



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 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.

Family Literacy – Lee y Serás Workshops. Lee y Serás (Read and You Will Be) is a literacy program designed to empower and support Latino parents and other important family members as their children's first and most important teachers and role models. Emphasizing the importance of reading skills and literacy. Lee y Serás shows parents that a child's primary language and culture are the foundations for literacy. Interactive instruction helps Latino families to develop resources and tools to create literacy-rich environments for their children. Activities are designed with a strength-based approach that acknowledge, highlight, and value the rich, literacy-based practices intrinsic in Latino culture.

Located in its own portable on the Luther Burbank School campus, our **First 5 Family Resource Center** assists families with children under the age of 6. Our center provides access to community resources, plus family related services, other specialized programming and interactive activities all focused on the healthy development of children under 6, helping to ensure that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

First 5 Parenting Education Classes are part of the First 5 Program housed in the Educational Services Division at Catholic Charities. The First 5 Program provides family-based services for parents with children under six years old living in the West and North East regions of Santa Clara County. Our parenting classes help families develop a stronger, healthier relationship with their children. Through a series of workshops, we provide parents with training in how to communicate effectively with their children and support their children's mental, emotional and physical growth. Parents are an important influence in their children's lives. We believe that by helping strengthen parents' skills, we can help children have a smooth, positive transition to adulthood. Classes are offered in Spanish and English.

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.

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 per program), 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 the intermediate level.

In the **Family Literacy – Lee y Serás Workshops**, SCU students will be working with small groups of Spanish-speaking parents, interacting with them on their family-related classroom literacy projects. Students are encouraged to participate in active classroom discussions.

In the **First 5 Family Resource Center**, SCU students will assist individual families and small groups of parents to locate resources and will interact with participants during guided programming activities such as read aloud, arts and crafts, and creative play.

In the **First 5 Parenting Education Classes**, SCU students will work with young children under the age of 6 who accompany their parents to class. They will assist with all aspects of our childcare activities such as interacting with children during free play, assisting with guided group activities, conducting read aloud sessions, and helping with snack and bathroom breaks.

In the **CORAL Program**, SCU students will be working in the classroom with 2 groups of students for an hour each, providing these groups with an arts and craft activity and/or a sports/team game activity. We help SCU students to design and to pre-plan their activities. SCU students with bilingual skills are always welcome.

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.