

Message From Founder

2007 Newsletter

Last month Little Sprouts shared the great privilege of presenting at the National Early Reading First conference in San Francisco. Meghan Crowe, our Executive Director of Literacy and myself presented on Exceptional Literacy Rich Environments. It is fascinating to be among the best in the nation in the early education and literacy field. Pat McGee, from the US Department of Education shared that we are an Elite and influential group. There are over 150,000 early education programs in the country and of these, only 157 are Early Reading First Centers of Educational Excellence. We are part of the only institution in America given the responsibility to grow children, not only academically, but as citizens of the human race.

Early Reading First centers have the great responsibility from the early educational community to prove that high-quality preschools using scientifically research-based reading instruction really can prevent reading difficulties. Given this directive however, we can not take emphasis off the importance of play and social emotional skills. However, a curriculum with literacy focus and strong social emotional methodology will influence generational poverty, juvenile delinquency, economic development opportunities, and high school drop out rates.

The University of San Diego recently published research citing that college students are failing due to low literacy skills. Students are entering college without the foundational skills to understand what they are studying. They, won't try because they think they can't get it right and these are our future leaders. So when you hear teachers at Little Sprouts emphasizing phonological and phonemic awareness, alphabet knowledge, and reading out loud to children, know they are investing in your family's college fund. Our goal is to create thinkers, not only in our children but in our adults as well. Just the act of making teachers conscious of the amount of language and new words they use dramatically changes children's outcomes on their assessments. Asking simple questions and getting answers does not build expressive and receptive language, conversations do. Creating thinkers in our adults through professional development directly influences your child's skills. Currently Little Sprouts provides over 500 hours of professional development for our teachers. Seventy-three percent of our teachers are enrolled in college courses. This showcases our commitment to the investment in our human capitol, our teachers, and our children.

We thank you, our families, for choosing to invest in the best academic and social/emotional experience for your child. They are the future leaders. They are the thinkers of tomorrow.

