

The Parenting Toolbox

Fairplex
THE FOUNDATIONS AT



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Susan Dowler
Director of Development

Salutations From Susan

In this first newsletter of 2007, the foundations at Fairplex recognize and celebrate our many generous donors. Our supporters have found many creative ways to give, relying on strategies that maximize the benefit to our educational programs and the tax advantages to the donor. We received many fully tax-deductible gifts, including appreciated stock, gifts of cash with a matching gift from an employer, payroll-deduction gifts through United Way and donations from family trusts. We also are grateful for an increased number of “just because” gifts. In fundraising terms, these are the much needed unrestricted annual cash donations that support the mission of the organization. I call them “just because” contributions because the donor simply believes in what we are doing and believes that a gift to support the operation of the foundation can truly make a difference in the lives of the people whom we serve.

We also enjoyed support from memorable fundraising events for each foundation through the purchase of hosting packages, auction items and tickets. Support also comes through our current donors who introduce new people to our foundations’ amazing educational experiences here at Fairplex... new people whom we hope will join our donor honor roll in the future!

New CDC Program Provides Parenting Tools

When Kevin Lovelace’s son was born, Mr. Lovelace was presented with an opportunity not many fathers get. He became a stay-at-home dad. For two years, Mr. Lovelace did all those things stereotypically considered “mom” things – diapering, feeding, laundering, bathing. But he also nurtured, taught, played and read with his son. Although he spent 24 hours a day with little Kevin and learned “a whole lot,” Dad realized he didn’t know everything.

So, when the Fairplex Child Development Center, where 4-year-old Kevin is a student, offered a new class on parenting, Mr. Lovelace immediately signed up.

“You can never have enough tools in the tool box,” he said. “This is my first child, and they don’t come with a manual.”

The Lovelace family, and several others at the CDC, are reaping the benefits of *The Incredible Years*, a 12-week comprehensive parenting education program that covers how to increase children’s social, emotional and academic competence at home and at school. It also offers help with reducing children’s aggression and behavior problems. The program is funded by First 5 LA, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of young children and families throughout Los Angeles County and appointed to distribute L.A. County’s Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds.

The CDC was fortunate to get *The Incredible Years*, as it is based in Seattle with few certified instructors in California, said Heather Arnold, family literacy coordinator for the CDC. The classes, which began in early January, are very popular, with 20 families signed up to take the course. Parents are taught how to construct a pyramid for directing children’s behavior. Topics covered include: 1) the importance of play; 2) praise, encouragement, rewards; 3) clear limits and consistent follow through; 4) dealing with difficult behaviors – ignore, distract, redirect; and 5) consequences. The theory is, once a foundation is built beginning with number one and working up the pyramid, numbers four and five should not have to be used except in extreme behaviors.



Dad Kevin Lovelace and son, Kevin, take a moment at the CDC to read a favorite book.

Since attending the classes, Mr. Lovelace said he has learned there is another way to spell fatherhood – T-I-M-E. “Time to listen, to lead. And time to play. I’ve learned how important play time is.”

Having had such an enthusiastic turnout for the first session of *The Incredible Years*, the CDC is eager to expand the program as it continues to “grow the future, one child, one parent, one teacher at a time.”