

Rec'd 5/1/13

OREGON STATE LIBRARY

Library Services and Technology Act  
Grant Activities Report

(check one)

quarterly reports must be filed even if there is no activity in that quarter

1st Quarter Report  3rd Quarter Report

2nd Quarter Report  Final Report (send e-copy to State Library)

Project Name: Listos para Aprender

Grant Project Number: 12-03-3p Date Submitted: 4/29/13

Submitted By: Ana Schmitt Phone: 503.988.4332

1. Summarize the overall purpose of the grant project:

The goal of *Listos para Aprender* is to make our present Spanish storytimes more culturally appropriate programs that enhance the development of literacy among young Spanish-speaking children ages three to five, and empower parents by raising their awareness of ways to help their children get ready for school.

2. Summarize the project results to date:

Outputs Summary – please report as appropriate depending upon your grant

(double click Word table to enter data- table can be altered to record appropriate outputs)

Actual # of people served this quarter	850	Actual # of people served to date	1600
# of programs /meetings /events	43	# of programs /meetings /events to date	76
# of programs /meetings /events attendees	850	# of programs /meetings /events attendees	1600
Other ouput measure(s): (please indicate)		Other ouput measure(s) to date:	

Narrative summary:

First quarter:

We are right on target with the goals for our first quarter. We hired the Program Coordinator, Delia Palomeque. We conducted outreach to over 60 families, created important partnerships with three

community organizations that serve the Latino community, and started planning the 3 cohorts with the staff at the Midland, Troutdale and North Portland libraries.

Second quarter:

During the second quarter we designed a program model for each location that test the benefits of a cohort versus a drop in model; the use of giveaway books as an incentive for participation; culturally appropriate branding in promotional activities; and whether weekdays, evenings or weekend attract more families in the regular basis.

Third quarter:

During the third quarter Delia Palomeque worked with three bilingual staff at the Troutdale, Midland, and North Portland Libraries to begin offering a series of three 16-week one-an-a-half-hour programs that include family activities, literacy related parent education, and storytime segments.

Fourth quarter:

During the fourth quarter we completed the second cohort. We had the graduation for the children and recognition for the parents who participated. We held assessment/oral interviews to evaluate the program. We completed the third cohort group, the final pilot. We held the last graduation for the children and provided recognition to the parents for their participation. We handled assessment activities/oral interviews to evaluate the last pilot. We tracked library card usage from the members of the last cohort. We participated in a peer evaluation site visit. We produced a final report with lessons learned and recommendations. We will share the program and the lessons learned at the next OLA Winter Conference and the next REFORMA General Conference in the fall of 2014 or spring of 2015.

3. Report on specific project objectives to date:

Objective: Conduct outreach and create partnerships	% Progress / Results: over 240
Activity Summary: <i>(type below this table)</i>	

First Quarter:

Program Coordinator, Delia Palomeque created partnerships with Julie Conroy, Manager of the Migrant Education Program of the Multnomah Education Service District, and Teresa Rule, from Portland Public Schools Migrant Education Program. Julie Conroy offered to reach out families that the MESD is not able to serve. She will contact in person the Latino families with children ages 3-5 and encourage them to participate in the Listos para Aprender at Midland. Teresa Rule will contact the Latino families to invite them to participate in the Listos para Aprender programs at the Troutdale and North Portland libraries.

Grant Manager, Ana Schmitt promoted the upcoming program with over 60 families at IRCO, Hacienda CDC, Pathfinder Academy, Fairview Head Start, and the 4 of the Multnomah County Health Department clinics. This was done though early literacy trainings, and during storytimes at these locations. Ana Schmitt met with Anabertha Alvarado who conducts a parent/children kindergarten readiness program for Latino Network. She recommended we have the coordinator and the other library staff alternate teaching the parents portion of the program and the Storytime. Relationships are important to the Latino Community, and this will encourage the parents to become familiar with both staff and their different styles.

By the end of the first quarter we started to discuss the possibility of a partnership with Multnomah County Library Raising A Reader program. The goal would be to have the Raising A Reading book bags go home with the children from week 2 of the program through week 15.

Second Quarter:

Through a partnership with the Portland Public School Title I-C Migrant Education Delia Palomeque have been able to reach over 50 families.

Delia Palomeque reached 125 Latino patrons when she attended the Cesar Chavez Parent Leadership Annual Conference to promote the Listos para Aprender program.

Ana Schmitt and Delia Palomeque observed a parent child early childhood program in Clackamas County called Ready Set Go looking for possible ideas that we could implement.

Third Quarter:

Ana Schmitt reached over 200 Latino patrons when she attended The East County WIC Health Fair, and the Bienestar de la Familia Program at Ortiz Center to promote the Listos para Aprender program.

Ana Schmitt and Delia Palomeque did a storytime at the Hacienda CDC "Parents As First Teachers" group and promote the Listos para Aprender program at the library with 8 families.

Fourth Quarter:

John Church, Ana Schmitt, Delia Palomeque, and library volunteers did outreach at North East Health Center, Albina Head Start, Bridger Elementary School Latino Night, St, Andrews School and Church, North Portland Library Día de los Muertos event, Jose Luis Orozco event at the Midland Library, Center for the Family Success, Program Hispano, etc.

Ana Schmitt created a partnership with Portland Public Schools home visit program for Migrant families Parents as Teachers. Over 30 families with young children attended one of two library tours at the Holgate Library. Most of these families signed up for a waiting list to participate in the next Listos para Aprender at the library.

Ana Schmitt met with staff of the Morrison Children and Family Center. The staff at Morrison will refer families that are not able to sign up for Head Start. 6 Families from Morrison are already on the waiting list for the next cohort of Listos para Aprender at the library.

Ana Schmitt reached over 300 patrons while providing 9 Early Literacy trainings to Latino parents through Latino Network Juntos Para Aprender Program, Center for the Family Success, Hacienda, and Youth and Teen Parents programs at Sequoia Apartments and Centennial High School. All these programs serve low income Latino Families and they will continue to refer families to the library for the LPA Program in the future. Hacienda serves families with children from birth to 3 years old; at 3 they will refer them to the library to do LPA. Latino Network Juntos para Aprender has a kindergarten readiness program for children 3-5 years old and their parents; similar to the library LPA program, but they hold their program at the local schools for 30 weeks. We will promote each others programs and are planning to have our programs in two different days so that the families could attend both programs.

Objective: Develop curriculum	% Progress / Results:
Activity Summary: <i>(type below this table)</i>	

First Quarter:

Ana Schmitt has met and consulted with Youth Services Director, Ellen Fader, and Neighborhood Library Director, Rita Jimenez about best practices, available resources and staff who could provide support based on their experience. Based on their recommendations Ana Schmitt and Delia Palomeque have been observing and learning from other kindergarten readiness programs that are directed to parents and their pre-school age children. Ana observed three sessions of the program Building Blocks for Literacy held at the Gresham Library, and both Ana and Delia met with Natalie Shilling, the leader of this program. Delia and Ana also met with the staff of the Latino Network Program Juntos Aprendemos, and observed one of their sessions. And they have been reading early literacy related materials like Mind in the Making, Ellen Galinsky, Much More than ABCs, Judith A. Schickedanz, Raising a Reader, Every Child Ready to Read, and Mother Goose Activities, and materials from the Washington Learning Systems to find best practices that would transfer well for this program. We are using the early literacy practices and adapting recommended activities to make them culturally appropriate. Ana has met and as needed consulted with Renea Arnold, Deborah Gitlitz and other library staff who have experience managing LSTA grants and/or children and parents programs for Multnomah County Library.

All the staff involve in conducting the Listos para Aprender program met in April and started planning the main logistics for the three cohorts. The one and half hour weekly program, Listos para Aprender will run at the Midland Library from May 31<sup>st</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The program at the Troutdale Library will run from July 21<sup>st</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The date for the North Portland Library cohort will be determined soon. We will test three different models. Midland will be open, first come-first served, no books will be given, only a certificate of completion. Troutdale participants will be asked to register, and participating children will receive a book every session in addition to the certificate of completion. The participants of the North Portland Library will be required to register, and each child will receive a book at the end of the 16 weeks in addition to the certificate of completion.

Second Quarter:

Ana Schmitt and Delia Palomeque continue to meet about the progress of the program and consult with Youth Services Director, now Katie O'Dell and Early Childhood Services Supervisor, Renea Arnold, as well as with Neighborhood Library Director, Rita Jimenez.

All the staff involved in conducting the Listos para Aprender program met in July and learned the challenges and lessons learned from the updated sessions at Midland Regional Library. The Midland facilitators shared ways they have been addressing the challenges.

Ana Schmitt and Delia Palomeque completed the planning of the 16 week program. However there will be updates that need to be done based on the recommendations from the staff conducting the cohort at Midland and their experiences, as well as library staff that have had the opportunity to observe the sessions.

Third Quarter:

After testing the program at the Midland Library we have made changes to the sessions based on observations from staff. We feel the sessions are getting stronger and richer as modifications are made to the activities. If necessary, new ideas will be added to the sessions after tested at Troutdale. The original objectives on each session remain as the facilitators agree that those are firm and right to the purpose of the program. The new structure - shortening the time of children and parents apart, seems to work better since parents have the opportunity to try the strategies by supporting their child during the hands-on activities during the session.

Fourth Quarter:

During the last cohort we continued the same set up as established at the end of the third quarter. This new time structure impacted the program in a positive way. Children did not seem rushed or highly challenged and the facilitators, with a shorter time (15 min) with children when separated from their parents, covered an activity in preparation to the transition to the last block with their parents. It gave parents the time to comment on their observations during the storytime block, receive new information on the topic of the day, and prepare for the next activity with their children. Also, the new organization of the time provided them with the opportunity to support their children during all of the hands-on activities and put into practice the suggestions and ideas commented in the previous block. The original objectives on each session remained the same with the same topics and the same purpose of the program.

After we were done with the three very successful cohorts Delia Palomeque created recommendations for the implementation of the LPA program in a way that is sustainable even after LSTA grant funds are no longer available. Her recommendations were based in the lessons learned and staff recommendations. Delia Palomeque recommended no changes to the curriculum, and among her recommendations included continuing the partnership with Raising A Reader and to hire a staff to do continue to plan the lessons and co-facilitate the program with the staff. Multnomah County Library accepted all recommendations and is in the process of hiring the facilitator.

Objective: Enroll families, and encourage participation	% Progress / Results: 83 individuals
Activity Summary: <i>(type below this table)</i>	

First Quarter

As of April 30<sup>th</sup> we had 15 families registered to attend the upcoming programs of Listos para Aprender. To help accomplish the goals of the program and at the same time encourage families' participation, the program is being developed based in the early literacy best practices, the kindergarten Common Core State Standards and knowledge and skills a child entering kindergarten must have, while taking into consideration the cultural norms of the Latino community.

Second Quarter

We are hosting the first cohort at MID and it has been very successful so far. It started May 31<sup>st</sup> and all parents continue to come back each week. As of July 31<sup>st</sup> we have 13 families attending the Midland Library Listos para Aprender regularly.

### Third Quarter

On August 4th, the second pilot of Listos Para Aprender Program initiated at Troutdale library. 10 families registered and meet on Saturdays 3 – 4:30PM to participate in the session's activities.

September 13 the Midland Library hosted the graduation of the first cohort of Listos para Aprender. This first pilot was conducted by bilingual library assistant Alan Gabrieli and grant coordinator Delia Palomeque. Latino families met for 1.5 hours a week for 16 weeks and learned how to help their children develop early literacy skills through reading, conversing, writing, singing and playing to help prepare them for kindergarten. Evaluations from participants showed that the parents put into practice at home what they learned during the sessions, enticed by their commitment to support their children's early literacy development. Listos para Aprender partnered with Raising A Reader to make it possible for the children to take home age-appropriate books and enjoy them with the whole family. Twelve of the 13 families that completed the program reported they doubled the time they read with their children; most of them now read to their children five to seven days a week.

As of October 31st, we are on session 13 at the Troutdale Library. The average attendance in every session is 9 families including 9 adults, 9 children between 3 and 5 years old, 2 school age siblings and 2 brand new babies).

Families have orally reported that they are happy and pleased with the program. Moms commented that dads are also reading with their children, "*He cannot resist his daughter's request*", one of the moms mentioned.

### Fourth Quarter:

We had 100% attendees graduate from the Troutdale and North Portland Library LPA. These were the two cohorts that required prior registration. Ten families graduated from the Troutdale Library group, and 4 families graduated from the last cohort at North Portland Library. We created a waiting list for future cohorts. Partner organizations are already referring families for future cohorts.

87 % of the families that participated in all three cohorts reported that they read more often to their children and using reading strategies - dialogic reading, allowing the child take the lead, looking for letters, etc. All four participants at the last cohort got library cards for a total of 5 library cards for this group. During the outreach with partners organizations over 50 library cards were opened.

### 3. Significant developments:

#### First quarter:

Change of plans: There had to be a shift of plans regarding which locations are holding the three cohorts. The original idea was having one of the cohorts at the Kenton Library, but Ana Schmitt got approval from the State Library to move that program to the North Portland Library. The reason for this is that the bilingual Spanish Youth Librarian at the Kenton Library was going to be transferred to a different library and we were concerned that the

parents in that library have been through too many changes to give them another storytime staff and a different program. They just changed staff a few months back. We also realized we might reach more of the target population at the North Portland Library without getting too far from the original proposed location.

**Lesson learned:**

We found it difficult to have one of the programs open without registration requirements. Families want to register to make sure they have an opportunity to participate.

**Second quarter:**

**Lesson Learned:** As planned the first cohort was offered on a walk-in basis. This situation offered us the challenge to receive irregularly, a larger group of families during the first sessions, (weeks 1-8), as more families learned about the program. The great attendance influences the flow of the activities. Each session has been designed with specific objectives to be reached by children and adults, as well as pre-packed set of supplies and materials. In order for the facilitator to give every child the time, space, and attention they deserve and need, we must limit the number of children in the program. As planned with the other two cohorts at the Troutdale and the North Portland libraries registration will be required. We will accept eight to ten children between 3 and 5 years old and their parents.

**Third quarter:**

**Highlights:** Parents are becoming library ambassadors by promoting the Listos para Aprender program, and raising awareness of early literacy in the Latino community.

Rubilia Ibarra, a community partner was helping promote the Listos para Aprender program during one of her health classes. One of the moms who graduated from the Midland Library program was present in this health class, and happily shared about the Listos para Aprender Program. Rubilia explained the mom was really excited to let everyone know about this program, and invited parents of young children to attend this important program to learn everything they can do at home to help prepare their children for Kindergarten.

Delia Palomeque received a phone call from one of the parents that completed the program. The mom wanted to thank Delia for helping her get her child ready to learn. The parent explained that she was able to get her child registered at Head Start and the teacher asked what program did the child attend to get ready for school, because she was impressed how well the child is doing in comparison with other children that are new to her class.

**Lessons learned:**

We tested different times and days when to deliver this pilot, so that we could get a better idea about the impact that the time and day of the program makes. We learned that time and date are important facts that will affect the attendance from the Latino families. At the beginning of September, we had a group of 19 families pre-registered to participate in the program at the North Portland Library, but only 3 of these families were able to register for the program that started October 30. We learned these are three main facts to the lack of attendance:

- Schedule: families prefer mornings because they have to work in the afternoon, pick

up older children from school and take them to after school activities.

- Weather: Since the rain season has started and gets dark earlier, it is more likely that families will not take their children out of their home in the evening.
- Other programs: children were accepted in other community programs, such as Albina Head Start, and Juntos Aprendemos that were running at the same time of our program.

As of October 30th, we had 5 families registered. In order to reach and register more families, We are leaving it open as we did with the first cohort.

#### Fourth Quarter:

Highlight: The LSTA program Listos para Aprender was a complete success. We created a cultural appropriate kindergarten readiness program using best practices and taking in consideration the culture.

- The Latino community embraced the program. We had 100% graduation rate and we went from having very low attendance in Spanish storytimes before LPA, to having a waiting list for future cohorts. By the end of March we had over 20 families signed up for the waiting list to participate in the cohorts that will start in mid August.
- We feel the word of mouth is powerful and we are fulfilling a need in the community. We have had requests from three schools and other local organizations that want to partner with the library to offer this program at their locations.
- Because of the overwhelming response from the Latino community and the great improvement we saw with the families that attended, Multnomah County Library will offer this program system-wide. We will continue to offer "Hora de Cuentos"/ A Spanish storytime for children 0-5. This will allow space for new families to attend LPA, the re-branded Spanish storytime for children 3-5 years old. The families that graduate from LPA can continue to attend the simpler version Spanish storytime "Horas de Cuentos".

Lessons learned: We have to change the name of the program in the future, after the grant because there is another organization that has a program named Listos Para Aprender and they have asked if we could change it to avoid confusion.