



Kaleidoscope Play & Learn in California!

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn is an Evidence-Informed, Promising Practice supporting Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers and Parents, through weekly facilitated play groups for young children 0-5 and their caregivers.

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn groups help families prepare their young children (birth to age 5) for success in school and life.

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) reaches families in their neighborhoods and in their home languages at weekly, facilitated play groups. The program is based on scientific evidence and widely recognized and accepted theories and best practices in the fields of child development; early learning; parent education; Family, Friend and Neighbor care; community development; and cultural competence. It was designated as a Promising Practice by the University of Washington's Evidence-Based Practice Institute in 2013.

At a KPL group, children have fun participating in activities and being around their peers. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings and other family members – often referred to as family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers – learn about:

- Activities they can do at home to support children's learning
- Turning everyday activities such as grocery shopping, cooking and bath time into early learning opportunities
- Child development from birth to five
- Skills children are expected to have by kindergarten
- Community programs and services available to help them raise healthy children

Significant, Positive Outcomes

Child Care Resources conducts ongoing evaluation, measuring the outcomes caregivers experience as a result of participating in Kaleidoscope Play & Learn. Highlights from their 2016 evaluation include:

- 80% of caregivers reported positive increases in each of the 14 outcome indicators.
- 90% feel more supported as a parent or caregiver in their community
- 86% talk more with their child about numbers, shapes and sizes.

The Network, Child Care Resources, and California R&Rs

The Network, in partnership with Child Care Resources, in Washington, enters its second year piloting Kaleidoscope Play and Learn in California through weekly play groups, coordinated and supported by local R&Rs who work with FFN caregivers and parents.

R&Rs who implement the program complete a 2 day facilitator training; participate in quarterly webinars, and join monthly community calls to discuss effective outreach strategies, playgroup activities, resources, and funding opportunities. The Network also provides site visits, ongoing training, and individual technical assistance through meetings and phone calls.

Agencies also participate in an annual quality assurance evaluation coordinated with the Network and Child Care Resources.

California 2017 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn sites include:

- Alameda: BANANAS
- Los Angeles: Child Care Resource Center, Connections for Children
- Fresno: Central Valley Children's Services Network
- Merced: Merced County Office of Education
- San Bernardino: Child Care Resource Center
- San Francisco: Children's Council of San Francisco
- Santa Clara: 4Cs of Santa Clara
- Victorville: Child Care Resource Center

For a short introduction video about Kaleidoscope Play & Learn, check out the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwakbyXknbUor>
contact Tracy Tompkins, the Informal Care Training Manager at (415) 494-4648 or ttompkins@rnetwork.org.