

# Raising a Reader Fund *Adopt a Classroom*

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

*Turning Passion into Action*



## Why this program is so important for families in San Luis Obispo County

Raising A Reader is an early literacy program that supplies simple training and preschool books to low-income families in our community. Many of these families who participate do not have books in their home, have not established a practice of reading in their home, and for some, English is a second language.

Raising a Reader's value to our community is underscored by the reality that in San Luis Obispo County, nearly 15% of our students are designated as English Learners and a majority of them reside with families in which Spanish is the primary language. Thirty-four percent of our students are designated as socio-economically disadvantaged and many live in families that cannot afford to purchase age-appropriate books. Helping these children get ready for school is key to closing the county's academic achievement gap.

By educating parents to read with their babies and very young children, the basic reading aloud techniques they learn motivate children to actively think during reading, and then, young brains get a chance to fully develop. The practice of reading is the most important thing parents can do to help ensure that their children will have a ready to learn to read attitude when they enter kindergarten.

## How Raising A Reader Works

Bright red books bags are provided on a rotating basis to families with children, ages zero to five, along with support about how to read with their child. The core focus of the program is to develop a routine of reading together into the lives of families, and to show parents how to instill a love of books in their children that will endure long after they graduate from the Raising A Reader program. Professionally trained Program Implementers provide families with tools to promote consistent reading behaviors and to understand why reading with their child is so vitally important. The program empowers parents with limited education the opportunity to help their child develop the reading skills they need for lifetime success. Upon graduating from the program, each child receives a Blue Bag to keep, along with a library card, so they will continue to benefit from reading books.

## Your Partnership

Raising A Reader offers a low cost, high yield means to change lives and improve society. By supporting this interactive reading lifestyle for families, their babies, toddlers and preschoolers develop the brain "wiring" needed for kindergarten readiness. Research shows that this is the critical time to close the academic achievement gap. Imagine what this means to the future success of a child in 10, 15, or 20 years, and in turn, what that means to the future of our community!



## How You Can Join Us

Raising A Reader currently has 12 sites in 7 communities throughout San Luis Obispo County that are in need of support to continue next year and beyond. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education and the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation are seeking partnerships to support multiple years for each classroom location. For only \$2,500.00 per year, one Raising A Reader site can be maintained in our community. Please consider joining the Exchange Club of San Luis Obispo who generously chose to support the San Luis Obispo Classroom for three years!

Visit [www.slocf.org](http://www.slocf.org) for more information about Raising A Reader, or contact the Community Foundation at 543-2323 to find out how your organization can become a Classroom Adopter.

## Classroom Locations

### **CAMBRIA**

1. Head Start

### **LOS OSOS**

2. California State Preschool  
(1 classroom)
3. Sunnyside Head Start (2 classrooms)  
Partner: Los Osos Library

### **OCEANO**

4. Five Cities Head Start (4 classrooms)  
& Early Head Start (1 classroom)
5. First 5 Preschool
6. California State Preschool
7. Literatura para la Familia & Oceano Library

### **PASO ROBLES**

8. Paso Robles City Library  
School Readiness Program – Literatura para la Familia
9. Independent Studies High School

### **SAN LUIS OBISPO**

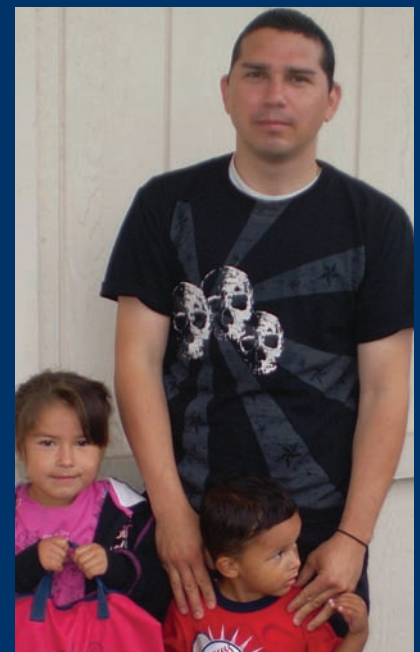
10. San Luis Obispo Child Development Center (toddler through Pre K)

### **SAN MIGUEL**

11. California State Preschool -AM/PM program

### **SHANDON**

12. Las Vinas Migrant Head Start  
(1 classroom)



*Please contact Community  
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information.*

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