



Community Services | *Child Resource Center*

Child Resource Center (CRC) membership provides access to a variety of resources on child development, program administration and curriculum that are rarely available in public libraries.

Educational Resources for Early Childhood Educators and Families

Resource materials are carefully selected based on the latest child development research, recommendations of early childhood experts, and needs expressed by the community.

The lending library includes over 2,000 tools designed to:

- Foster critical thinking, early mathematics and problem-solving, social-emotional skills, music, movement, and science;
- Promote play-based supplemental learning activities to support academics;
- Encourage physical activity, creativity, and enhanced social skills for K-6 students;
- Provide parents and teachers with DVD's about a wide variety of topics, including family literacy, behavior and guidance, and special needs; and,
- Implement practices recommended by California Department of Education *Preschool Learning Foundations* (2008), *Preschool English Learners Resource Guide* (2009), *Preschool Curriculum Framework* (2010), and *Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Foundations* (2009).

Comprehensive Customer Service

CRC staff provides individualized customer support assisting members selecting, borrowing, and returning materials. A diverse staff includes former teachers, directors, a school librarian, and bilingual Farsi, Mandarin and Spanish speakers.

Staff is trained to guide members in appropriate selection and use of materials. Educational toys and games, as well as children's music and literature to support skill development, are available for checkout by parents and teachers sampling new strategies to support early learning.

The CRC plays a unique role in enhancing child care quality and school readiness, through the services and materials provided. Community awareness of the value of CRC services expands as residents use the lending library. First-time visitors to the CRC comment about the engaging, convenient, and useful collection of resource materials to support children's early learning and healthy development.

Program directors with Center Memberships who encourage their staff and parents to access CRC materials, share the following comments:

- *"The Irvine Child Resource Center has been a wonderful tool for our teachers. We have checked out numerous books, and have continually been impressed with the quality and variety of the supplies in stock."*
- *"Not only do we use it as a helpful resource for our teachers to plan curriculum, the children love the different items available for us to check out and use in our program. This is a great tool for programs to utilize, especially in this economy, when we cannot always afford to buy new books and games. The CRC helps us keep our program fresh and fun!"*
- *"You offer such a great resource not only to teachers but also to families."*
- *"The CRC is an invaluable resource for not only our program, but for the people of Irvine. The quality of the materials and the knowledge of the staff at the CRC is unparalleled. Our teachers and parents utilize the CRC for activities, ideas, resources, research, advice, and make and take. It is a one stop shop where educators and parents can utilize the expert materials, books and staff to provide high quality experiences for the development of all children."*