

Brief History

In March 1997, the San José Public Library's Outreach & Programming unit funded a pilot project to bring pre-selected, pre-checked out materials to 24 childcare providers in the identified Crackdown neighborhoods of Alviso and Hillview areas.

Since then, the "Stop & Drop" pilot program has expanded to today's Books for Little Hands program at 18 library branches and King Library. Books for Little Hands' customers have access to quality, age-appropriate, culturally and linguistically diverse books and teaching materials that daycare providers and preschool teachers can check out for 30 days. With funding from Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund, the Books for Little Hands program also includes early literacy education, educator workshops, and maintenance level support for the program's book bag take home component, *My Books and I*.

In July of 2004, Books for Little Hands welcomed their new program members, the City of San José's Office on Early Care and Education. This union of Smart Start San José and Books for Little Hands expanded the Library's role and commitment to early childhood education and services. Books for Little Hands has since been able to offer parent workshops in English and Spanish, collaborated with many community agencies to offer city-wide literacy events, and has most recently developed, with funding from Business Objects Foundation and Target, a new family learning kit called, "Books & More! bilingual bags," to be piloted at the Family Learning Centers at Dr. Roberto Cruz-Alum Rock, Hillview, and Tully Community branch libraries.

Quick Facts

- 8,328 children served in FY 2006-07
- 459 preschool and home child care sites
- 465 Classroom Book Bags available for checkout with inventory increased from 720 to 9,300 books
- 285 Curriculum Idea Kits – 25 topics available for checkout
- 1,034 families attended 51 workshops in FY 2006-07
- 35 bilingual Spanish/English early literacy tip sheets available on our web page

Starting this fall

- Books and More! - A pilot program offering take-home early literacy resource kits for use in the home

THANK-YOU! TO ALL OUR PAST AND PRESENT DONORS

1997 - 2007

Adaptec
Applied Materials
Bay View Bank
BEA Foundation
Business Objects Foundation
Eureka Bank
Federal Fund for the Improvement of Education
FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
Friends of the Willow Glen Library
Gwyn Brown
Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund
Lakeshore Learning Materials
Milligan News Company, Inc.
Rossi Family Foundation
Rotary Club of San Jose
San José Public Library Foundation
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
(formerly Community Foundation Silicon Valley)
Sobrato Family Foundation
Target
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Waldenbooks/Borders
Wells Fargo Foundation

You have made it all possible