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## **PARENT LIBRARY ON WHEELS**

### **Francis Polytechnic/ North Hollywood Cluster Sun Valley, California**

One of our goals during the last three years has been to improve student achievement in reading. A major focus of our work with parents supports this goal.

Every parent center in the cluster has a parent library that houses parenting materials and children's literature. The books, leaflets, audiotapes, videos, and other materials are available in both English and Spanish. Parents may check out any of the items on a daily basis.

In order to increase the number of parents using the library service, parent center leaders display an assortment of books on a rolling cart twice a week at the front gate or curb where parents can make their selection. Borrowed books are then returned to the parent center to ensure that new parents discover the center and its services.

When parents checkout their books, they also receive a flyer listing upcoming workshops, which are offered bilingually, on how to share books with their children. Parent center leaders have been trained to lead a variety of workshops on family reading, high frequency words, Latino family literacy, etc.

Records are kept of the number of parents using the library, the number of workshop series presented, and how many parents attend. In addition, Los Angeles Compact on Evaluation uses student achievement data and a group of comparison schools to measure the effect of our parent involvement efforts on student achievement. The data for the 1998-1999 school year shows a 5.7% increase in reading scores for the schools in our program, and our students scored 4.7% higher in language.

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