

The Early Literacy Program in Fairfax County Public Schools



Program Goals:

Help parents:

- Understand their role as child's first teacher.
- Establish daily routines and activities that support early brain development and learning.
- Recognize behavioral and academic expectations of Fairfax County Public Schools.



Impact on Learning

“ I have seen children come to kindergarten not knowing how to carry on a conversation, not knowing colors, not knowing how you read a book from top to bottom and left to right, not knowing any counting or how to write their names, not recognizing adult authority, not knowing how to accept responsibility or take directions.”

-- Principal, as quoted in The Washington Post, August 14, 2001

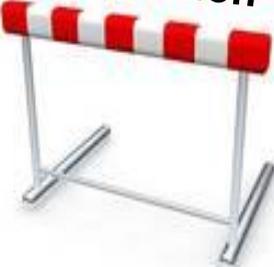
Risk Factors for Students and Families



Language/cultural differences



Education



Past experiences



Lack of resources



Family reunification



Isolation



Economics



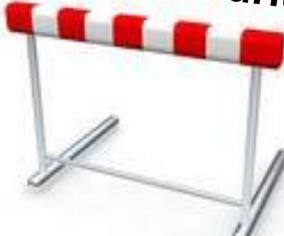
Sense of belonging



Adequate housing



Fear/insecurity



Family separation



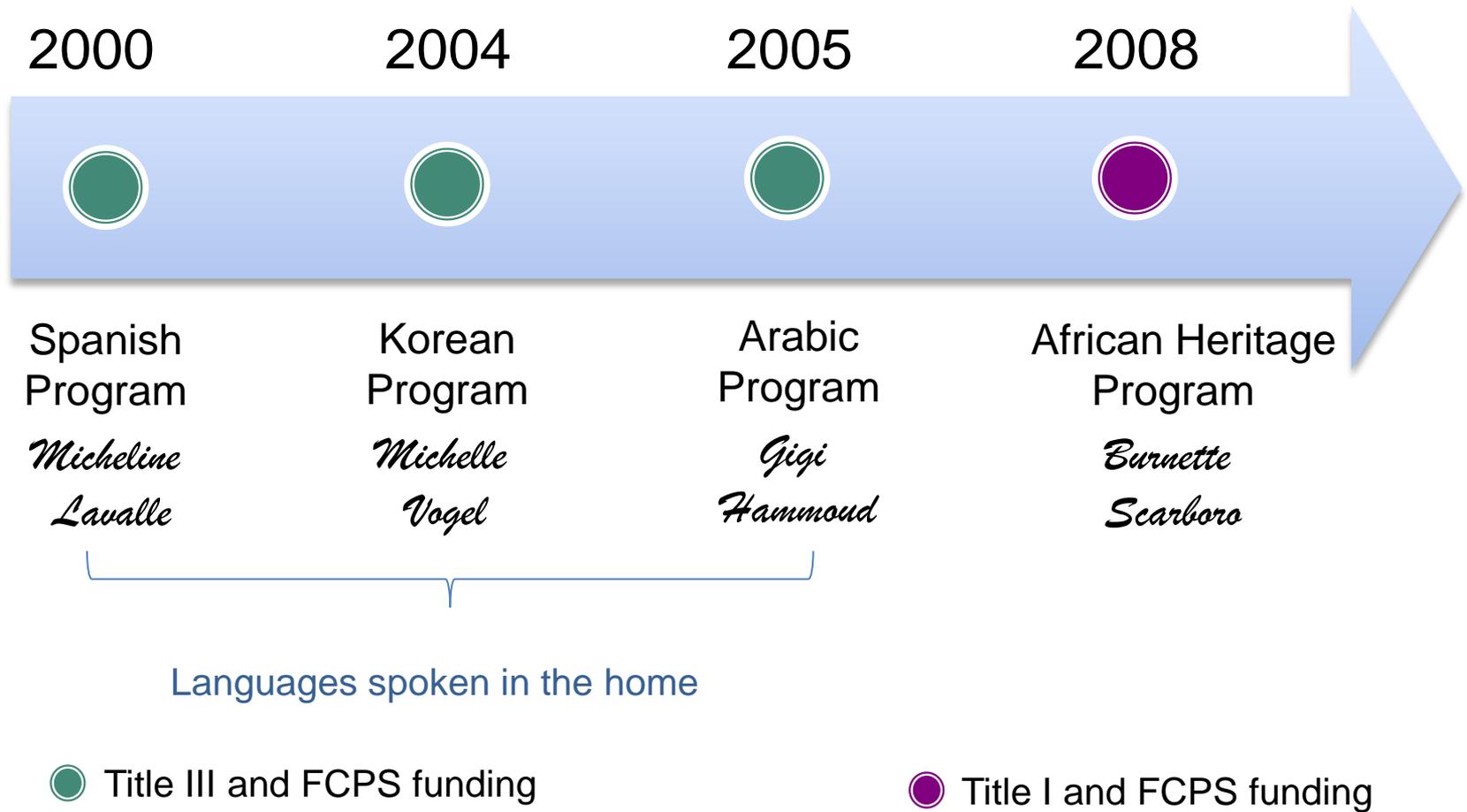
Home

Funding Sources



- Title III-No Child Left Behind
- Title I
- Local FCPS and School Board

Timeline

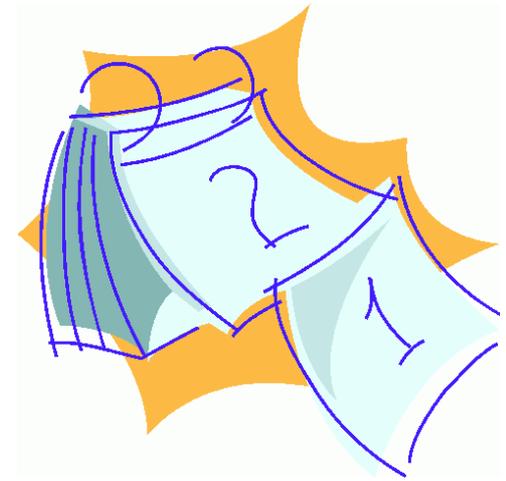


Sample Session Topics

1. Parents as their Child's First Teacher
2. Positive Discipline
3. Developmental Milestones
4. Health and Nutrition
5. Music, Movement and Muscle Development
6. Language Development (oral stories and culture)
7. Self-Esteem
8. Listening Skills (letter sounds and phonemic awareness)
9. Encouraging Reading (letter recognition)
10. Anger Management
11. Colors, Shapes, and Numbers
12. Sharing Our Successes



Sample Class Time



- Opening routine
- Circle time (story, calendar, songs, books, etc.)
- Parent discussion with instructor (children engage in activity with aide)
- Snack time
- Interactive parent-child activities
- Clean up
- Closing routine

Program Contributions to School Readiness and Closing the Achievement Gap

- ▶ Socialization
- ▶ Structure and routine
- ▶ Letter, color, number recognition
- ▶ Small and large muscle development
- ▶ School readiness
- ▶ Health and nutrition
- ▶ Love of learning/reading
- ▶ Parent education, engagement, and leadership



Yearly Averages (Title III Funding*)

	Arabic	Spanish	Korean
# of Sites	3	13	12
# of Adults	62	197	222
# of Children	79	240	251
Total Participants	141	437	473

Total African Heritage Enrollment 2008-14 (Local FCPS and Title I Funding)

# of Sites	5
Total Participants	114

*Primary funding

Program for Spanish-Speaking Families

Micheline Lavalle

- Leadership & Empowerment
- Parent Cooperatives
- Volunteering



Fiscal Year	2012	2013	2014
Hours	1,387	1,874	1,465
Volunteers	137	125	106
Sites	10	10	10

Program for Korean Families

Michelle Vogel



- Educational paradigm shift
- Social/emotional development

Program for Arabic-Speaking Families

Gigi Hammoud



- Culture
- Raising awareness of school expectations
- Raising self-confidence of the moms

Program for African Heritage Families

Burnette Scarborough



- Current events as teaching opportunities
- Integrating culture and history
- Addressing expectations in academics and behavior