



Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality

Aprendiendo Avanzamos (Learning Together We Advance) Parent-Led Preschool

What does the Coalition for Equality do?

SKCE works to close the achievement and opportunity gap faced by low-income minority students in Oregon. We represent these children in local and statewide decision-making in education and government. We organize and train low-income, Spanish-speaking parents to become involved in their children's education. We value the culture and knowledge of parents and families of color and non-English speaking immigrants. We embrace parents as the first teachers and best advocates for their children.

What does *Aprendiendo Avanzamos* do?

- Brings cognitive, social, emotional and language development for children together with skill-building for parents.
- Educates parents how to teach reading and develop literacy skills with their 3-5 year olds.
- Helps parents learn and practice the skills to continue the pre-school experience at home, one-on-one with their child.
- Builds parenting skills, using the evidence-based curricula of *Abriendo Puertas* (Opening Doors) and *Haga de la Paternidad un Placer* (Making Parenting a Pleasure), taught by professionally trained parents who were former participants.

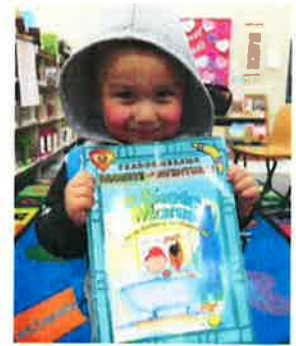


How does it Work?

- The program runs 2.5 hours, twice a week in 10 week sessions for a total of 50 hours of instruction.
- Children attend preschool part of the time and work with their parents on literacy and developmental activities the rest of the time.
- Parents attend one parenting class and one language development class each week.
- Parents are given materials to work at home with their children.
- A weekly home visit or phone contact supports progress and helps connect families with resources.

How does this Align with Education Reform?

Oregon's landmark higher education goal, 40-40-20 states that by 2025 all adult Oregonians will hold a high school diploma or equivalent, 40% will have an associate's degree or a meaningful postsecondary certificate, and 40% will hold a Bachelor's or advanced degree. This comes at a time when Oregon faces an unprecedented shift in demographics.



As of September 2014, 44% of the kindergartners enrolled in Salem/Keizer School District were Latinos. SKSD is the second largest district in the state, and most Latino students have Spanish as their first language and are born into low-income households.

What are the Goals?

- To ensure participants enter school ready to learn.
- To increase the parenting knowledge and skills of Spanish-speaking parents of preschoolers.
- To help close the achievement gap between low-income students who are learning English and their English-as-first-language, middle-class peers.

What does the Research Say?

Child development activities build on the essential domains of school readiness, the areas of learning identified by the National Education Goals Panel, and implement many of the components of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. Parents learn and practice the skills to continue the pre-school experience at home, one-on-one with their child.



For more information, visit www.skcequality.org
Call: 503-363-8130 Email: apalazzo@skcequality.org