

ECCEC Questions
Vera Court Neighborhood Center
Children's Program

1.

Question: Does the Program receive DPI Food Program reimbursement?

Answer: Yes, the Children's program has been participating in the DPI food program for the last two years. This program provides all of our after-school programs with a USDA approved snack everyday after school. The DPI snack reimbursement appears in the budget under center fundraising.

2.

Question: The agency identifies the achievement gap as a need for services, what specific strategies are being implemented to impact this?

Answer: The children's program has numerous strategies to impact the achievement gap in education and literacy in the Vera Court neighborhood:

- 1st and 2nd grade Program-

- Separate 1st and 2nd grade program that operates in partnership with MSCR to improve literacy and math rates. Program is staffed and coordinated by VCNC but space is provided at Mendota Elementary school through a contract with MSCR and MMSD.
- Center has a strong focus on literacy skills for all students but puts individual focus on 1st and 2nd grade participants. Identifying insufficient readers in 1st grade creates a "window of opportunity" to improve literacy before the child enters 3rd grade which is shown to be crucial in child development.
- Program Director is in constant contact with teachers to obtain reading levels of all program participants, readers who are below reading level are identified through confidential meetings with classroom teachers
- Program focuses on one-on-one reading, guided reading, literacy games and activities.
- Additional spots are reserved for 3rd grade students who are identified as being below reading level.

- Contact with 1st - 5th grade classroom teachers-

- Daily contact with the majority of Mendota teachers, to identify special academic/literacy needs of program participants. Updates on homework completion.
- Teachers often walk students to the center to meet with program staff about homework needs or behavior issues that affected classroom work.
- Program Director often meets with school social worker and special education teachers to talk about behavior management issues that may affect certain participant's academics, strategies are shared between Program Director, Social Worker and special education teachers on how to provide participants support and guidance.

- Outcomes-

- Both outcomes for the Children's program are based on education and mentoring.

- Summer Reading Buddies Program-

- Program has an 8 week Reading Buddy program during the summer camp program. Each child is paired with an adult reading buddy where they read for 30 minutes 2 times per week.
- School year programming provides reading levels for each camp participant at the end of school these reading levels are what are used for the reading buddy program to ensure that all participants are reading at the appropriate level for that individual child.

3.

Question: What is the role of the parent in the child's program and services?

Answer: The center involves the parents/guardian of program participants by:

- The Children's Program Coordinator works with parents and teachers as a cooperative team so that the program participant as well as the family has support available to them at all times. Parents often accompany the program coordinator at meetings with classroom teachers, special education teachers, and the School Social Worker. Working as a team provides families the assurance that their child is being held accountable for their academics both in and out of school.
- The Program Coordinator has constant contact with parents through phone calls and home visits to stay on top of any accomplishments or behavior concerns.
- Quarterly surveys are conducted with classroom teachers that provide the center with updated homework completion and literacy rates. The coordinator goes through this survey with the participant and their parent so that everyone is on the same page.
- Parents work as volunteers during volunteer run community events and fundraisers such as the Back to School Supply Give-away, Turkey Baskets, Mother's Day/Father's Day Celebration and our annual Baseball and BBQ fundraiser.
- Parents have the opportunity to serve as chaperones during weekly summer field trips. This gives parents an opportunity to give back to the program as well as allow them to enjoy a fun day with their child and their friends.

4.

Question: What is the parent's responsibility to program operation?

Answer:

- Parents have no financial responsibility to the program. The Vera Court neighborhood has over 90% of its community members residing in homes that are below 30% of the county median and 100% of program participants qualify for free/reduced lunch.
- Parents are responsible for registering child for the program, filling out paperwork on program expectations and providing up to date emergency contact information.

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- Program Director is in constant contact with teachers of all program participants, readers who are below reading level are identified through confidential meetings with classroom teachers
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- Program Director meets with school social worker and special education teachers to talk about behavior management issues that may affect certain participant's academics, strategies are shared between the group on how to provide participants support and guidance.

- Outcomes-

- Both outcomes for the Children's program are based on education and mentoring.

- Summer Reading Buddies Program-

- Program has an 8 week Reading Buddy program during the summer camp program. Each child is paired with an adult reading buddy where they read for 30 minutes 2 times per week. This summer we had 13 adult reading buddies.
- School year programming provides reading levels for each camp participant at the end of the school year. Campers choose books in their appropriate reading level.

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Versa

Life As A Boy

	Life As A Boy	Children	
Participants	Boys age 8 to 11	Boys and girls age 6 to 11	
Program hours per week	10	16	
Schedule and location	Mon. 2:30 - 3:30 VCNC, Tues. 3:30 - 5:30 VCNC, Thur 2:30 - 5:30 Warner Park, Sat. 10a - 2p field trip	Mon 1:00 - 5:30, Tu - Th 2:30 - 5:30, Fri. 2:30 - 5:00, all programming at VCNC	
Staff	Program Director, youth worker, Americorp PASS, mentors, volunteers	Program Director, youth workers, camp counselors, volunteers, Kids Café cook	
Budget	\$19,563	\$96,282	
Awards, recognition			
	Kids Fund Grant, Breakfast Optimist Grant,		

	Kiwanis International 2004 Community Service Leadership Grant		