



## **PRESCHOOL BRIDGING MODEL**

Sacramento County Office of Education was funded by First 5 Sacramento to expand the Preschool Bridging Model (PBM) countywide.

The Preschool Bridging Model (PBM) is designed to enhance the quality of childcare for young children in Sacramento County. This is achieved through workforce and site development strategies that include: on-site support, consultation, team-teaching, and coaching support for private child care centers and family child care homes; educational and quality improvement planning; and instructional materials to enhance learning environments. The model promotes successful kindergarten transition for children and their families by facilitating continuity between early care and education providers and elementary schools.

The PBM pilot begun in the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year and successfully worked with 15 family childcare providers and childcare centers in the Elk Grove area. In 2008 the pilot expanded countywide and has provided direct services to over 215 family childcare providers and childcare centers located in all 12 school districts in the county. Since the inception of the PBM over 2600 children have been served.

The Preschool Bridging Model (PBM) has continued to evolve to better serve the childcare providers and the community agencies we partner with each year. PBM was initially designed to serve only preschool children. While working in family child care homes, which have mixed age groups, it became apparent that the PBM staff needed to work with the infants and toddlers in those homes to ensure that all children ages birth-5 in Sacramento County participate in quality early learning programs. Starting in the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year PBM will be expanding its services to four of the homeless shelters that have classrooms, which serve children birth to five.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the PBM staff started working with the eight family resource centers and is providing information on child development, transition to kindergarten, and enhancing the early learning environment of some of their play care rooms. Transitions into Kindergarten workshops have also been provided to the Family Resource staff. The connections with the family resource centers have enhanced the quality of childcare providers and the families served in their programs. The exchange of information between PBM, the family resource centers, and the schools has proven to be extremely valuable—to the children, the parents, the providers and the schools—and fosters systems



change that needs to occur to ensure that all children birth-5 in Sacramento County enter school ‘ready to learn.’

The PBM services contain four major components:

### 1. Site Development

- Program quality rating scales – Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) and Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) – conducted in each participating site
- Environmental planning and development based on ECERS or FCCERS ratings
- Instructional materials to enhance the learning environment

#### **Successful Examples of Site Development**

- Post scores from the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) increased at least by one to two points at most of the PBM sites. Some sites had received an average of 2 after the pre ERS
- One provider commented “No one has come back on an ongoing basis to help me, my program and my preschool children. I’m so very thankful for your continued help!”

### 2. Instructional Support

- On-site instructional support through team-teaching and coaching
- Consultation and technical assistance for private child care and family child care home providers

#### **Successful Examples of Instructional Support**

- PBM specialists introduced the Preschool English Learners Guide, Preschool Learning Foundations, and DRDP+ to all PBM sites
- PBM specialists through team-teaching introduced developmentally appropriate activities
- PBM specialists provided consultation and technical assistance in the areas of staff development and staff relations

### 3. Workforce and Professional Development

- Linkage of private child care providers to the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) and other professional development opportunities
- Information to providers about professional development incentives programs such as Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) and Staff Retention and Training (AB212)
- Information on accessing AA and BA cohort programs, as well as on-site programs offered through institutions of higher education



### **Successful Examples of Professional Development**

- Six of the PBM providers enrolled in the BA cohort
- Over 100 PBM participants attended CPIN professional development opportunities
- PBM providers were invited and participated in local school districts' professional development opportunities
- Two PBM family childcare providers became "Family Childcare Provider of the Year".

### **4. Transition/School Readiness**

- Developmental screenings for children
- Vision and hearing screening for children
- Community resources to parents
- School readiness activities for parents and children that are similar to those offered in public preschools and Head Start programs.
- Linkage to school district information and services
- Kindergarten transition activities for children and their families.
- Countywide collaboration, communication, and coordination of school readiness events

### **Successful Examples Transition/School Readiness**

- Two countywide Transition to School Summits have been held and over 325 early care and education providers, K-teachers and principals attended.
- 2500 children received vision and hearing screenings and over 150 children were referred for further testing and many children are now wearing glasses and three are now using hearing aids.