

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grandparents Can Help Increase Literacy in Youth

San Luis Obispo, CA – According to the National Research Council, academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing a child's reading skill at the end of third grade; a child who is not at least a modestly skilled reader by that time is unlikely to graduate from high school. To help increase literacy and early learning, grandparents and parents alike can do simple, everyday activities with young children. A presentation and reception on Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the SLO Senior Center will introduce seniors (and their family members) to Born Learning, a public outreach program that helps adults promote school readiness.

Children are constantly learning, right from birth; their early years are the foundation for growth and development, and what they learn during those years depends on the experiences they have each and every day. This foundation, and the emotional connection they form with their caregivers, helps give them the confidence that they need to learn. As they get older and learning and development continue, children will ultimately be better prepared for school and lifelong success.

“Especially now, when funding to the education system is in jeopardy, it is important for adults to encourage informal learning at home,” said Rick London, CEO, United Way of San Luis Obispo County. “Born Learning teaches that even simple things, like making up songs or playing with sock puppets, are incredibly effective for helping young children learn and make connections. These lessons are the ones on which all other learning is built.”

The presentation, sponsored by Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. and United Way of San Luis Obispo County, will cover information about the Born Learning program and simple ways to incorporate learning into daily activities followed by a walk through the Born Learning Trail in Mitchell Park. Children are invited to come and enjoy story time with their grandparents, and parents are also welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact United Way of San Luis Obispo County at (805) 541-1234.

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This news release is available on the United Way of San Luis Obispo County website at
<http://www.unitedwayslo.org/News/index.html>