANAS (Alameda County)

Family Resource & Referral Center of San Joaquin County

Central Valley Children's Services Network (Fresno County)

Child Care Resource Center (Los Angeles and San Bernardino County)

Connections for Children (Los Angeles County)

Marin Child Care Council

Merced County Office of Education

Placer County Office of Education

San Mateo 4Cs

Santa Clara 4Cs

Children's Council San Francisco



Quotes

"My child has gained more confidence and has become more comfortable around other children since coming to play group."

- Parent

"We give activities to [caregivers] that they can do daily with the children that don't involve buying anything. They are things they can do at home like sorting socks, tummy time, just talking to your child, and making silly faces. It gives their child daily interactions to make early developmental brain connections."

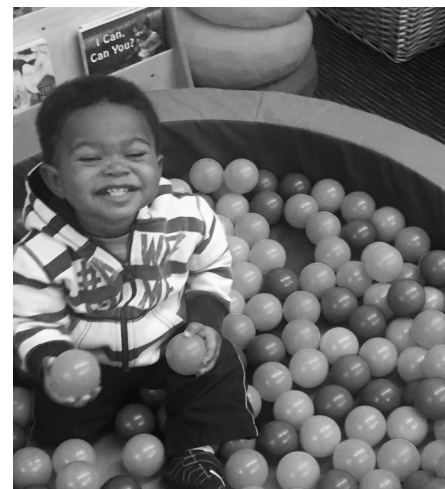
- Playgroup Facilitator

"A child has been seeing a specialist for speech and development. Through the Baby Sign days [of Play & Learn] the caregiver started implementing sign and his speech started emerging. Now the child doesn't see a specialist and now develops and he is supposed to be."

- Playgroup Facilitator

"Without a doubt, his socialization skills have improved tremendously. I remember when we first started to bring my 2 year old child to the play groups, his behavior would be unpredictable because he had a hard time sharing as a result, he wanted to hit other children. He now shares and plays more with other children which is good."

- Parent



For more information, visit <https://rrnetwork.org/publications/kaleidoscope-play-learn-evaluation>