

LISTO FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

The Spanish word “Listo” means bright and ready. Listo is a state of the art family literacy model that is grateful to receive financial support from the **Gordon Elwood Foundation**. The Listo Family Literacy Program offers culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate activities that meet and nurture the educational needs of Latino families.

One focus of the program is to give families support in their native language that improves their connection with their children’s school experiences. Since 1994, Listo has served as an educational support system for parents, meeting their needs to learn English and gain basic literacy skills, to complete studies in primary and secondary subject matter.



At Listo you might see children peeking in at their parents as they work in their English class. “Look, Mommy is studying too!”

exclaims a little girl enthusiastically. Or you could witness a class singing Happy Birthday to a hard working single mom who becomes tearful at receiving this small show of caring from her fellow students.

Listo is a collaboration of Southern Oregon Head Start, Southern Oregon ESD/ESL Program, and Rogue Community College. From October until June, thirty families bring their children to Howard Elementary School on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings each week. In White City, 15 families meet at White Mountain Elementary School for fourteen weeks of the school year. Altogether, 145 individuals were served in the Listo Program in the 2008-09 school year. The program has been in operation for 15 years and has evolved from an afternoon for moms and their preschoolers into a multi-faceted family literacy program.

Listo emphasizes the importance of cultural pride and parental involvement in the educational process, and enhances the role of parents as the first and best teachers of their children. Listo offers an integrated cross-generational family literacy program to Latinos at a reasonable time for working families.

The Listo model is an effective strategy for ensuring positive outcomes for Latino children in schools. Guaranteeing that Latino students will graduate, and supporting parents in overcoming economic barriers, are long-term challenges. We are working with the Oregon Community Foundation’s Latino Leadership Partnership to develop strategies and plans to impact these goals as a team made up of schools parents and the community.

For more information, visit Listo on the Web at <http://socfc.org/Main%20Pages/Listo.html> or e-mail Becky Barker, Listo Director, at Becky.Barker@socfc.org.