

First 5 San Joaquin

Making a Difference...

School Capacity



2008 Results Recognition Event

School Readiness

What are we measuring and why it is important

First 5 San Joaquin funds kindergarten bridge programs designed to ease the transition from early childhood settings (home, preschool, and childcare) to the elementary school setting. Research has found kindergarten bridge programs important in supporting the social skills, academic skills and parent involvement that are necessary for early school success. By strengthening bonds between families and schools, and by promoting positive early school experiences, transition programs also set the stage for long-term educational success.

Kindergarten transition programs are typically conducted on the campus of an elementary school and are offered to children the summer before they start kindergarten. Programs provide an average of three hours of instruction per day and range in duration from one day to three weeks, depending on the district and school site. Desired outcomes of transition programs include socialization, increased familiarity with peers and the kindergarten classroom, increased developmental skills and increased parental participation in school readiness activities.

First 5 San Joaquin investment

During the summer of 2008, First 5 San Joaquin invested approximately \$230,000 (an average of \$83 per child) in kindergarten bridge programs at 85 sites serving over 2,700 children.

Who are the funded partners

Funded programs that offer a kindergarten bridge program include the 5 Es (Essential Elements) of School Readiness programs, School Readiness State-Match programs, Block Grant programs and the Early Care and Intervention Services (ECIS) program. Bridge programs are offered in the following districts: Banta, Escalon, Jefferson, Lammersville, Lodi, Manteca, New Hope, New Jerusalem, Oak View, Stockton, and Tracy. Program coordinators and school staff collaborate with school administration and preschool and kindergarten teachers to plan transition programs based on school needs and resources, evaluation results, and previous transition program experiences.

Evaluation Highlights

+ Nearly 2,600 Children Participated in a First 5 Kindergarten Bridge Program in FY 07-08

	Number of Classes	Number of Children Served
2007	89	2,588

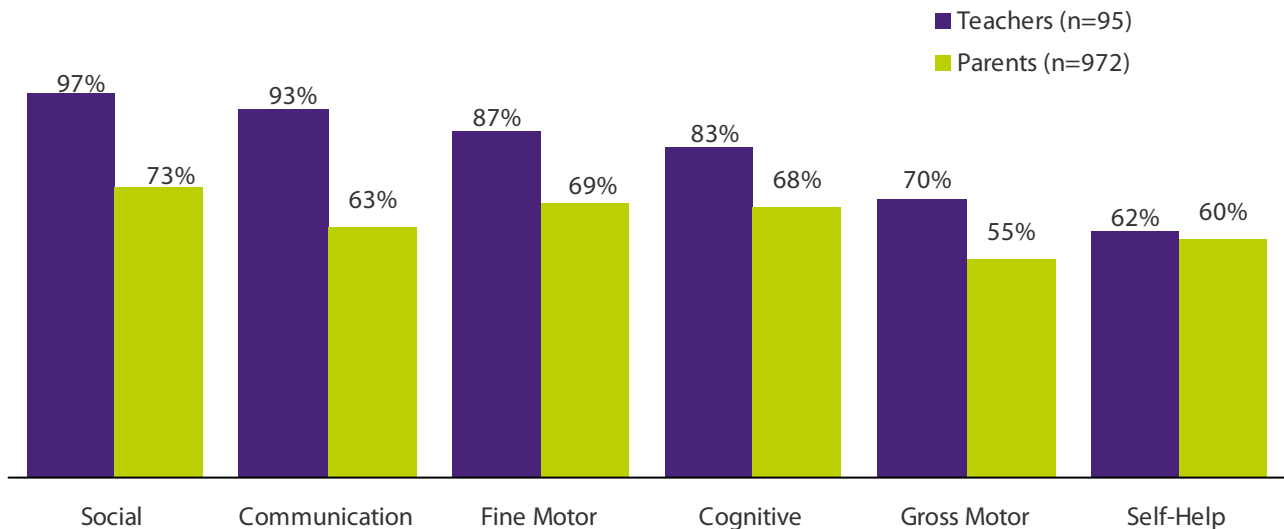
- During the summer of 2007, 2,588 children participated in a kindergarten bridge program.
- Over 4,000 children have participated in a kindergarten bridge program since 2006.
- In the past two years, First 5 San Joaquin funded kindergarten bridge programs in over 130 classrooms.

"Kindergarten is a big step for some children and it [the bridge program] really helps ease them into a new school and a new year."

-Bridge program parent

+ Kindergarten Bridge Programs are Preparing Children for Kindergarten

Percent of Parents and Teachers Reporting Increases in Child's Developmental Skills After Participating in a Kindergarten Bridge Program



- More than half of parents and teachers reported that children's developmental skills (social, communication, fine motor, cognitive, gross motor, and self-help) increased as a result of participating in a bridge program.
- The highest percentage of parents and teachers reported that children's social skills increased as a result of the bridge program.

"My daughter has serious separation issues, and I feel that [the bridge program] not only made her extremely comfortable with school, but she's excited to learn and is sharing everything that she does learn with our family."

-Bridge program parent