



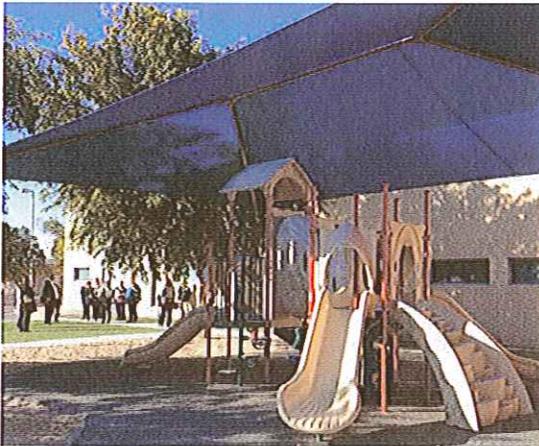
FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Community Outreach Report

Oct – Dec 2013



Guests visit the state of the art FTF funded playground at Nadaburg Preschool.

Summary of recent Outreach Activities:

Media: TV Interview channel 11 – to air before New Years

Speakers Trainings: 5 Part 1, ECED (19 trained), 3 Part 2, TWW (55 trained)

Events/Networking meetings/Presentations:

- ✓ 4 Events
- ✓ 7 One on One meetings
- ✓ 3 Presentations
- ✓ 2 Networking meetings

2 Program Tours:

Including Nadaburg Preschool where nine guests, including Nadaburg Superintendent Ben Goodman, Board Member Sue Dolphin and Dysart Unified Director of Federal Grants and Community Education Mr. David Dumon, had opportunity to see First Things First at work first hand.

Core Message of the Month:

More than 40% of Arizona's 4th graders are not reading at grade level. The best way to reverse this trend is to help children develop language and expose them to books before they enter kindergarten.

Community connections:

City of Peoria Human Services Department
City of Glendale Community Action Program

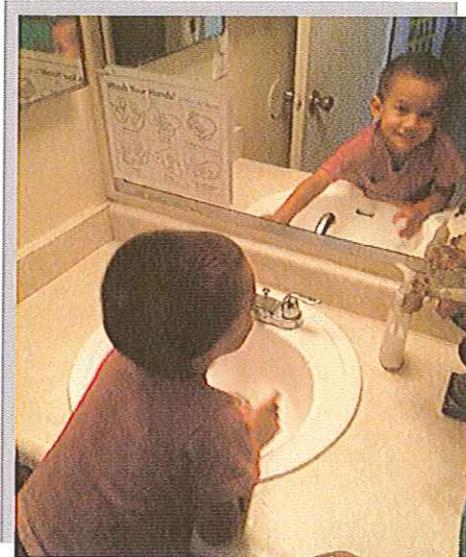
Upcoming Outreach Opportunities:

Site Tours - TBD



Guests observe how creative play helps prepare children for school.

Marlene Hanan, Community Outreach Coordinator
602-771-4965, mhanan@azftf.gov



Three year-old Angelo Sanchez can count to twenty as he washes his hands. He loves to read books and has a lot of fun playing with his friends at school.

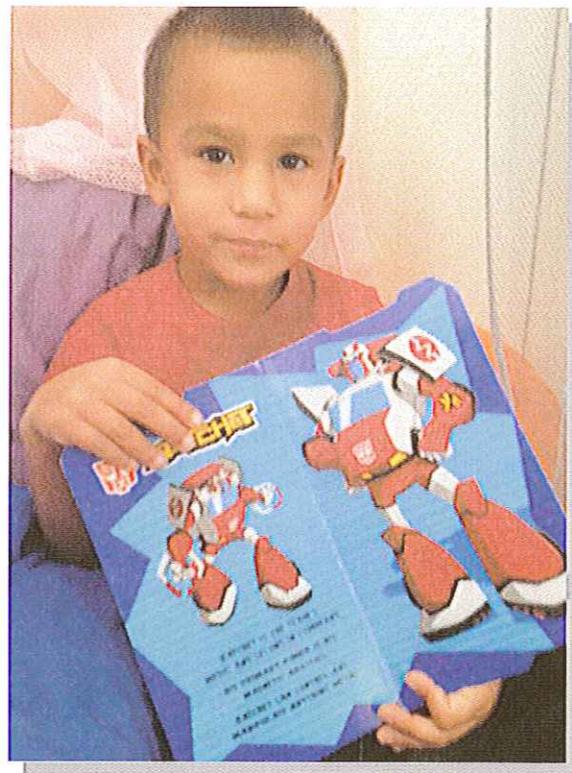
But things didn't always look so great for Angelo. At about six months old he was diagnosed with dysphagia – a condition causing difficulty in swallowing and other developmental delays. He didn't talk. "He wouldn't even make cooing sounds as a baby," explains his mother, Victoria Roybal.

As a nursing student and full time single mom, Roybal found herself in need of placing her son in child care. While his pediatrician was great about guiding Roybal to ensure Angelo had the therapies and treatments needed to overcome his challenges, Roybal was anxious to find a partner to support Angelo's needs.



She found that partner in Valerie Forney Director of Charter Oaks Academy. At first she could only afford to send him two days per week, but after a few months Forney was able to place him on a First Things First scholarship which enabled him to attend full time

"I didn't know too much about his condition," explains Forney, "I did research and consulted my nurse consultant to learn how to best support him." To communicate, Forney began using sign language with Angelo. She took the necessary precautions to make sure his health needs were being met but she maintained the same high standards for him as with all children at Charter Oaks Academy. "Each child is unique," says Forney, "they each have their own amazing accomplishments. For Angelo, socializing and participating in group activities is a tremendous achievement."



As for Roybal, words can't express her joy as she shares about his progress. She is confident knowing those caring for Angelo really care about him and have the resources they need to support him. "Thanks to the scholarship I can focus on making a future for myself," she shares.