

# Smart & Strong Kids at OUSD Child Development Centers



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Community Schools, Thriving Students



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The Oakland Unified School District has created a plan to improve high quality teaching and services for all students.

With the generous support of the **Hellman Foundation**, OUSD is exploring innovative ways to boost kindergarten readiness for all students, starting with the **Martin Luther King, Jr.** and **Emerson** Child Development Centers.

We will share and implement what we learn here across all OUSD Child Development Centers.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN FOR EMERSON AND MLK CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

### **All Children at Emerson and MLK Will Receive Universal Screenings**

*Provide every parent and teacher with information about students' strengths and areas of development to support student learning*

### **Strengthen Positive Teacher/Parent Relationships**

*Work closely with parents and teachers to develop a unique plan to meet students' needs, support parents as "first teachers" of their children, and help kids make a successful transition to kindergarten*

### **Social and Emotional Services for Children and Families**

*Provide playgroups, consultation with teachers and families, developmental, counseling and other support services to strengthen families and their children's growth and learning*

### **Parent Partners**

*Create parent workshops and connections to important resources. Provide support to help children be successful at school and at home*

### **Professional Development for Teachers and Instructional Assistants**

*Enhance Big Day for Pre-K curriculum professional learning, including building capacity in social and emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, child development, and family engagement*

### **Partnerships with Community Resources and Supports**

*Connecting families with community services and resources*

*This project is made possible through the Hellman Foundation Collaborative Change Initiative and the Packard Foundation's Oakland Starting Smart and Strong Task Force. Oakland Starting Smart and Strong is an active collaborative of service providers, OUSD staff, advocates, funders and caregivers all working together to ensure kindergarten readiness for every child in Oakland.*

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## The Oakland Smart and Strong Kids Team

### **Emerson Child Development Center**

Anna Mansker, Child Development Center Site Administrator  
Heather Palin, Emerson Principal  
Cynthia Anderson, Teacher  
Donna Bolden, Instructional Assistant  
Nga Cam, Instructional Assistant  
Randy Dillard, Instructional Assistant  
Sahn Hoang, Instructional Assistant  
Juanita Matthews, Teacher  
Azura Prescott, Instructional Assistant  
Margie Wagner, Teacher  
Irma Wilson, Teacher  
Nancy Zeng, Instructional Assistant

### **Martin Luther King Child Development Center**

Roma Groves, MLK Principal  
Nemiya Moore, Teacher  
Maria Arcinega, Instructional Assistant

### **OUSD Central Staff**

Ray Mondragon, Deputy Chief of Early Learning  
Christie Anderson, Director Early Childhood Education  
Drew Giles, Director of Quality,  
Enhancement & Professional Development  
Curtiss Sarikey, Deputy Chief of Community Schools and Student Services  
Hassan Brown, OSSSI Project Manager

### **Project Lead**

Dr. Deborrah Bremond

### **Child and Family Support Partners**

Carol Singer, Clinical Director, Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay (JFCS Easy Bay)  
Jennifer Vera, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, JFCS East Bay  
Stacey Kimmins, Family Partner, JFCS East Bay  
Karen Tanner, Developmental Specialist

### **Project Partners**

New Teacher Center  
First Five Alameda County/Help Me Grow  
Harder + Company Community Research

### **Funding Partners**

Betsy Merzenich, Hellman Foundation  
Andrea Youngdahl, Packard Foundation



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PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

This initiative is fiscally sponsored by the Oakland  
public Education Fund. To learn more visit  
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