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2005-06
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October 4, 2006.

Sally Mallam,
Director, Hoopoe Books/ISHK,
PO Box 176,
Los Altos, CA 94023

Dear Sally,

ACOE/Berkeley Even Start serves low income, low literacy and non-English proficiency families who live and/or work in Berkeley. The major goals of the program are to break the cycle of poverty by facilitating educational opportunities for families most in need and to empower parents to become the first and most influential teachers of their own children through the program's four components:

1. **Adult Education:** Implemented through Berkeley Adult School, Vista College and Even Start ESL classes at Rosa Parks Elementary School.
2. **Early Childhood:** Services provided by Berkeley/Albany YMCA Head Start, BUSD State Preschool and Even Start Infant and Toddler Program for children in the waiting list for enrollment in the two previous educational institutions.
3. **Parent Education:** Implemented at Rosa Parks.
4. **Parent and Child Interactive Literacy Activities (PCILA):** Implemented through Family Literacy Nights, and parents volunteer in their children classroom.

Program staff wants to express our gratitude for the training and literacy kits from Hoopoe, which have facilitated us to support the improvement of literacy skills for adults/, children and parent-child literacy activities. We have incorporated the books into the implementation of our ESL class for adults, in our home visits, and reading strategies development when reading to children in our Parenting Education in order for parents to have enjoyable and effective parent-child interactive literacy activities. We would like to add how the Teacher's Activity Guide has been a great resource since it has structured literacy activities that could be implemented, modified and extended at children's classrooms and homes. Another positive outcome has been the exposure to folk tales from different cultures, which builds on the cultural diversity goal of the program.

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Families are very pleased and thankful for having educational materials at their homes which other wise they could not afford. They value the support it provides in their role as educators of their children. Through implementing the Hoopoe Book Literacy Kits to take home, families and schools/programs are building and strengthen their relation to become partners in the education and academic success of the children.

We would like to encourage the continuation of this outreach trainings and facilitating materials to schools and program that work with at risk families. From our experience your training and book kits have provided to our program educational tools for staff and parents. It also has impacted families to develop self-esteem, self-sufficiency, parent involvement with their children schools and parent empowerment to become and believe that they are the first and most important teacher of their children.

We look forward to participate next year in your trainings and give-away literacy kits if funds for your agency are available to continue these services to staff and high risk families in our program.

Sincerely,



Martha E. Martinez
Program Coordinator
ACOE/Berkeley Even Start Program
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