

**CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)**

**Final Program Narrative Report
(LSTA Form 9)**

Grant Information

Library Jurisdiction	Santa Fe Springs City Library
Project Title	Little Learners @ the Library
Grant Award #	40-8293
Grant Period	2013/2014
Amount of Grant Award	\$14,000
Amount of Grant Expended	\$14,000
Local Match	\$0
In-Kind	\$6,900
Total Amount of Project (amount expended + match + in-kind)	\$20,900
Number of Persons Served (should not include total population of service area or potential population to be reached)	150

Project Director

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This report is due on the date listed in the LSTA Grant Guide for this project. Follow this link to view the Grant Guide. <http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/lsta/manage.html>

Email this report in "word format" to lsta@library.ca.gov then mail ORIGINAL and 2 copies to:

California State Library
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001
Attention: Fiscal Office - LSTA

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____
(Please sign in blue ink)

Project Final Report

A final narrative report is required on the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds following the completion of a project during each project year. The information you report will be used to complete the California State Library report of how funds were expended. Excerpts from this report may be submitted to the Federal government in their evaluation, or may be published by the State Library or shared with other institutions. Please answer all of the questions thoroughly. Please attach any reproduction copies of photographs of project activities or media produced for the project.

Project Purpose

Include your program purpose statement here

Little Learners @the Library is a program to supplement preschool and home learning with science, social science, and early literacy programs. The program was designed for 4-5 year-old children who would be entering Kindergarten in September 2014. It was anticipated that the program would help prepare children for Kindergarten experiences and assist parents in helping their children with early literacy and science explorations. In addition, the program would fill a need for parents who need better strategies and ideas to assist their young learners in language and literacy.

Project Activities and Methods

How did you accomplish the project? What were the steps involved? How did you engage the target audience?

We did all the planning and purchasing in August 2013. We worked on our curriculum with the City's Child Development Services staff to ensure a successful program. Backpacks, storytime kit materials, library materials, and craft materials were all purchased in August and September 2013. We also created our webpage, promotional materials, parent surveys, and parent information in August 2013. In addition, we held our first Science Saturday and CultureKids programs in August 2013. In September, we held our first Little Learners Book Group in addition to our science and social science programs. In subsequent months, we held these three programs on Saturdays. (For example, September featured a Science program on the first Saturday, the Book Group on the Second Saturday, and the social science program on the third Saturday.) In March, we added additional parent information to the Little Learners website. In May and June, we gained information from our parents from surveys. Anecdotal information was gathered throughout the program timeframe.

Project Outputs

What was created for the project and how much? (For instance three promotional brochures were created and 75 copies distributed; or three training classes were designed; two sessions of each were held, and 80 people were trained)

The outputs for this grant were measured by the following:

- 40 children were registered in the program
- an average number of 22 children and 24 parents attended various events
- participants borrowed, on average, 8 additional books per child per event

Project Outcomes (if applicable)

Please state the outcomes and the results of your evaluation.

Since many children in the area do not have access (including ability to pay) to quality child care, the science, social science, and early literacy programs had a positive impact on childrens' learning and readiness for school. We are depending on our own observance of the children and what they do and say and also on the parents' anecdotal information. So many times, parents offered us information regarding their children's learning, not only of the subject matter, but of the social aspects, as well.

We gathered information from parents as to the following:

- the number of children more curious about science or their everyday world
- the number of children who express interest in different cultures
- the number of adults/parents who have an increased awareness of literacy and use literacy enriching experiences within the home

We conducted parental pre and post surveys, compiled staff observations, and elicited parental anecdotes

We found the following outcomes by June 30, 2014:

- 100% of children who participated became more curious about science or their everyday world
- 76% of children expressed an interest about different cultures
- 100% of parents expressed an increased awareness of literacy and use literacy enriching experiences within the home

Additional Project Outcomes

Please state any additional intended or unintended outcomes and what data sources you used.

An unintended outcome of the project was that many parents told me that they felt the socialization with other children in a learning/library environment was helpful to their child's emotional and social growth.

Anecdotal Information

Tell us a story. Give two or more examples of how the project has helped an individual or group in your community.

The best information we received in this regard was from parents. Many parents would voluntarily tell us about things their child was doing. Just a few anecdotal remarks captured on our parent surveys:

"My daughters and I have had a blast coming to the Library on Saturdays. It became a ritual for the weekend. Because of this, we checked out more books and read at home more often. The girls loved all the activities. Thank you for providing this service to the community."

"After every session at the Library, my son becomes intrigued with the topic of the session and wants to read books about what he has just learned."

"Since our last visit, our child is more curious about science, space, and rocks. She loves collecting rocks and looking for different bugs and noticing their different colors."

"My boys are reading more and better. They look for signs to read and they talk about the programs they see at preschool."

One of my favorite stories is of the parent who told me that their child, after having seen our CultureKids program on Polynesian/Hawaiian dance, insisted upon having an Hawaiian birthday party and gave leis to all of his friends!

Exemplary Project

If you feel your project was exemplary and others could learn from it and replicate it, please tell us why.

Any portion of this project can be replicated by other libraries. The science portion, especially, is relatively inexpensive to replicate. Just adding science explorations to general preschool storytimes or other continuing programs would help children develop these skills prior to elementary school.

FEEDBACK FOR THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY ON THE GRANT PROCESS

We want to learn and improve our grant processes. Please let us know what worked and what we could do differently to make it a better experience. Thank you!

Our consultant for this project, Jane Cook, was excellent and supported us throughout the entire project.

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