



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Families Forward Learning Center Benefits Children and Parents According to Newly Released RAND Study**

PASADENA, Calif.—October 1, 2020—When compared with their peers, third-grade underserved students demonstrated higher scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics, after participating in the two-generation 0-5 learning program of Families Forward Learning Center (FFLC), according to a new RAND Corporation study. The two-generational educational approach fosters family well-being by simultaneously working with parents and children together.

"We prepare families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life," said Elva Sandoval, Executive Director of FFLC, "and we're happy with the success of our graduates as they move into kindergarten and beyond, and very pleased that the study validates our approach to free education and social services to low-income families in Pasadena and Altadena."

Third graders who had attended FFLC scored higher than their peers in English and Math; in fact, they closed the gap between White and LatinX children by nearly half. One of the reasons this is so significant is that research has shown that third grade is a pivotal year for children's literacy. After third grade, children make the switch from learning to read to reading to learn, and those who are not proficient readers by the time they complete third grade are much more likely to drop out of high school.

In addition, the study found that FFLC program participants had statistically significant higher attendance and reduced chronic absenteeism in Kindergarten. Low attendance in Kindergarten and the early grades is associated with long-term deficits in academic performance, chronic absenteeism, socioemotional and behavioral problems, increased rates of suspension in middle and high school, and a greater risk of dropping out.

Families Forward's Two-Generation Learning model also enhances parents' literacy, and self-sufficiency skills, so that they can be active participants and advocates for their children's education and be more successful in their own lives. The RAND study reported that mothers experienced important benefits from the program's educational, professional, parenting and mental health services. All mothers stated they would recommend the program to others, a high praise indeed of the effectiveness of our Two-Generation Learning model.

To read the full RAND Brief go to our website – [www.FamiliesForwardLC.org](http://www.FamiliesForwardLC.org). Families Forward Learning Center has provided free education and social services to low-income families in Pasadena and Altadena for nearly 60 years.

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