



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

San Diego Parent University

Significant studies show that when parents actively participate in their children's education there is a positive impact on student achievement. San Diego Parent University was created in October 2000, to help parents become more involved in their children's education as academic coaches, to strengthen parenting skills, and improve parent-child relationships. Parent University is available to parents of students in Title I schools, which specifically targets the schools designated as low performing schools.

Classes are held at the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center, located at 2375 Congress Street in Old Town (formerly Fremont Elementary School). Academic classes provide parents with school readiness skills, study skills, and language, literacy and math development for students to support their learning from preschool through high school. In parenting classes, parents learn how to support their children's social, emotional, and physical development, with an emphasis on good parent-child communication. Leadership classes are also offered to help parents work in partnership with school staff.

Parenting classes are offered Monday through Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a. m. All courses are taught by credentialed teachers, counselors, and experienced community members in English and Spanish. Free transportation is available from selected schools in the district.

In addition, Parent University's **Make-it/Take-it Lab** (Lab) provides parents with hands-on experience in making reading and math games, and study aids to support developmental concepts with fun, home learning activities for the entire family. Parents and teachers are invited to drop in during open Lab hours. The Lab provides self-directed learning activities to use at home with children and computers with Internet access. Schools can schedule a group tour to the Ballard Parent Center and Lab for a minimum of 20 parents. Childcare and transportation are provided for group tours.

While parents are attending classes, their preschool children participate in the **School Readiness Center**, a developmentally structured childcare program. The School Readiness Center is provided for children ranging from birth to 5 years who do not normally attend a formal preschool program at their school of residency or in the community. Preschool children participate in a variety of activities to support language development, prereading, movement and social skills development.

Community partners fund an incentive plan to encourage parent participation. Incentives include children's books to increase home libraries as well as gift certificates for attendance.

SUMMARY

- ❖ **Academic and parenting classes are offered to parents of children in preschool through high school from September through July.**
- ❖ **Parent classes are held from 9:30 to 11:30 am Monday - Thursday. Curriculum varies.**
- ❖ **Free transportation is available.**
- ❖ **Free childcare ranging from birth to 5 years of age.**
- ❖ **Community partners fund parent incentive programs for high attendance.**
- ❖ **Documentation provided for parents who must attend court-ordered parent classes.**

Contact Information: Harold J. Ballard Parent Center: (619) 293-4431

www.sandi.net
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