First 5 LA to Launch Groundbreaking Preschool Child Outcomes Study

First 5 LA is launching a major groundbreaking preschool outcomes study that is expected to inform policy-making nationally on early education for English language learners.

The two-year study is beginning this spring with an examination of the feasibility, reliability, and validity of child development and classroom quality measures in the large, culturally and linguistically diverse population served by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)-funded programs.

Approximately 30 LAUP-funded centers will participate in the first phase of the study, providing a sample of 400 children, parents, and teachers. These findings will be used to inform the design and implementation of the second phase of the study, to be conducted from fall 2007 through spring 2008.

Phase II, involving 2,400 4-year-olds, will answer questions about the quality, intensity, and overall implementation of LAUP programs and how these factors relate to developmental outcomes of children by the end of their preschool experience.

Information from this two-year study may also inform the design of a larger, more comprehensive evaluation of LAUP programs later.

Leading the study will be John Love, Ph.D., a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., a New Jersey-based independent organization, regarded as one of the nation's top early childhood policy research firms.

Mathematica’s partners in this research include Juárez & Associates of Los Angeles, American Institutes for Research in Palo Alto, and the Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment Research Center at UC Berkeley.

The study also builds upon the work of the First 5 LA Universal Preschool Research Advisory Committee, a group of research experts representing varied depth and breadth of local and national early childhood research and related expertise.

In 2004, First 5 LA created LAUP as an independent public benefit corporation by committing $600 million to support preschool for 4-year-olds in Los Angeles County.

For information, contact First 5 LA’s Katie Fallin at (213) 482-9489 or kfallin@first5la.org.
March 31, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.: Tools for the Journey: Teaching Reading to Children with Down Syndrome at Fuller Theological Seminary, 135 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena 91102. Registration before March 15 is $100 single and $150 per couple. Visit www.toolsforthejourney.homestead.com


April 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Family Fun Fair for Month of the Young Child at Westside Children's Center, 12120 Wagner St., Culver City 90230. Call Jenny Marshall at (310) 846-4100 x6120.

April 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: South Los Angeles Children's Health Fair, organized by Immunize LA Kids, the South LA Health Projects WIC Nutrition Program, and Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry at the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, 4269 S. Figueroa St., LA 90037. Call Irene Health at (323) 757-7244.

April 14 & 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Peaceful Touch®, a Healthy Touch Curriculum for Children: Two-Day Workshop for teachers, health professionals, and parents at The Heart Touch Project, 3400 Airport Ave. #42, Santa Monica 90405. Registration is $200. Call (310) 391-2558 or visit www.peacefultouch.net.

April 18, 1-3 p.m.: Infant Mental Health: Addressing Families’ Needs panel discussion presented by First 5 LA Fellowship Program at First 5 LA, 750 N. Alameda St., LA 90012. Free and includes lunch. RSVP by April 13 by contacting marcelishannon@mednet.ucla.edu.

April 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Community Resource Fair, Celebrating 15 years of the Latino Family Preservation Program, sponsored by the LA County Department of Children and Family Services at Our Lady of Soledad Church, 4561 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., LA 90022. Call (323) 881-1437.

April 21, noon-4 p.m.: 7th Annual Raising Readers: A Literacy Festival sponsored by Connections for Children at Santa Monica Clock Tower Quad, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405. Call Catherine Griffin (310) 452-3325 ext. 237.

April 21, 9 a.m.-noon: Building Better Futures for Our Children Conference for Teachers sponsored by Cerritos College Child Development Department, Club Center at Cerritos College Health and Sciences Building-HS 102, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk 90650.

April 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Gardening and

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**Former Undocumented Immigrant Named Among Top Literacy Teachers**

**Rosa Hernandez**

Rosa Hernandez, who was once an undocumented immigrant, remembers when a high school counselor told her to forget about college because she didn’t have the papers needed for admission.

In fact, Hernandez did gain admission to college, and has become such a successful educator that she was recently named among the top five family literacy teachers in the United States by the National Center for Family Literacy.

The Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award is given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals.

After obtaining legal U.S. residency, Hernandez became a parent volunteer and an instructional aide with the Long Beach Family Literacy Program.

She became a Head Start teacher there nine years ago, and also teaches low-income, immigrant parents in a First 5 LA-funded program that also offers computer, parenting and English as a second language classes.

"Getting involved in the family literacy program as a parent gave me the push I needed to make things happen in my life," said Hernandez, who will earn a BA in early childhood education next year from Union University in Compton.

For information, call Long Beach Family Literacy Program at (562) 595-8893 x264.

**La Puente Mother to Share Her Inspiring Story at Parent Conference in Carson**

**Maria De La Torre**

Maria De La Torre came to the United States from Mexico eight years ago unable to speak English, with few marketable skills, and a family to care for.

Today, thanks to the Rowland Unified School District’s family literacy program, she’s proficient in English, holds a high school diploma, and serves as the PTA president at Northam Elementary School in Rowland Heights.

She is also the parent member of the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) board of directors, which sets policy for the programs funded by First 5 LA’s $600 million commitment to universal preschool in Los Angeles County.

De La Torre will share her story this weekend at the third annual Family Literacy and Health Parent Conference, “Building Successful Futures,” at the Carson Community Center.

The event is sponsored by Family Literacy Support Network at LA County Office of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District Early Childhood Education Division, Hawthorne School District Family Literacy and Parent Involvement Programs, Hawthorne School District Nutrition Network and First 5 LA.

Registration is $30 per person or $250 for groups of 10 or more.

For more information, click here.

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Health/Nutrition Day for Month of the Young Child at Westside Children's Center, 12120 Wagner St., Culver City 90230. Call Jenny Marshall at (310) 846-4100 x6120.

April 27, 4:30-6 p.m.: Children's Hands on Health Fair at Cerritos College Health and Sciences Building - HS 102, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk 90650.

April 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.: "The Science of Sake" - sake and food tasting benefit for Little Tokyo Service Center at the California Science Center Exposition Park, 700 State Dr., LA 90037. $40 pre-sale, $45 at the door, $75 VIP pre-sale only. Call (213) 473-1608 or visit www.ltsc.org.

May 5, 9-11:50 a.m.: Children's Nature Institute's Wonder Mobile visits the Early Education Center in Canoga Park. Explore the world of animals and insects. Contact "The Village" Ready for School Center at (818) 716-1376 or thevillagerfs@lausd.net.

May 19, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: 4th Annual Community Resource Fair, at Rowen Avenue Elementary School 600 S. Rowen Ave., Los Angeles 90023. Call Mari Flores (323) 261-7191.

GRANTEE PROFILE
Senior Citizen Volunteers Tutor Parents Learning English

Marilyn Hazan, a retired first-grade teacher, tutors immigrant parents weekly in English. But she says she's learned many more lessons than she's taught.

At "The Village" Ready for School program in Canoga Park, a First 5 LA grantee, senior citizens like Hazan work one-on-one with adults on English as a second language and parenting skills while the children attend early learning classes next door.

"I learn from my students what it's like to come to a different country and work to have a better life," said Hazan, who taught at Dearborn Elementary School in Northridge for 33 years. "They've faced great odds and had hard lives, but they're prevailing."

Lorna Milman, program director, noted that parents can attend tutoring with their baby in their arms, or begin the process of separation by utilizing the child care services onsite.

For information, call (818) 716-1376.

Baby Futures Summit Sponsors

Last week's Monday Morning Report failed to list all sponsors of the historic Baby Futures Summit, held earlier this month at the California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities in downtown LA.

Sponsors were the Atlas Family Foundation, the Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation, The California Endowment, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, ZERO TO THREE, and First 5 LA.