



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kidango Partners with San Lorenzo Elementary School District and Child, Family and Community Services to Provide Universal Preschool in San Lorenzo

This fall, Kidango and the San Lorenzo Elementary School District will partner to begin offering an expanded preschool program at elementary campuses located within the San Lorenzo Elementary School District.

The agreement between Kidango and the District allows Kidango to set up programs at Bay, Colonial Acres, Corvallis, Dayton, Del Rey, Grant and Hesperian elementary schools, as well as a state-funded preschool at Royal Sunset High School. This project is projected to serve 430 preschool students throughout San Lorenzo once all preschool programs have been set up — up from 130 kids this year.

"I think this is going to transform the community in ways we don't even know right now," said Barb DeBarger, Director of Elementary Education. "The benefits are going to be widespread."

More importantly, the benefits will start with the students, Superintendent Dennis Byas said.

"This is truly a wonderful opportunity for our children to be able to expand their learning at an earlier age," he said. "It will benefit our kindergarten teachers as students will come to them better prepared for classroom activities."

This is the second Universal Preschool program that Kidango has helped established in California. Partnering with the New Haven Unified School District in Alameda County, Kidango was honored to be a Preschool for All flagship demonstration project funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, New Haven was the first district in California to achieve district wide preschools available to all students. Kidango currently operates six centers on New Haven District campuses which have a capacity of 684 children. Together, we have achieved significant accomplishments that enhance the leadership and constituency-building that supports the plan to achieve Preschool for All (PFA) in California.

“We are very excited to establish this new partnership with the San Lorenzo Elementary School District”, said Kidango Executive Director Paul Miller. “The uniqueness of Kidango doing a second Universal Preschool program in collaboration with Child Family & Community Services (Head Start) and the San Lorenzo School District is a first for California.”

Opening of the new preschools sites on the San Lorenzo Elementary School campuses is contingent upon securing funding needed to install fencing, playgrounds and purchase furniture and materials appropriate for preschool children. Any delays in receiving funding may push back the opening of some of the preschool centers.

Kidango and District officials will release enrollment information for the new preschool programs this later this spring.

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About Kidango

Kidango, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit children’s agency. It began as Tri-Cities Children's Centers, Inc. in 1979 and at inception there were 90 children and families being served at one center in Fremont. As a leader in early care and education, Kidango offers a wide variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of children 0-12 years of age and their families. Currently there are 36 centers throughout the Bay Area and the agency is continuously expanding to meet the growing needs of children and families. Today more than 2,500 children and families are served in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties each year.

For more information on Kidango please contact Camille Llanes-Fontanilla at 510-897-6913 or at cllanes@kidango.org