



**Abriendo Puertas  
Opening Doors**

*Desarrollando  
un Futuro Mejor  
a través  
del Liderazgo  
de los Padres*

*Building  
a Better Future  
Through  
Parent Leadership*



## Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

The nation's first evidence-based, comprehensive training program created by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5



Abriendo Puertas  
Opening Doors

## What is Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors?

By and for Latino parents who have children 0-5 years of age.

**Supports Latino parents:**

- As **family leader**
- As their **child's first teacher**
- At home, which is their child's first school.

**Two-generation approach:**

- Builds **parent leadership skills & knowledge**
- Promotes **family well-being and**
- Positive **education outcomes** for children





# Why was *Abriendo Puertas/* Opening Doors developed?



## According to President Obama

“Our nation’s economic future is being decided every day in classrooms across the country.

With **25% of children under 10 being Latino today**, the Latino community plays a critical role in our nation’s ability to out educate and out compete the world and win the future.

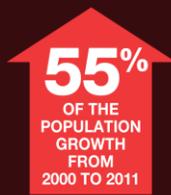
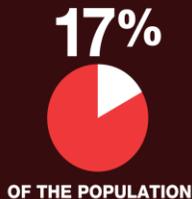
**The future of this country is inextricably linked to the future of the Latino community.”**





## National Landscape: Latinos in the U.S

### LATINOS IN THE U.S. ARE...



64.1%	MEXICAN
9.5%	PUERTO RICAN
3.7%	CUBAN
3.7%	SALVADORAN
3.3%	DOMINICAN
2.4%	GUATEMALAN
2.0%	COLOMBIAN
...AND MORE	



SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, PEW HISPANIC CENTER, SELIG CENTER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH | VISIT: WWW.LATINOBRANDINGPOWER.COM



## National Landscape: Latinos in the U.S



**Young Latinos are the fastest growing demographic group in the United States**



**26% of the nation's kids under 5 years old are Latino**



**Approximately 33% of Hispanic families with children under 18 lived below the poverty level**

Excellencia in Education. (2015). *The Condition of Latinos in Education: 2015 Factbook*. Washington, D.C.: Excellencia in Education.



## National Landscape: Latinos in the U.S



**38%** of the nation's Head Start children are Latino

Head Start, Indicators on Children and Youth. *Child Trends*, March 2015, <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=head-start>

## Areas of concern for young Latino children



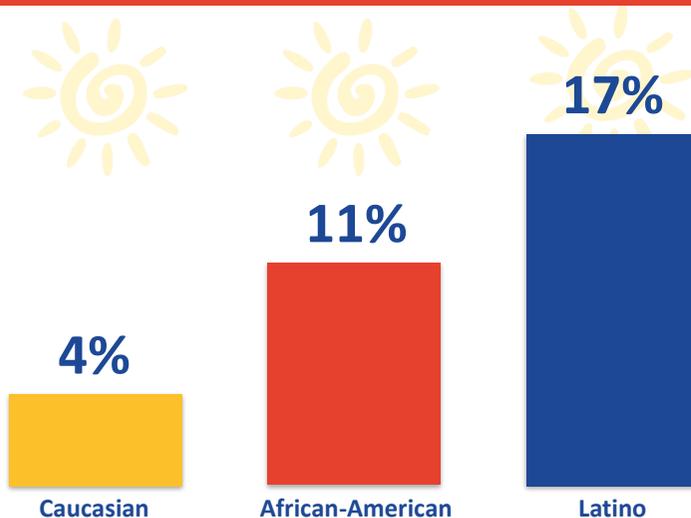
**Abriendo Puertas**  
**Opening Doors**

*You can't change  
what you don't  
acknowledge*





## Racial Disparities in Obesity Rates in children ages 2-5



Prevalence of Childhood and Adult Obesity in the United States, 2011-2012. *JAMA*, 2014, 311 (8): 806-814.



## Latino toddlers lag behind Caucasian children in cognitive skills

Low income immigrant Latinas have healthy babies, but...



By the age of 2-3, toddlers begin to lag behind Caucasian middle class children in:

- Vocabulary
- Listening skills
- Problem solving skills



Latino toddlers trail their Caucasian counterparts by up to six months in understanding:

- Words
- Speaking in complex sentences
- Simple tasks (i.e. assembling puzzles)

Maternal and Child Health J. 2013 Nov;17(9):1701-11. doi: 10.1007/s10995-012-1184-7.



## The Opportunity/Achievement Gap in Language and Reading Skills

	Children from Professional Families	Children from Low-Income Families
Average Vocabulary at age 3	1,116 words	525 words
Average Vocabulary at age 6	20,000 words	3,000 words
Average 1-1 picture book reading hours by 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	1000 –1700 hours	25 hours

Hart, B. & Risley, T. (1995). *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children*.



## 3rd grade-level reading: The most important predictor of school success and high school graduation



Proficiency in reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn.



2/3 of U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> graders are not proficient readers

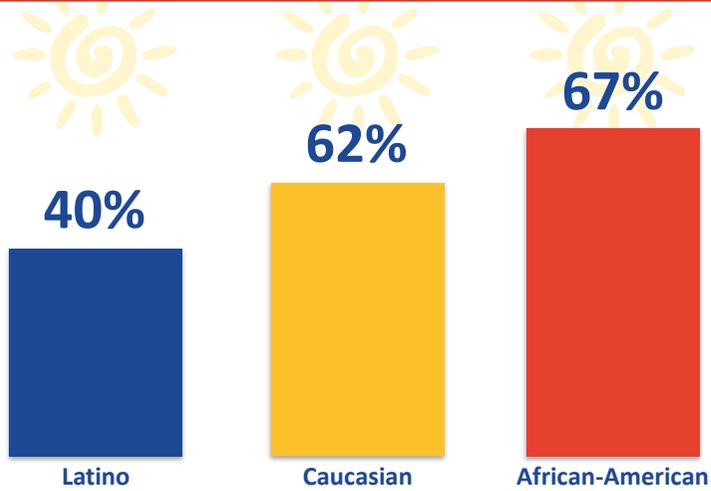


More than 4/5 low-income students don't read at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level

The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). Early Reading Proficiency in the United States. Baltimore, MD. Retrieved from URL: <http://www.aecf.org/resources/early-reading-proficiency-in-the-united-states/C>



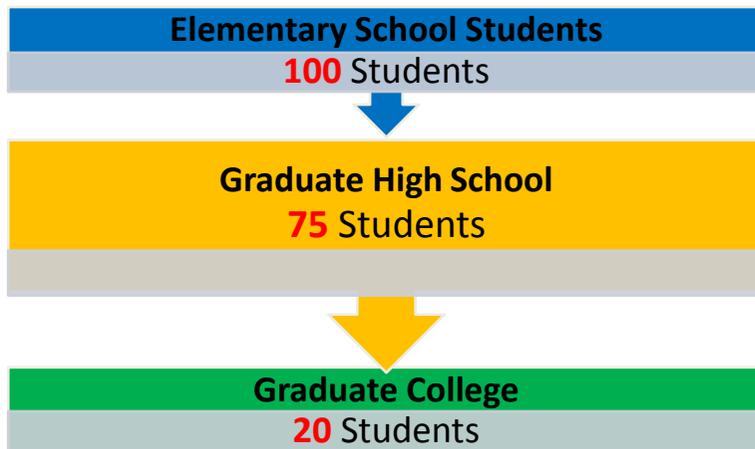
## Participation of Low Income Children in Early Childhood Education Programs



WHIEEH, *Hispanics and Early Learning Facts Sheet*, [http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/hispanic-initiative/files/2014/05/WHIEEH-Early-learning-Fact-Sheet-FINAL\\_050614.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/hispanic-initiative/files/2014/05/WHIEEH-Early-learning-Fact-Sheet-FINAL_050614.pdf)



## National Graduation Rates for Latino Students



U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences - National Center for Education Statistics, 2013

# What can make a difference?



*What works?*

*What do we know for sure?*



## The Impact of Early Education in the Life of a Child

-  Higher probability of **reading and writing well**
-  Higher probability of **graduating from high school**
-  Less probability of getting involved in the **criminal justice system**
-  Higher probability of holding **stable employment and earning more money**

The Research on PreK. (2008) The Center for Public Education. Retrieved from URL: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Pre-kindergarten/Pre-Kindergarten>



## The Impact of Early Education in the Life of a Child

Low-income children who attend  
high-quality preschool programs are:



**40%** less likely to be held back a grade



**30%** more likely to graduate from high school



**100%** more likely to graduate college

J.B. Pritzker, Urban Institute Report



## The Foundations for lifelong Well-being Begin in the Early Years

**Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors**  
was developed  
to improve the outcomes  
of the nation's Latino children



**Abriendo Puertas**  
**Opening Doors**

**Having an informed and engaged parent is one of life's greatest advantages**



**Parents  
– as leaders of their family –  
are  
powerful agents of change**



## **Abriendo Puertas Curriculum**



**Consists of 10, 2-hour sessions**



**Centered on the cultural values, strengths, and experiences of Latino families**



**Engages parents at a very personal level and results in transformative learning**



**Based on the premise that enhancing parenting skills early in a child's life leads to economic and societal benefits**



## Evidence-based Curriculum



Carefully developed and **field-tested** over a **five-year period**



Evidence-based program, **evaluated** by leading researchers from **University of California of Berkeley**



Evaluated through pre and post surveys and focus groups with more than a **1,000 parents**



## Abriendo Puertas Evaluation - 2008

**Significant gains across all areas of assessment, with moderate to large effects in:**



**Daily home activities that promote children's school readiness**

- **Nutrition and Early literacy**



**Confidence about parenting skills and getting their children ready for school**



**Knowledge and access to available health services**



## Abriendo Puertas Evaluation - 2008



Social support and connections in the community



Community involvement



Knowledge on different areas of child development:

- Language and literacy
- social-emotional development and health



Understanding their rights and responsibilities to advocate for their children



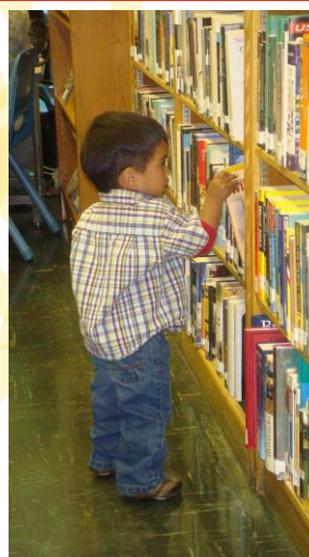
## National Evaluation - 2012



Random selection of more than 800 parents in 6 states

One of the main findings was an **increase in library visits:**

- **Before AP**
  - 30% of parents had never been to the library with their child
- **After AP**
  - less than 2% of parents reported this
  - 36% increase in the number of parents who now take their child to the library once per week.





## Abriendo Puertas Unique Features



### Popular Education Methodology

- Strength-based
- Use of local data
- Based on the life experiences of participants
- Encourages the praxis process



### Home Activities

- Parent Pledge Cards
- Daily home activities that promote school readiness



### Multi-media

- DVDs produced by Parents Action for Children on early education and nutrition





## Abriendo Puertas Unique Features

### Culturally relevant



- Dichos
- Abriendo Puertas Lotería
- Developed by and for Latino parents
- “Aquí entre nos”
- Promotes strong Latino family values
- Demystifies the concept of school readiness
- Role play characters created by and for parents:
  - Teresa Tomorrow, Positive Patricia & Negative Norma



## Abriendo Puertas Unique Features



Available in English and Spanish



Comprehensive curriculum addresses best practices in:

- language development, bilingualism, early literacy
- early math,
- health, socio-emotional wellness,
- parent leadership and planning for family success



Parent Resource Kit



## Abriendo Puertas Unique Features



Field trip to the **Library**



Information on **Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC**



*Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors* **Facilitator Kit**



University of California Berkeley developed **parent surveys to measure program's impact**



**Abriendo Puertas**  
**Opening Doors**



**Abriendo Puertas/  
Opening Doors  
Training Institute**



## The Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Training Institute

**Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors**  
**fully prepares local community leaders**  
**to become facilitators in**  
**delivering the program**  
**to parents in their community**  
**and to train others**  
**in the use of the curriculum**





## Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Highlights



Highlighted by the Harvard Family Research Project as one of the nation's leading innovations in family engagement



Has grown rapidly throughout the United States:

- Partnering with over 400 family-serving organizations
- Over 1,500 parent educators
- Approximately 70,000 families in 35 states and Puerto Rico





## Contact Abriendo Puertas

For more information about how you can incorporate the  
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Program  
in your city,  
please contact:

**Sandra Gutierrez**

National Director

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

1000 N. Alameda St. Suite 240

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 346-3284

info@ap-od.org

<http://www.ap-od.org>