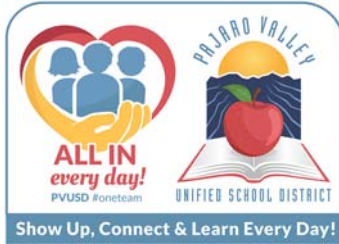


PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive **contributions to the community and global society.**



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MODEL PVUSD EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VISITED BY LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Watsonville Ca, December 17, 2019 – In early December, Pajaro Valley Unified School District's Child Development was visited by Nina Buthee, Executive Director of Every Child California and Sara Cortez, Fiscal and Policy Analyst from the state's Legislative Analyst's Office. They were interested in learning about the District's program, specifically our model of delivering California State Preschool Program (CSPP) in Family Childcare Homes. According to Ms. Buthee, PVUSD is the only agency in California awarded this funding for this delivery model.

The LAO is an influential state agency and their visit is an opportunity to highlight the wonderful work PVUSD's CDD program does at a state level. Family Childcare Specialist Nellie Brown and Karen Hamman, Children Centers Coordinator, shared details about the structure of our program including our enrollment and child placement processes, how we recruit and retain Family Childcare Providers, and what qualifications they must possess. We shared how regular visits to providers are key to ensure quality, to monitor health and safety practices and to provide technical assistance and coaching.

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools, stated, "PVUSD has an exemplary early education program that includes professional development and learning opportunities in English and Spanish to meet the needs of providers and families we serve. We are proud of the work that is done in pre-school by our caring professionals because we know and understand the value of learning options in those early years of development."

PVUSD uses Creative Curriculum at all children centers and staff supports home providers with implementation of this curriculum to ensure adequate use and increase benefits to students. In early education, student learning is assessed using Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP); PVUSD shared with LAO representatives how results are used to guide lesson planning and set learning goals for children ensuring they are Kindergarten ready.

Karen Hamman noted that the LAO's office was very interested to know the barriers challenges faced in early education, to which she replied, "Among many challenges is the high cost of housing in our community, the lack of adequate child care facilities, the need for more qualified Family Childcare Providers, and funding the true cost of running full day programs."

After our lengthy discussion, we went to visit three Family Childcare Providers in our network. Ms. Buthee and Ms. Cortez had an opportunity to observe children playing, laughing and singing and saw the deep connection between the Providers, their families and the children. The Providers shared about their journey in becoming a provider and the ways the program supports them to create and maintain quality environments for children and continue their education.

LAO office staff left impressed by the programs, the dedication and hard work of PVUSD staff to support quality family childcare.