



# Town Hall Meeting

The main purpose of the town halls was to gather input and ideas from the community that will assist the Yuma Regional Partnership Council in their strategic planning and set priorities in their next three year funding plan. Each meeting provided specific information to the area where each meeting was held.

### Defined Needs for South County

- ❖ High Quality Early Learning Environments-(center, home-based kith and kin)
- ❖ Transportation Access
- ❖ Family Support (grandparent support, home visiting/parented on child development case management Quality First
- ❖ Early Literacy Awareness/Collaborative Literacy Programs combined for families and children
- ❖ Literacy Based Programs
- ❖ Parental Education
- ❖ First Generation 56% living with foreign born parents
- ❖ High Quality Support for Early Learning environment for Centers
- ❖ Pre-K(no restrictions) and Early Education to Preschool
- ❖ Early Childhood Education
- ❖ Access to Quality Pre-K
- ❖ Access to Quality Early Care Services (school readiness) and Quality access to special needs services
- ❖ Programs on self-sustainability for poverty population
- ❖ Extended hours of Preschool for working parents (8hours)
- ❖ Family Literacy Model/Family Support for Early Learning
- ❖ Community Awareness-parented & business community educated on importance of early literacy & development

### Priorities

1. **Access to High Quality Preschool**
2. **Overall Wellness (Education: Nutrition, Physical Activity, Oral Health,Check Ups)**
3. **Family Support: Family Literacy; culturally sensitive**

### South County Fact Sheet Data

Access to Media  
 Change in Population +61%  
 Single Parent, with grandparents (education support)  
 Living in Poverty approximately 1/3  
 Aims:55% passing  
 Spanish speaking-need strong language skills (home language)  
 Less than high school education 52%  
 49% not in Pre-K (10% higher than county)

### Group Ideas/Suggestions

Spanish Teachable Moments  
 (children must learn their native language first to succeed in a 2nd language)

# Town Hall Meeting

## Defined Needs for Central Yuma

- ❖ Leverage Programs/Siblings Enrollment
- ❖ Creating/Increase Access/Support for High Quality Preschool
- ❖ Health: Mental, Oral, Vision and Access to and inform more families
- ❖ Family Support: Identify Needs
- ❖ Access to Pre-K Opportunities and Access to High Quality Pre-K Education
- ❖ Reaching and Education for Parents of Children w/Special Needs
- ❖ More High Quality inclusive programming for Children w/Special Needs
- ❖ Increased Access to Healthy Food/Reduce BMI
- ❖ Expand Access to QRIS to all ECE Providers
- ❖ Education for Parents/Caregivers of Children
- ❖ Family Literacy/Early Childhood Literacy
- ❖ Increase Food Security Program
- ❖ More Nutrition Programs: Healthy eating habits, mental
- ❖ Physical Activity Program/Affordable Physical Screening for Children
- ❖ Scholarships for Students to Attend High Quality Early Childhood Programs
- ❖ Professional Development for Teachers and Aides
- ❖ Infant/Toddler: CDA/Professional Development: begin at the beginning
- ❖ Father Involvement

## Priorities

1. **Access to High Quality Preschool**
2. **Family Support on Early Literacy**
3. **Focus on Infant/Toddler Care**

## Central Yuma Fact Sheet Data

Single Male Household (children 0-5) 1,114 County-819 Central Yuma  
Children 3-5 receiving services from DDD County 56% Central Yuma 45% (what is # of children that did not qualify for DDD services. How many are enrolled in Head Start/Pre school. Need to connect/link with DDD  
WIC: Enrolled 43% County 37% Central Yuma (food security great need in general)  
Educational Attainment for Adults (less than high school)- AZ 15% County 29% Central Yuma 22%  
Children 0-5 in poverty 29% (follow up with U of A)  
Children 0-5 living w/grandparents: County 19% Central Yuma 16%  
Households w/no Access to Media/Internet: 0%  
Aims-Math: County 65% passing Central Yuma 68%  
Aims-Reading County 68% passing Central Yuma 72%  
Not enrolled in any program 65%

## Group Ideas/Suggestions

Create a category on Food Security on future assessments (USDA and Bureau of Labor)  
Building Capacity of Family: alignment of services going thru families  
(siblings) –Possible unfunded approach?  
Need Community Resource Hubs w/weekend availability  
Family Support Education for Parents that meet their needs

# Town Hall Meeting

## Defined Needs for East County

- ❖ Determine (real/perceived) barriers that prevent community from accessing services available
- ❖ Ways to combine services together
- ❖ Access to Preschool for more children
- ❖ Parent Education (home)
- ❖ Monthly Parent/Child Socializations
  - Focus on parent education on early literacy
  - Begin with infant/toddlers
- ❖ Health/Wellness

## Priorities

1. **Access to High Quality Pre-K**
2. **Family Support: Early Literacy**
3. **Health/Wellness**

## East County Fact Sheet Data

Change in Population 20%  
Children enrolled nursery school/preschool/kindergarten 53%  
Poverty 1/3  
Homeless Children (school age) 5%  
Spanish Speaking 33%  
Free/Reduced Lunch 78%  
No Health Insurance 25%  
SNAP (0-5) 33%  
Unemployment Rate 32.3%  
Aims: 2/3 passing  
Less than High School Education 26%

## Group Ideas/Suggestions

Be part of the solution/vision: Focus on needs of families/parents/children  
Identify Barriers: preventive services  
Teaching Parents why they need that information  
Connect with families through: Sunset (WIC), Library, Faith Based, WACOG, Home

CHILDREN'S

MUSEUM  
OF YUMA COUNTY

*"where the journey begins"*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- What is a children's museum?

*It is an institution committed to serving the **needs and interests of children** by providing exhibits and programs that **stimulate curiosity and motivate learning.***

- *In 1975, 38 museums. Now? 350 worldwide!*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- Mission Statement:

*Create a lifelong experience through hands on, interactive exhibits where all children will have the opportunity to learn by using their imagination and creativity.*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Current Board Members

- Tunie Borunda, President
- Lois Haley, Vice-President **and Founder**
- Kevin Burge, Secretary-Treasurer
- Amanda Aguirre, Board Member **and Mentor**
- Jim Larson, Board Member
- Emily Foley, Board Member
- Nita Kimball, Board Member
- Sandy Curtis, Board Member
- Jonathan Kemp, Board Member
- Derek Egeberg, Board Member

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- Who helped?

*The Regional Center for Border Health* has helped us by providing access to their non-profit expertise, financial advice and legal counsel.

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- ◎ Who is our Audience?
  - Children: from birth to 13 (and their parents)
- ◎ What Drives us?
  - *To reach children and **promote development** through interactive activities. **Cognitive, Emotional/Social, Motor Skills, Language, Ability to Learn.***
  - *To provide a safe environment for all children.*
  - *Involving community stakeholders and make some of our exhibits locally and culturally relevant*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Why do this?

- Supplement local education with **hands on** experiences.
- We fund sports/physical activities, **why not** do more to **stimulate** the **brain**?
- **Give kids** a **fun** indoor experience
- **Play is the universal process by which kids learn and process information.**
- **Being an Adult is OVERRATED**
- **90% of a Child's brain is developed by age 5.**  
(credit-AZFTF)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNNsN9IJkws>

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- ◎ Characteristics of Children's Museums\*
  - Help develop essential foundational skills.
  - An institution that respects childhood
  - Light a creative spark for lifelong learning
  - Provide an environment for families to connect
  - Are positioned to help reverse stigma and discrimination.
  - Strengthen local resources for education & care of children.
  - Contribute to local economies and reduce economic barriers.

*\*Source: "The Case for Children's Museums", ACM 2005*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ● Challenges facing Children\*

- **Compressed Childhood:** While kids are growing up faster, emotionally they age at the same rate.
- **Scarce Family Time**
- **Lost Sense of Community**
- **Diminishing Community Resources:** School and head start funding is down!

\**Source: "The Case for Children's Museums", ACM 2005*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Response?\*

- **Celebrate being a kid:** Take the kids and go have fun, they will be stimulated and learn.
- **Quality Time:** Away from domestic distractions, parents/grandparents can “get lost” having fun too!
- **Common Ground:** Meet neighbors, engage in a sponsored program, connect “IRL”
- **Building a Creative Community:** Through exhibits, workshops and collaboration, Children’s Museums bring informal education to complement existing institutions.

*\*Source: “The Case for Children’s Museums”, ACM 2005*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ● Case Support

- *Development and learning advance when children are challenged to achieve at a level just beyond their current mastery....Human beings, especially children, are motivated to understand or do what is just beyond their current understanding or mastery.*

\*Source: Play References in NAEYC Position Statements

- On a purely economic basis," Dr. Heckman says, "it makes a lot of sense to invest in the young." \*

\*Source: Heckman, "*Policies to Foster Human Capital.*"

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Near Term Goals

- **Feasibility Study**
- Develop Capital Campaign
- Sponsorships and donations
- Masterplan
- Short term ~ 5 years facility
  - Initial Facility – 10,000 SF + or Larger?
- Develop, plan and design “build-out” space

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Long Term Goals

- Continue Fundraising
- “Permanent” facility – 20,000-25,000 SF?
- Permanent exhibits
- Rotating exhibits to “keep it fresh”
- **Create a “Community of Learners”**
- Making each area a “high-quality play area”

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ◎ Status

- Incorporated in March 2013/Formed Board
- Research/Business Plan
- Filed and **obtained non-profit status July 2014**

## ◎ Outlook

- Feasibility Study
- Grants/Fundraising
- Community Research/Master-planning
- Acquire Property/Design/Construction
- Staff/Open Museum

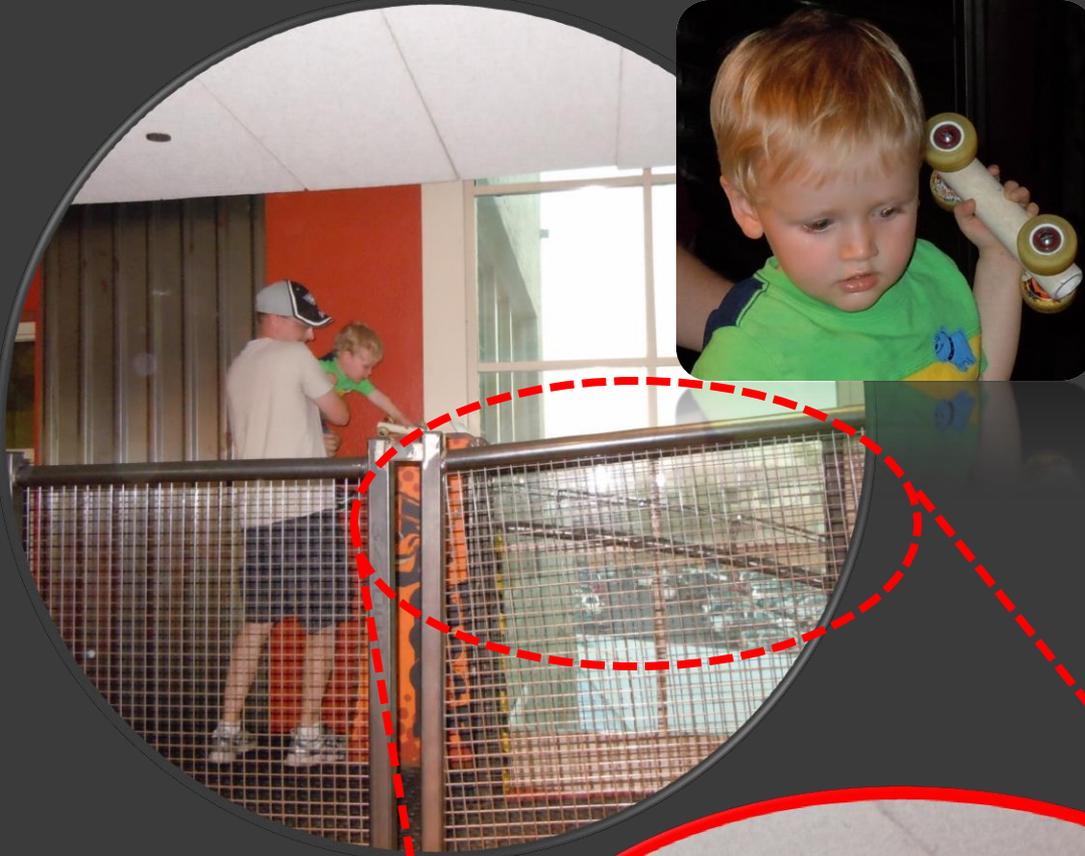
# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ● Photographic Examples

- These do not necessarily represent our final themes/exhibits
- These examples are from:
  - Kearney, NE
  - Lincoln, NE
  - Olympia, WA
  - Phoenix, AZ
  - Santa Fe, NM
  - Tacoma, WA
  - Tucson, AZ

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

*Gravity powered  
Race track*



*Credit: Phoenix Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## *Birthday or Activity Room*



*Credit: Olympia, WA Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## Arts/Crafts



*Credit: Phoenix and Tacoma Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## Climber



*Credit: Phoenix and Tacoma Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## *Aviation*



*Credit: Lincoln Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## *Under 2 Play Area*



*Credit: Kearney and Santa Fe Children's Museums*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## Emergency Services



*Credit: Kearney Children's Museum*

*CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM OF  
YUMA COUNTY  
Water Table*



*Credit: Kearney, Tacoma, Santa Fe Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## Agriculture



Credit: Olympia, WA Children's Museum

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## *Kitchen/Grocery*



*Credit: Phoenix and Tucson Children's Museum*

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

- Exhibit Ideas/Map (STEAM based)
  - Agriculture
  - Medical/Dental
  - Science/Lab
  - Aviation: simulator or mock airplane.
  - Water Table: tie to water rights and history
  - Public Safety: role play as emergency services
  - Cultural Exhibits, Hispanic, historical, Native American
  - Healthy Kids/Development

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

## ● Needed Resources/Support

- Help writing Feasibility Study Request for Proposals (RFP) – **Feasibility Study helps with grants!**
- Forum for hosting focus groups/scope area needs.
- **Grant Research/Writing/Assistance**
- Provide forum for encouraging healthy habits for kids and parents
- Developmental/Educational Psychologist
- Educational material on childhood development for parents
- Donations

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF YUMA COUNTY

*What are your  
exhibit ideas?*

*Email:*

[cmycinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cmycinfo@gmail.com)

*Facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/YumaAZChildrensMuseum/>

www.ChildCareExchange.com

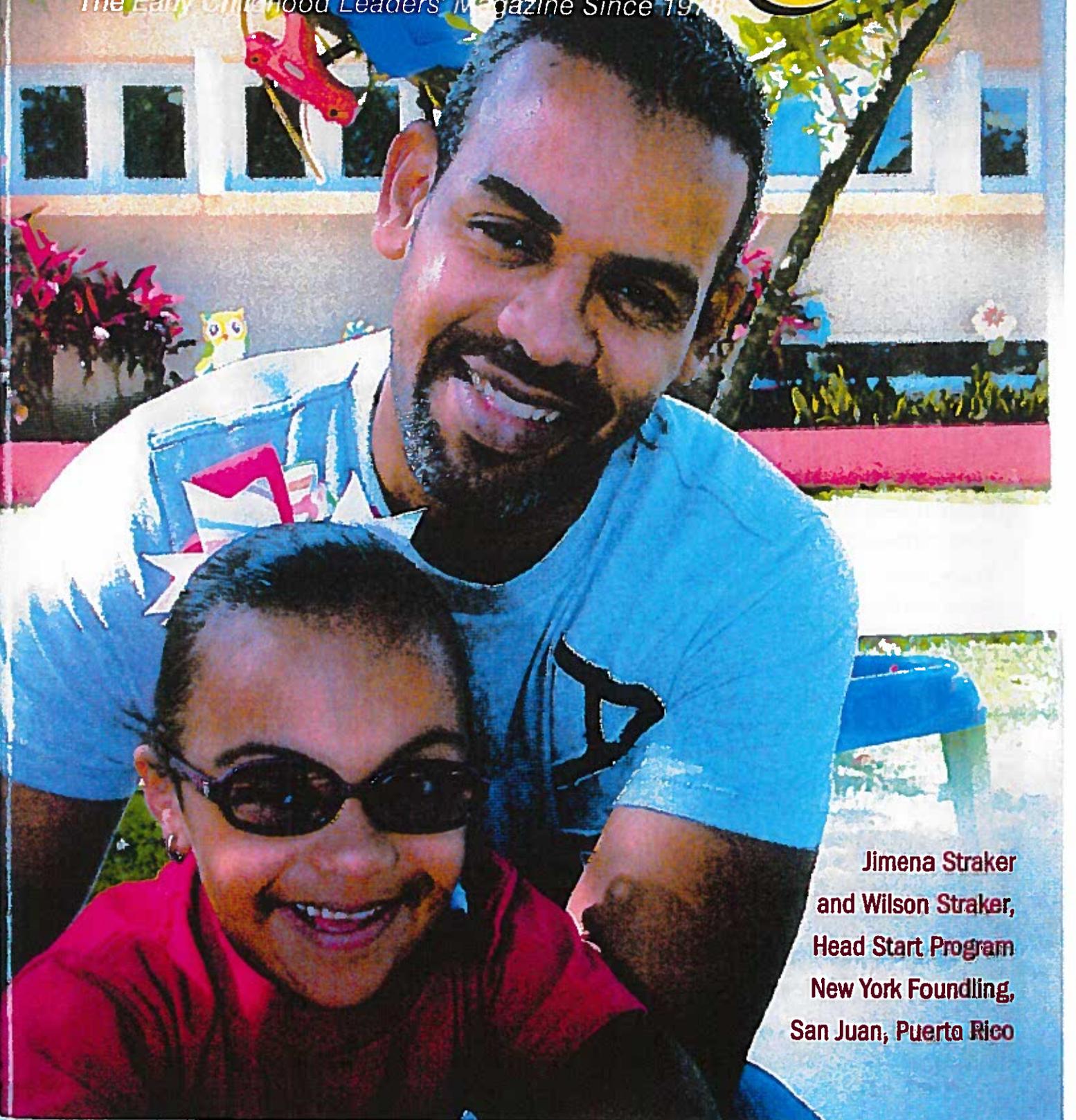
# Exchange

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 5, NO. 219

\$10.00

*The Early Childhood Leaders' Magazine Since 1978*



**Jimena Straker  
and Wilson Straker,  
Head Start Program  
New York Foundling,  
San Juan, Puerto Rico**

## Harvest Preschool & Child Care Center

San Luis, AZ

Owners: Araceli Gamez

Quality First participant since 2013

Funding provided by First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council



### Tell us about your program and why you decided to participate in Quality First.

We have a small preschool program located in San Luis, AZ, currently one classroom with two teachers and 20 children between the ages of four and five. We strive to develop the whole child by providing opportunities for physical, social-emotional and cognitive development in a safe, loving and happy environment. We decided to participate in Quality First to provide quality care for the children in our community. We know how important preschool is; it's the foundation for a child's education. Through Quality First we are able to give families the opportunity to initiate their children's path to success. We want to make sure that all the children who attend our program leave here feeling confident and fully prepared for kindergarten.

### What's the best thing about having a coach?

The one-on-one time and hands-on guidance. Although training is very helpful, having a coach allows for the acquired training to be applied and directly monitored by a coach, focusing the assistance and direction in areas where it is deemed necessary. We are grateful for our coach; she has helped us significantly improve our program.

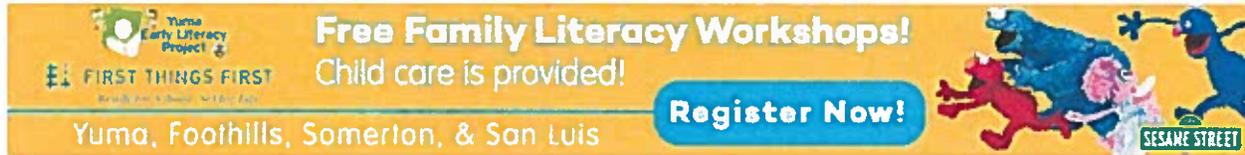
### How have you been helped by the team of experts available through Quality First?

Every three months we get a visit from First Smiles for dental screenings. They have truly helped us teach the importance of dental hygiene. They read interactive books about dental care and provide screenings to ensure our children have healthy smiles. The children get really excited when they know First Smiles is coming to visit.

### Do you have any staff success stories related to Quality First?

Last year one of our teachers had difficulty understanding and incorporating "CLASS" in her classroom. She was determined to learn, so she read the CLASS book from beginning to end and attended several trainings. One day she told me, "It doesn't matter how many books I read or trainings I attended, the best way to really understand CLASS is to practice it daily." Going forward this proved to be a true statement. She implemented several different strategies in her classroom daily, posting reminders on the wall and carrying note cards. Our coach also worked with her on various techniques to improve interaction with the children. Since then she has become a confident teacher with a purpose. As her supervisor, I am very proud of the progress she has made through hard work and the interaction skills she has developed. They are evident in her classroom.

## PBS Literacy Workshops



### Community Workshop Series

Fall Workshop Series offered to the community at the following locations in September and October:

#### Yuma County Libraries

- Main
- Foothills
- Somerton
- San Luis

### Incentives

The Yuma YMCA has provided one week family passes for all of the workshop participants

Two year long family memberships will be included in a drawing for workshop participants who complete all six workshops in a series (fall series)

### Workshop Package Grants

Districts and other organizations are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 to implement the Yuma Early Literacy Project workshops for the parents and grandparents of their upcoming kindergarten students. We train the staff to deliver the workshops during this school year.

The following have applied or are in the process of finalizing participation in the program:

- Crane School District at eight sites
- WACOG Head Start at two sites
- Yuma One (TBD)
- Wellton (TBD)

### Workshop Promotion

Radio Campesina is airing PSAs with early literacy messages promoting workshops in Spanish.

### Staff Updates

Trainers, Translators & Care providers all participated in Yuma Professional Development Kick-off and staff meeting earlier this month at Arizona Western College.

# Community Based Professional Development

**92 participants attended our kick-off workshop with Ida Rose Florez presenting Executive Function**

- 25 people who had never attended before came to this session

**Intentional Teacher Cohort for Early Childhood Educators is Full!**

**Intentional Teacher Cohort for Early Childhood Directors (Director's Institute)**

- November 22, 2014
- February 28, 2015
- May 16, 2015





# Yuma Region Early Childhood Director's Institute



***Please join us for this very limited opportunity presented by your Yuma Regional First Things First Partnership Council!***

This opportunity is only open to 20 Early Childhood Education Directors. All participants are expected to attend all three sessions. There is no cost for this! When completing all three sessions, a 12 hour Certificate will be awarded.

## **Facilitated by Joanne Floth**

**The Focus of this Cohort will be:**

1. The Intentional Teacher
2. How to coach and mentor your staff through Intentional Teaching
3. Time to discuss, reflect and problem-solve with other directors

**Each Participant will receive a copy of the book, *The Intentional Teacher: Choosing the Best Strategies for Young Children's Learning***

### **Session Dates**

- November 22, 2014
- February 28, 2015
- May 16, 2015

**All sessions will take place at the main campus of Arizona Western College**

**2020 S. Avenue 8E**

**8:00am to noon with**  
**Breakfast at 7:30am**

Register at <http://www.tinyurl.com/yumadirectors>

For more info, contact Mark Becker at [mark.becker@asu.edu](mailto:mark.becker@asu.edu) or 602-496-1696



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*