



Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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Organizational Profile

The Educational Services Division of Catholic Charities oversees a number of programs that benefit both children and parents. **Raising a Reader** is a structured book bag lending program that motivates children aged 0-5 years and their parents to share books together, thus increasing their family bonding, improving literacy skills and making reading a part of their life. With strong reading skills, the children are ready for kindergarten, do better in school and become more successful as adults, allowing them to participate more fully in the life of the community and to break the cycle of poverty in their families.

CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) is a program of the Educational Services providing after school academic intervention and enrichment for underserved students (1st through 8th grade) in high-poverty communities. Program participants receive 60-90 minutes of balanced literacy daily. This targeted intervention enables students and teachers to work on specific learning areas, allowing the child to establish or strengthen basic literacy skills that are critical for future success. The average class ratio is one teacher for twenty students. For the second portion of the CORAL day, each child participates in approximately 60-90 minutes of project-based learning activities. All project-based activities are aligned to California State Standards. This enrichment curriculum exposes students to disciplines they would not normally receive during school and engages them in multiple learning/teaching styles.

Parenting Workshops are part of the First 5 Program housed in the Educational Services Division of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. The First 5 Program provides family-based services for parents with children under five years old living in the West and North East regions of Santa Clara County. These supportive services promote the healthy development of young children and enrich the lives of their families and communities.

SCU Student's Role

In the **Raising a Reader Program**, SCU students will be working with a small group of Spanish-speaking parents and their preschoolers (10-20 persons), reading stories with them and providing interactive early literacy activities with songs, rhymes and word games. Students will also assist with weekly book rotation activities. SCU tutors must have ability to communicate in Spanish, at least at intermediate level.

In the **CORAL Program**, SCU students will be working in the classroom with groups of students, reading stories with them and providing interactive literacy activities such as guided writing and word games. SCU students will also assist with art and sports activities. SCU students with bilingual skills are always welcome.

In support of **Parent workshops**, SCU students will be working in the childcare classroom with groups of preschoolers at learning centers, providing interactive activities such as songs, story sharing, plus other appropriate table-based activities. SCU students will also assist with related gross motor activities. SCU students in this program must be able to communicate in Spanish.

To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.
- Provide Arrupe Partnerships with proof of a negative intradermal TB test within the last year. If your TB test is not current, please go to the Cowell Health Center immediately to get a TB test at no cost.
- Get Livescan fingerprint clearance. See instructions on pink sheet. Students must be fingerprinted before beginning their placement.