

# Letter from the Director

The Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Head Start/Early Head Start Program has been serving preschool children, (birth to 5 years of age) and their families in Santa Clara and San Benito counties for the past 50 years. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of children and remove all barriers that impede the children's learning.

We have a highly educated, highly trained and dedicated team of professionals that provide high quality services to the most vulnerable and at-risk children and their families in our community including children who are homeless, in foster care, and with special needs. This has been demonstrated in the last three annual federal reviews. Our program was found 100% compliant in ALL federal regulations.

The program embraces the home-school connection to create a culture that fosters learning and create environments that include children's home language and culture through individualized learning experiences. The teaching staff promotes the children's growth and development in a very comprehensive way to help children develop emotional and social competence and strong cognitive skills: early reading and language development, math and science, and physical development.

We have a team of Coaches that provide on-site support and professional development to improve and implement best practices that teachers can implement in the classrooms. Our staff builds trusting relationships with parents and the community to promote school readiness, as we believe that strong family and community engagement prepares children for future educational excellence. We have a responsibility to consult with parents, schools and the community in establishing school readiness goals for their children. As research suggests, parents and family members are more likely to become engaged in their young child's development and learning when they have positive and trusting relationships with those who support them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Education, the wonderful groups of parents who serve in committees and Policy Council, our staff who remained focused and motivated, our many community partners, school districts, and Regional Office (Region IX) staff for their expertise, guidance and continuous support. It takes a community working together to provide high-quality, early learning services to children, and equipping them with the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Please take time to learn about the great work the Head Start staff are doing for children and families in Santa Clara and San Benito counties. You may access this annual report and other information including the Head Start enrollment application at [www.myheadstart.org](http://www.myheadstart.org)

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Lett".

