About Parent Services Project

Founded in 1980, Parent Services Project (PSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to integrating family support into early childhood programs, schools and family-serving organizations. Our mission is to engage and strengthen families, working in partnership with educators and service providers to take leadership in assuring the well-being of all children, families, and communities.

PSP provides organizations with customized training, technical assistance and onsite consultation to effectively engage all families, including support of community-based networks. Our services result in increased parent involvement and leadership, genuinely diverse participation, strengthened community ties, and improved effectiveness in community-building. Our program models have been developed, tested and refined in Marin County and the San Francisco Bay Area, and replicated in over 500 sites throughout 12 states nationally, reaching an estimated 40,000 families.

PSP has been recognized as a leader in the field of family support, with our programs and our staff receiving noteworthy awards. These include: an award by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, placing PSP in its Families Count National Honors Program in 2000, and recognition of PSP as an exemplary program by Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Center for the Study of Social Policy in 2003; and the Golden Bell Award for outstanding community partnership from Marin County Office of Education in 2010.

Our Programs

- **Stronger Together** is a nationally field-tested family support curriculum, currently in its second edition, which has been applied in early childhood and school settings across the country. The curriculum is focused on building strong relationships with families and is used for professional development for educators and service providers and has also been offered as a college course.

- **Making Room in the Circle** is a groundbreaking diversity curriculum designed to support the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender families in early childhood settings. The curriculum, released in 2006, was used to teach the first course of its kind in the nation at San Francisco City College, and has been replicated at several other colleges and universities.

- **Parent Leadership Institute** is an intensive training for emerging parent leaders to build skills and knowledge to be involved in their child's education and to have a strong voice in educational systems. The Institute utilizes a blend of family support and community organizing principles. Parents increase confidence to advocate for their children and to take action for change.

- **Family Engagement and Leadership** is program that provides coaching and technical assistance to parents, staff and administrators of early childhood
programs and K-12 schools, to institutionalize practices that welcome and involve families. PSP tailors services to the site’s needs.

- **Raising A Reader**: PSP coordinates the Marin-based implementation of this national early literacy model. Raising A Reader is take-home book bag program placed in early childhood settings, that encourages parents to share age-appropriate books with their young children.

- **Mentores Project**: A Marin County-based school-readiness outreach program that identifies underserved families with children ages 0-5 in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael, linking them to resources and opportunities, and engaging them in their children’s early childhood and school programs.

- **Aprendiendo Juntos (AJ)**: A Marin-County based community-driven, weekly playgroup supporting Spanish-speaking families in the Canal Neighborhood of San Rafael. AJ brings young children together with their caregivers to enjoy art, music, parenting discussion, community resources, literacy activities and more.

**Our Core Values**

PSP’s core values are built upon our *Principles of Family Support* which guide our programmatic work with families and communities. We seek to:

- TRANSFORM the relationships between families and practitioners so that families actively participate in their children’s development and practitioners strengthen such participation,

- RAISE leadership among families, emboldening them to take action on issues that matter most to them,

- INVITE all members of the community to the table, affirming diversity, and ensuring that all voices are heard,

- BUILD cohorts of practitioners who are passionate about applying family support principles in their work, and

- EXPAND our impact by continuous assessment and the dissemination of best practice to influence systems and policies.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.parentservices.org](http://www.parentservices.org)