

## Reading Roads

*“Reading Roads is an amazing program. It was a moving experience to see how the activities empowered the parents. The knowledge gained by the families was invaluable! Reading Roads will close the achievement gap, one family at a time!”* – **Andrea Joseph, CA Children’s Academy**

*“My favorite part is that it helps us as parents and guides us in supporting the literacy of our children in developing it and talking about stories that relate to real events, family and culture.”* – **Parent Comment**

*“I learned a constructive approach – be open, use what the parents know/experience to base the classes... This is very doable.”* – **Trainee Evaluation Comment**

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## Read With Me

*“Read With Me has been really successful at our preschool center. We can see that families are spending more quality time together through the homework being submitted. Our children are very excited; they are always anxious to see what books they will be receiving each week!”* – **Site Supervisor, Child Development Center**

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## Steps To Success

*“It’s parent friendly and easy to implement!”* – **Facilitator Comment**

*“Great way to deliver information in a non-threatening manner.”* – **Facilitator Comment**

*“I enjoyed the program. I took a lot of information I did not know before.”* – **Facilitator Comment**

*“El programa Pasos al Éxito me dio mucha información sobre las calificaciones de mis hijas. Ahora puedo ver si van bien en las artes o si necesitan ayuda escribiendo. Antes no me importaba mucho, pero era porque no tenía la información. Con estos programas (de Families In Schools) yo también estoy aprendiendo, y estoy más informada, e involucrada en el aprendizaje de mis hijos.”* – **Carolina Garcia, Parent Testimony**

*“The Steps to Success Program gave me a lot of information about my daughters’ progress. Now, I can know if they did well in the arts or if they need help with their writing. Before, I did not care much, but that’s because I did not have the information. With these (Families In Schools) programs I am also learning, I am more informed, and I am involved in my children’s learning.”* – **Carolina Garcia, Parent Testimony**

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## College Knowledge Academy

At the end of the College and Money Smarts Academy (CMSA) Culmination session at Virgil Middle School one of the parents asked if she could share her thoughts on the workshop series with the group. Maria Margarita Flores, the mother of Brayam Corral, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, wanted to express her gratitude to Families In Schools and GEAR UP 4 LA for providing the workshop sessions. Maria said that this had been the first opportunity she had to learn about what it would take for her son to get into college and how they would pay for it. She got teary eyed and admitted to the group that before the experience of the past 5 weeks, she honestly did not think that her son would be able to go to college, and that now she believed he would and she knew how to help him get there. It was a very powerful statement and it prompted other parents to follow her lead and express their similar feelings about the program. – *As told to Rachel Gonzalez, Program Specialist*

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## School & Family Partnerships (Tailored Programming)

*“Families In Schools and the GEAR UP 4 LA program have a long time partnership, and as an agency FIS has been very cooperative and willing to evolve with the families and students that we reach. We rely on Families In Schools to get information for families, and get the families hooked and excited about the information that they receive. Therefore, the children and the parent’s outlook on education is completely restructured; they see the value and not just in a monetary outlook, but they see how an education can help them grow personally, realize their dreams, and a potential for greater happiness. I like to tell the story about a single mother, with three children one in high school, one in middle school, one in elementary who after completing the workshop decided to go back to school and get a degree. Not only did this mother decide to go back to school, but she has become an avid participant in our programs. Parents in our programs with FIS get the information, and feel empowered to talk to other parents, stakeholders including their children’s teachers and counselors. Families In Schools helps us build quality relationships with parents and families. It’s through strong connections that parents are effective in advocating, and become stronger role models for their children.”* – *Yolia Aguirre-Goar, Director, LAUSD Project STEPS*

*“The Families in Schools staff were a pleasure to work with and did a great job of accommodating our needs with short notice. The training provided was relevant, informative, and practical, with tools that we can readily implement so that we can quickly take steps to strengthening our programs through the parent involvement. Not only that, but we were provided with a wealth of great resources to help us in our next steps to ensure that we’re doing all we can to improve how we interact with parents. I really feel like this training was a great first step to help us on our way to really set our programs apart through strong parent engagement.”* - *Ernie Yoshikawa, Youth Services Coordinator, Youth Services Unit*