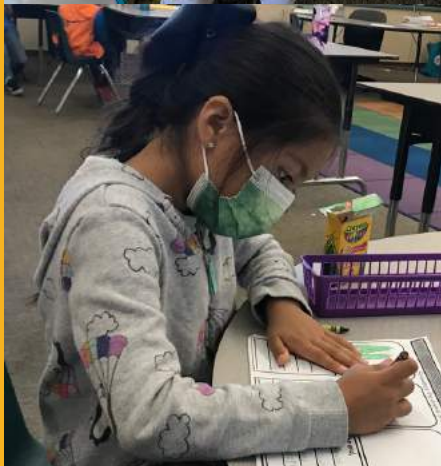
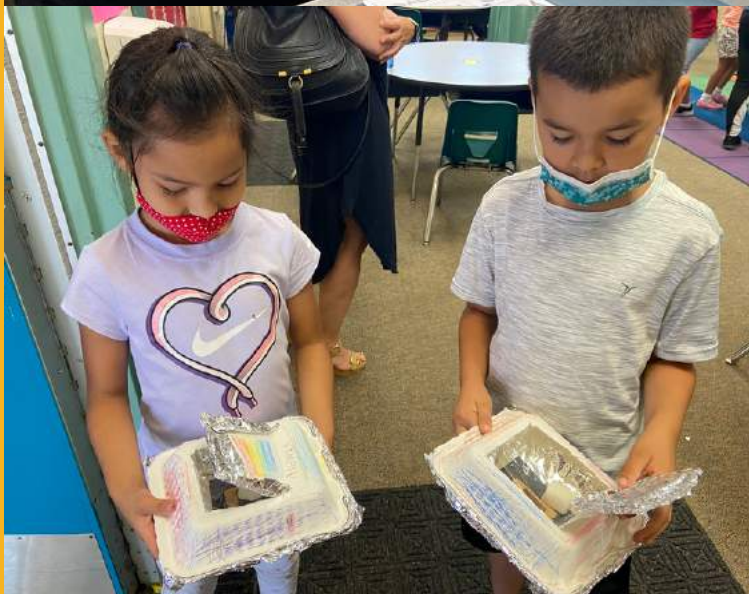
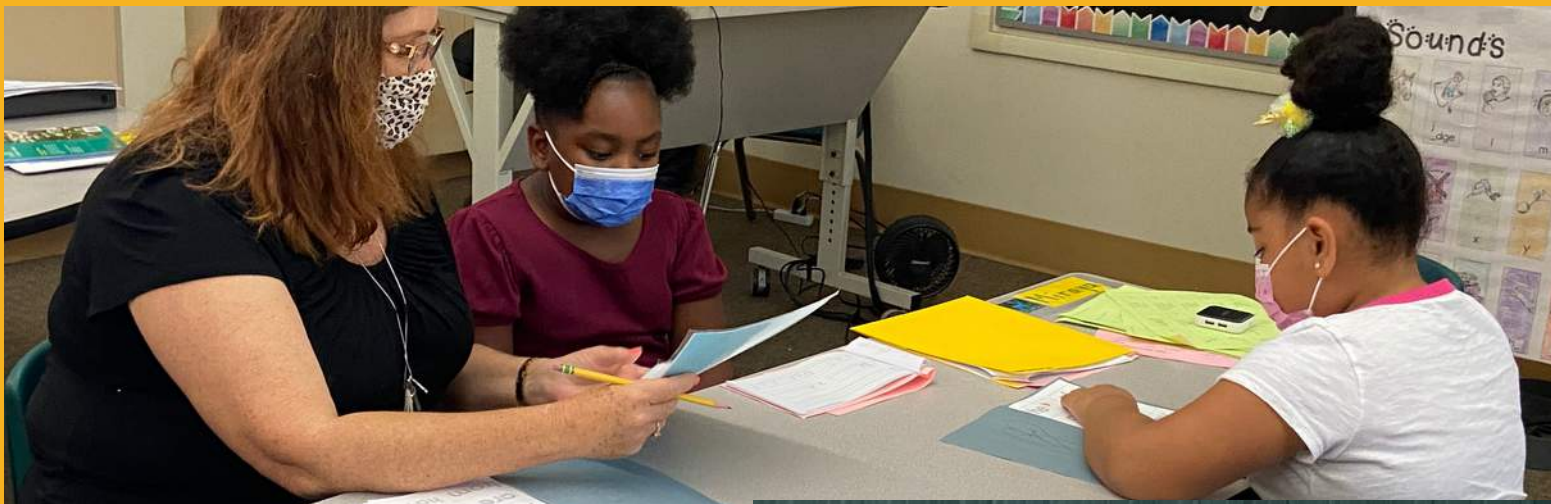




# SUMMER READERS FUTURE LEADERS 2021



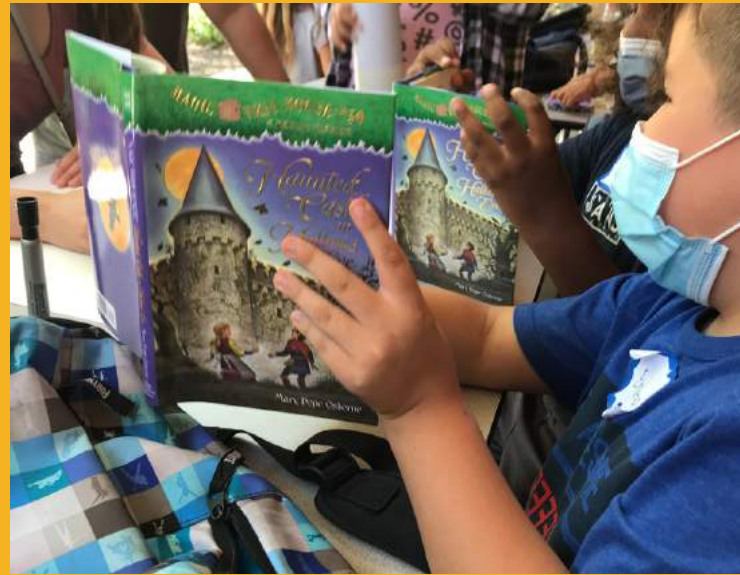
**"This is cutting edge,  
high quality education  
geared toward helping  
our underserved  
students. I love being a  
part of this extremely  
purposeful work."  
-DEEP Partner**





# DEEP CELEBRATES 8 YEARS OF SRFL!

Summer Readers - Future Leaders (SRFL) has been a signature program of the Diamond Educational Excellence Partnership (DEEP) since 2013. This 5-week, full-day literacy-enriched program is integral to DEEP's overarching efforts to mobilize community partners to ensure that children attending elementary schools in southeastern San Diego are able to reach proficiently by the end of third grade. The summer of 2021 marked an important juncture in the program's evolution for several reasons. With significant funding provided by the San Diego Foundation and the San Diego Unified School District, DEEP was able to bring children high-quality early literacy morning instruction and afternoons packed with activities offered by several new partner organizations. For the first time ever, DEEP expanded its program to serve children who had just completed kindergarten and served children from four instead of three local elementary schools.



## STUDENTS AND PARENTS LOVE SRFL!

- **98% STUDENTS LIKED OR LOVED SRFL**
- **85% STUDENTS WOULD PARTICIPATE AGAIN**
- **98% PARENTS WOULD SEND THEIR CHILDREN AGAIN**

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

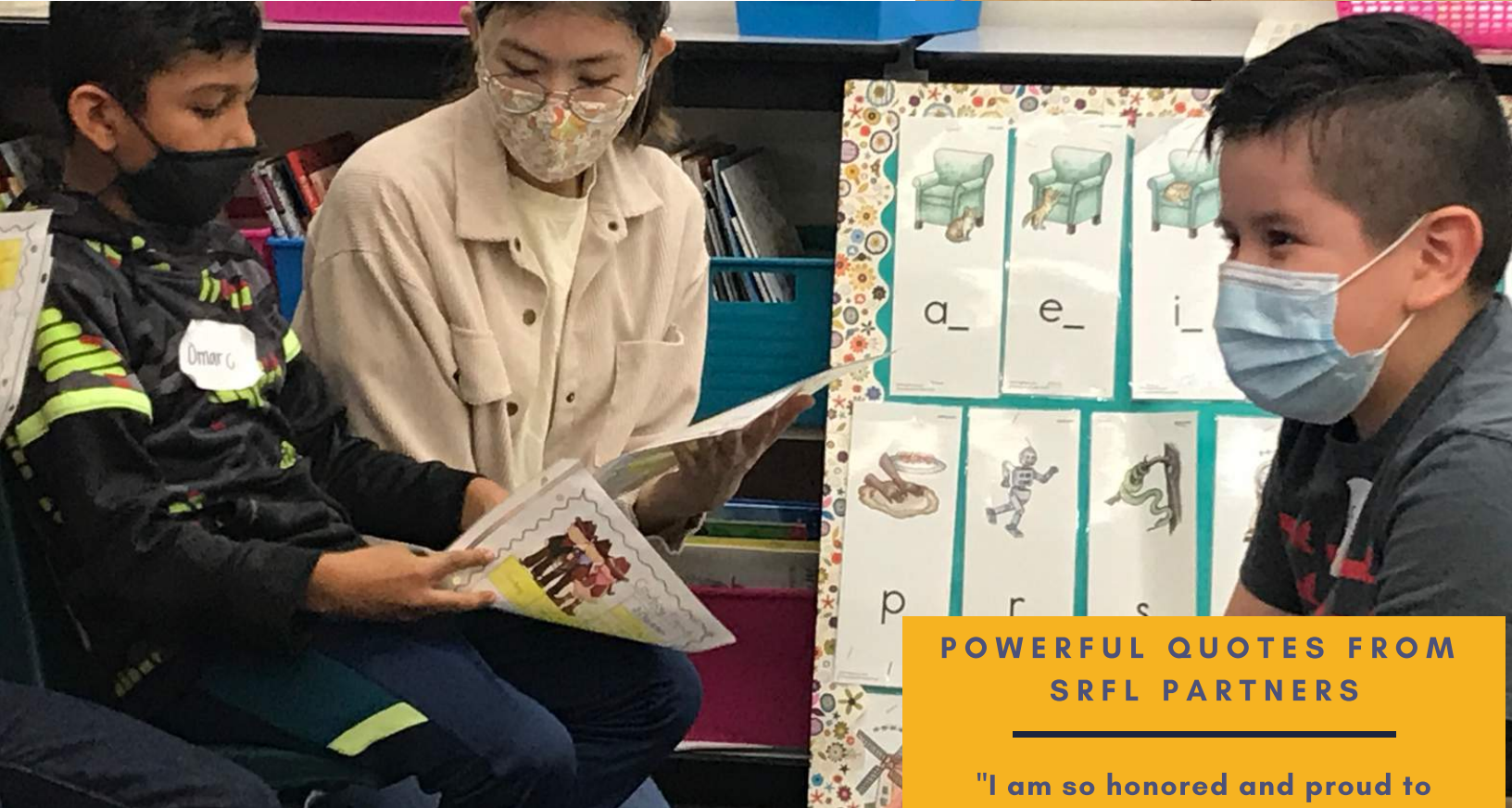
- Chollas-Mead, Encanto, Johnson, and Webster Elementary Schools
- SDUSD Office of Extended Learning
- SAY San Diego
- California Reading and Literature Project (CRLP)
- Black-owned Institute.com
- EARTHKIDZ ADVENTURZ with Ms. Proctor
- Dance with Ms. Rojas
- Outside the Lens Digital Media
- San Diego Children's Choir

## INVESTING PARTNERS

- The San Diego Foundation
- San Diego Unified School District
- The Matthews Foundation
- The Boys and Girls Foundation
- The Downtown Lion's Club Welfare Foundation
- The San Diego Public Library
- Rotary Club of Southeast San Diego
- Tocumbo Ice Cream Shop

# Who are our Summer Readers?

- 126 children enrolled
- Rising K (26%), first (31%), and second graders (43%)
- 4 partner schools
- 47% male; 51% female; 1.5% non-binary
- 65% Latinx; 13% Black; 10% Multi-Racial; 5% Asian; 3% No Answer; 2% Pacific Islander; 1.5% White



## Literacy Components

- **CREDENTIALLED TEACHERS** deliver nearly 4 hours of morning literacy instruction tailored to students' reading levels, and supported by teacher training and collaboration with the California Reading and Literature Project (CRLP).
- **SMALL CLASS SIZES** enable daily conferring with individual students; giving each student a voice; and holding students accountable for their learning and growth.
- **USE OF RICH MENTOR TEXTS** motivate students with rich language and themes in books such as *Ada's Violin*, *The Boy who Harnessed the Wind*, and *Manfish*.

### POWERFUL QUOTES FROM SRFL PARTNERS

"I am so honored and proud to be a part of this program! I believe that Summer Readers Future Leaders comprehensively addresses equity issues in education."

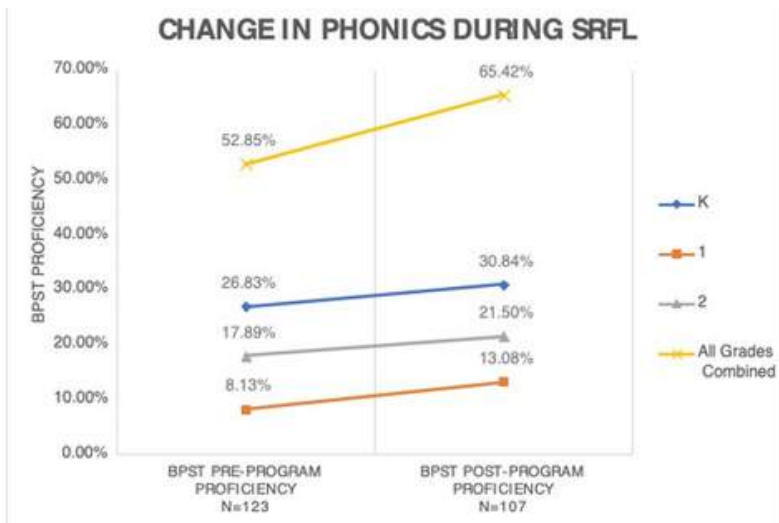
"One child was struggling a lot, but we were able to have them finish writing a paragraph at the end of the fourth week and our teaching team was celebrating because we were so proud of him. Seeing tangible results really makes me feel like we're doing something worthwhile."



# LITERACY OUTCOMES



The morning literacy block is an essential feature of SRFL. Children rotate through small-group instruction in phonics and fluency activities. Equity Fellows support students through Readers' Theatre and word games. Teachers expose children to content through rich mentor texts focused on the program's environmental themes of earth, wind, water, and sun. These themes are then reinforced through afternoon enrichment.



- 53% of students demonstrated grade-level phonics proficiency pre-program compared to 65% post-program
- 59% of children experienced growth in phonics skills
- On average children grew 1.2 levels

## Fluency Results

- **60%** of children experienced growth in fluency skills
- On average children grew **.79** levels
- **55%** demonstrated grade-level proficiency pre-program compared to **71%** post-program

## Writing Results

- **81%** of children improved in their ability to express claims (hypotheses) in their writing
- **89%** improved in their ability to provide evidence to support their claims
- **50%** improved in their ability to explain their reasoning in writing

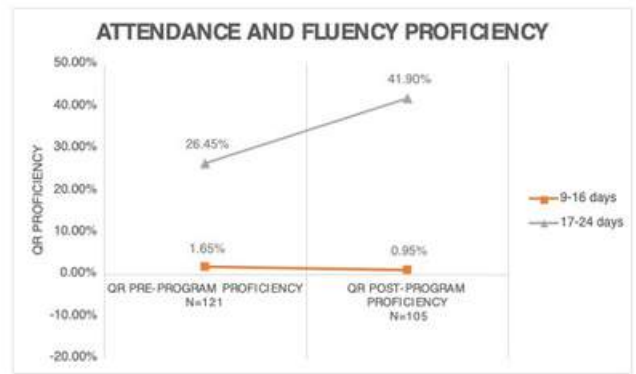
*"My students grew from being unable to write a claim, evidence, and response on the first day to independently writing full paragraphs with all three components and transitions words. Some students expanded this to write multi-paragraph essays . . ."*  
- DEEP Literacy Teacher

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

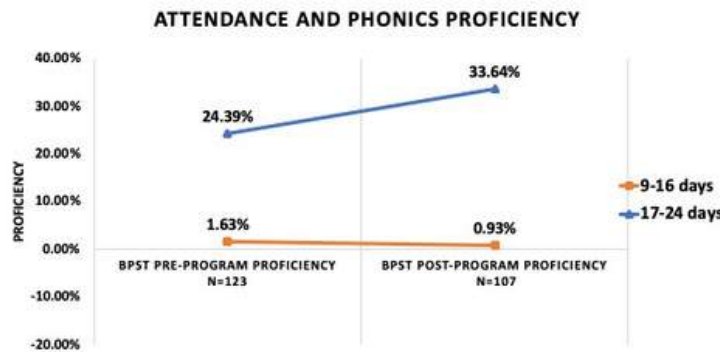
Regular attendance is an important feature of high-quality summer programs. The pandemic and restrictions on returning to campus following any illness resulted in lower daily attendance rate than in past summers. Those with better attendance saw greater gains.

- **Average daily attendance was 82%**

The single most common reason for absence was illness, accounting for at least 45% of days absent. The percentages of students achieving grade-level expectations in both phonics and fluency were directly related to the number of days students were present.



**Those attending 17 or more days significantly outperformed those attending 16-9 days**



## STEAM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Daily Afternoon Enrichment Rotations include:

Hands-on Science Activities  
Dance Choreography and Performance  
Visual Arts using Digital Media  
Choral Music Arts  
African Adventure History and Culture  
Social-Emotional Learning Activities  
Sports

Special Activities:

Interactive Performances presented by Literature Comes to Life and RStories  
Participation in San Diego Public Library's Summer Reading Campaign  
A New Book Every Week for Home Libraries  
Final Awards Ceremony with Student Project Display and Arts Performances  
Attendance Incentives





# ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



SRFL constituted not only a powerful opportunity to accelerate early reading skills development, but it also exposed children to a variety of enrichment opportunities that encouraged problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, and self-expression. Children identified science, dance, and singing as their three favorite enrichment activities. Parents' survey responses confirmed this.

## **HANDS-ON SCIENCE with EarthKidz Adventurz**

Each week, children explored environmental issues and learned about clean energy sources associated with earth, wind, water, and sun. Hands-on activities included making air and water filters, paper airplanes, wind turbines, and solar ovens and cars.

- **97%** of children were able to identify one or more sources of clean energy in nature.
- **83%** were able to identify one or more sources of water pollution.

## **POWERFUL PARTNERS**

**"I am so thankful for this opportunity to teach, learn, and grow along with each and every one of these wonderful human beings. I will hold them in my heart always!"**  
- Enrichment Instructor



**"The most rewarding part of participating in the DEEP program was to witness students significantly increase their visual critical thinking skills. It was rewarding to see that they are learning to think beyond what is right in front of them and question what they see."**  
-Enrichment Instructor

## DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE

Led by veteran SRFL dance instructor, Roxanne Rojas, students learned traditional dances from Latin America with roots in Indigenous and African cultures that honor the four elements of earth, water, wind and sun. They creatively expressed these elements by developing and performing their own dances.



"I liked going outside, squishing the leaves together, putting it in a special kind of paper, then keeping it in the sun, and putting it in special water until it turns white. I also liked taking pictures."

-Student

## MULTICULTURAL CHORAL SINGING

Instructors from the San Diego Children's Choir provided SRFL students with daily music sessions that explored ear training, healthy singing, beat-keeping, literacy, focus, intonation, and improvisation. Music sessions and final performances reflected several SRFL themes, including African culture, positive self-focus, and diversity.



## AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Instructors with Black-Owned.com's Upward Institute introduced students to aspects of African culture and history through activities that involved making African drums, necklaces, kufi hats, and kente cloth.



## DIGITAL MEDIA

In their weekly sessions with Outside the Lens, students learned about such concepts as vantage points and elements of design. They used digital media to capture their experiences of nature and its elements.



# RAVENOUS READERS!

SRFL aims to develop children who love to read because they enjoy it, and children who enjoy reading because they do it well.



**Children read a combined total of 1020 books** and won prizes as part of their participation in the Public Library's Summer Reading Campaign. Over 500 brand new books were distributed to children throughout the program!

## POWERFUL IMPACT

- **90%** of children felt they were better readers as a result of SRFL
- **72%** shared they like reading more as a result of the program
- Nearly **60%** children said receiving brand new books each week was one of the things they liked best about the program
- **90%** of children had already read one or more of their new books
- **92%** of parents saw an increase in their child's interest in reading
- **94%** of parents saw improvement in their children's reading skills

## EQUITY FELLOWS IN ACTION



For the first summer ever, DEEP was able to hire UCSD students as Equity Fellows. These students experienced the teaching profession firsthand by working closely with SRFL instructors to support small and whole-group instruction. Equity Fellows unanimously reported that the experience was a good introduction to teaching. All of them reported seeing academic and social-emotional growth in the children they supported.

## TEACHER REFLECTIONS

"I always looked forward to seeing the students the next day because of this; and being able to witness them laugh, play, and learn together always made my participation in this program worth it."  
-DEEP Equity Fellow

"The Equity Fellows love for teaching and children shows in all their work with them. My Equity Fellow was a true teaching partner who was self reflective about his own practice and very open to feedback about how to improve."  
-SRFL Instructor

"This program is special because beyond working on literacy skills it empowers students and helps them discover that they have agency in their life and the world beyond."  
-SRFL Instructor



# FINAL PERFORMANCE AND AWARDS



Students receiving awards



Award Ceremony



Perfect Attendance Incentives



## Family Survey Results

- **90%** of parents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their child's SRFL experience
- **84%** of parents attended the final student performance and award ceremonies
- **16%** of parents participated in remote workshops offered through SRFL to help them support their children's reading and overall SRFL experience

## Family Feedback

"This program was so rewarding for [my daughter], after spending a year of zoom. She couldn't stop talking about how fun it was and all exciting things she's learned."

-Parent

The top three things parents said their children would be doing if they weren't enrolled in SRFL:

Playing video games  
Playing outside  
Watching TV

Fewer than 9% of parents said that their children would be enrolled in another program or would be reading.

"Extremely proud of the progress of my son. He is an English learner and very shy. This program has made him feel more comfortable, confident and feel less different. Thank you so much!"

-Parent

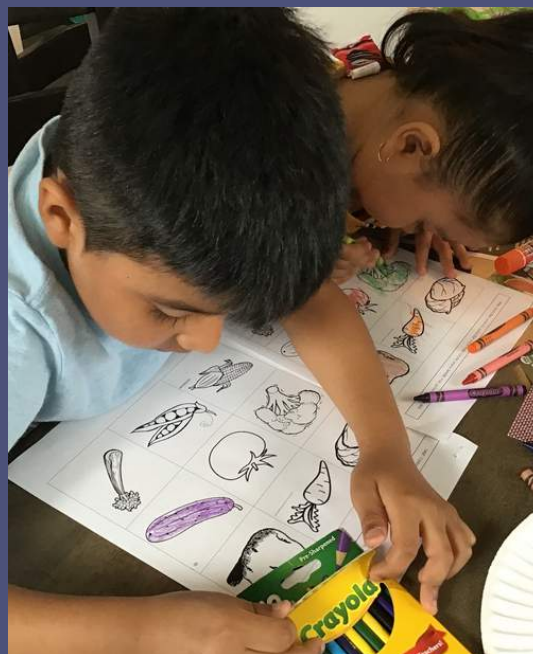
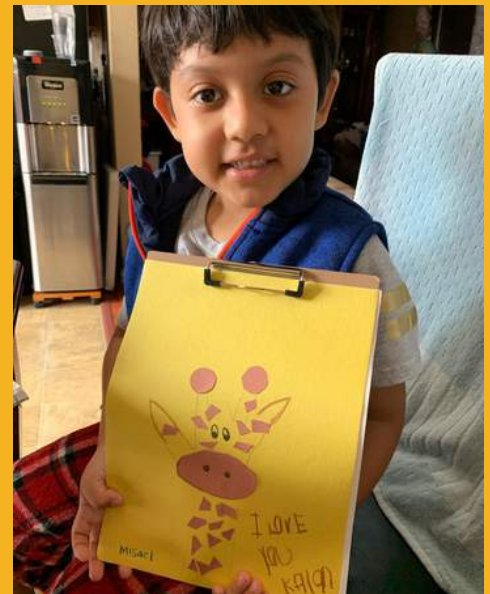
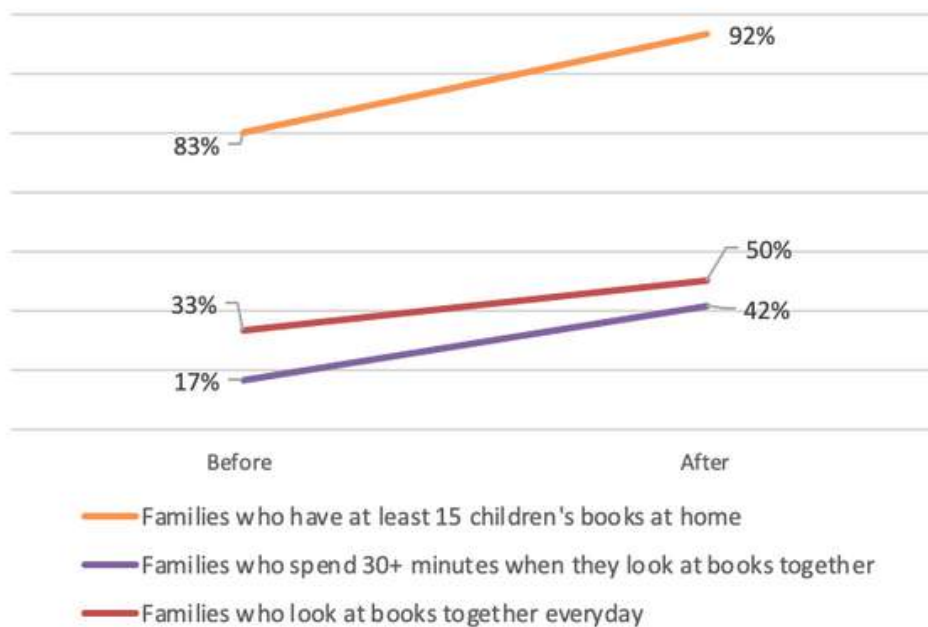


# ENGAGING FAMILIES IN NEW WAYS

The San Diego Foundation funding enabled DEEP to engage its partners, Words Alive and the California Reading and Literature Project (CRLP), to provide educational workshops to families with children ages 0-5 and parents of SRFL participants for the first time.

## WORDS ALIVE FAMILY LITERACY RESULTS

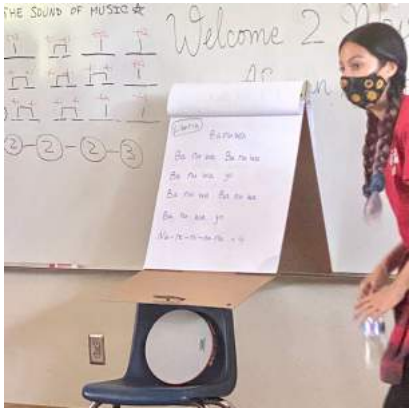
Before and After Comparison of Book Ownership, Frequency and Duration of Book Exploration





# PARTNER APPRECIATION

All DEEP programs are implemented in partnership with multiple organizations. DEEP is proud to report that all of the 2021 partners enjoyed their experience and are eager to collaborate again.



Special thanks to The San Diego Foundation for their dedication to early literacy and helping us uplift the students of the Diamond Community through their Level Up grant.

