

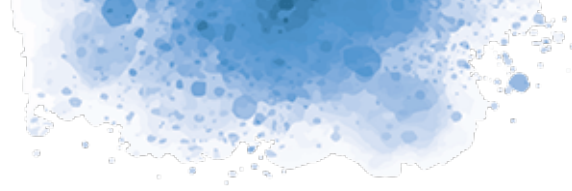
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Joyful Learning. Kinder World.



FROG STREET STORIES

Merced County Office of Education Head Start



SUCCESS STORY

The Background

Merced County Office of Education is an educational leader in the central valley of California and a trusted community partner. The Merced COE has transformed education and inspired students' personal, social, and academic achievement through collaborative partnerships, accountable leadership, and innovative, high-quality programs and services.

Merced County Head Start staff members have expertise in early childhood development, social services, health, parent education, nutrition, and other diverse disciplines. In partnership with parents and the community, these staff members facilitate school readiness for children and empower parents. Merced educators are leaders in child and family development and support the community by delivering the highest quality, comprehensive, seamless services based on community needs. Each year more than 1,157 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are enrolled in one of four service options: part-day preschool (3.5 hours), school-day preschool (6.5 hours), full-day programs (10 hours), and/or family childcare and home-based services and in partnerships with childcare centers. Up to ten enrollment spaces are available to pregnant women.

The Merced County Head Start program provides the highest level of service to children and families. We have created a dynamic and cohesive environment that fosters commitment and supports continuous improvement. Merced County Head Start has created a culturally sensitive environment that enhances awareness, refines skills, and enhances understanding for children, parents, and staff.



The Challenge

In 2016, the Merced County Head Start program transitioned to using Frog Street Pre-K 2013. As we learned the curriculum and increased our curriculum fidelity, we saw a positive impact on the child outcomes. Our Head Start children were advancing in all developmental levels and excelling with school readiness. In 2019 we saw an increase in the number of three-year-old children enrolled in our classroom. As we assessed our data, we saw a need to focus on adaptations and individualization for the mixed-age groups in our classroom. As a program, we identified that the three year old children were progressing at a lower rate than the four-year-old children. Our program needed a change to support the younger learners, mixed-age groups, and teachers.



CLIENT PROFILE

MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION HEAD START

LOCATION

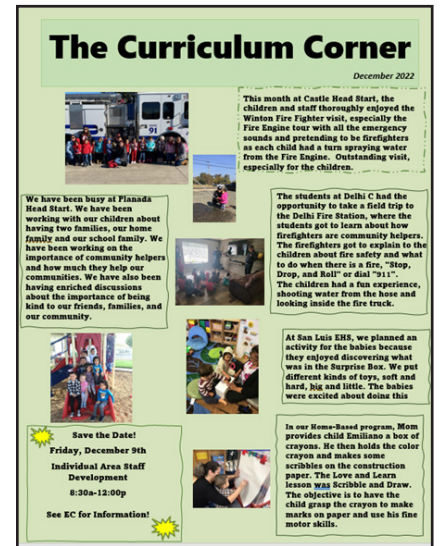
1840 Wardrobe Ave.
Merced, CA 69310



The Solution

Our education team went to the planning table to identify what changes would impact our child's outcomes the most. The team identified that we needed an evidence-based curriculum that started in our Early Head Start program and would transition into our Head Start program. This was the perfect opportunity for our program to purchase a new curriculum. In July 2019, we purchased Frog Street Love & Learn for our Early Head Start home-based programs. The following year in July of 2021, we purchased Frog Street Infant, Toddler, and Threes curricula for our Early Head Start program. The final step was to upgrade our Head Start curriculum to support the increased number of three-year-old children enrolled in our program. In July 2022, we transitioned our Head Start classroom to the Frog Street 2020 Dual Language curriculum.

Our program also placed emphasis on professional staff development to support the transition of a new curriculum. It is essential that staff are supported, empowered, and encouraged to embrace the transition. Staff are surveyed on what areas they need support, and large and small group training are developed based on the teacher's needs. Our Curriculum Corner newsletter is published monthly to share the teacher's successes with the curriculum and to spotlight the great work happening in our classrooms.

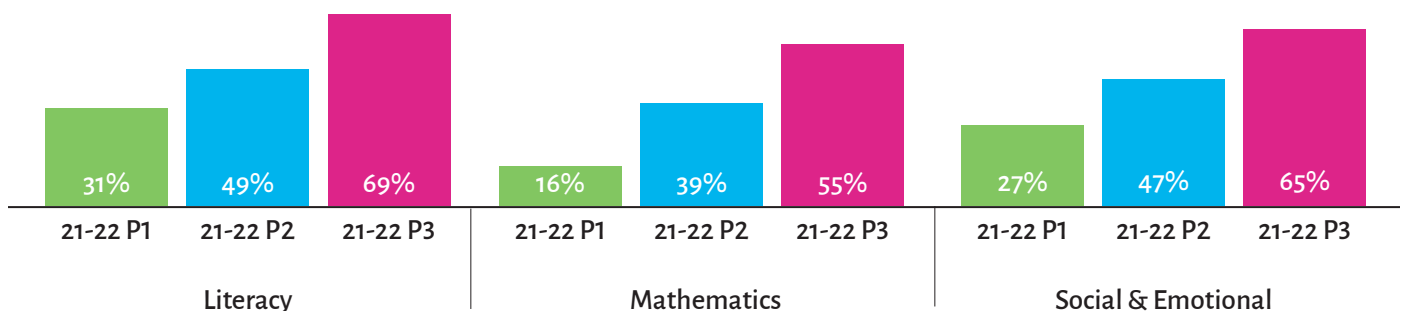


“OUR PROGRAM TAKES PRIDE IN GETTING CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN. HEAD START HAS 1,157 STUDENTS FROM 0 TO 5 YEARS OF AGE, AND A SITE IN NEARLY EVERY COMMUNITY ACROSS MERCED COUNTY. AS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE IMPACT THAT WE HAVE ON OUR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY.” -MERCED COUNTY HEAD START EDUCATOR

The Impact

Key Observations:

- P3 (Spring), in all three domains, 55-69% were at or above age expectations.
- In Spring, relative to the benchmarks, the area of Mathematics was the lowest domain.
- Relative to benchmarks, the area of Mathematics experienced the highest growth (Fall below benchmark and Spring near top benchmark)



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