



THINK Together

Teaching, Helping, Inspiring & Nurturing Kids

Contact Information:

Tracy Elementary School
133350 Tracy Street
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
Adora Rodriguez Site Coordinator
626.271.5325
Tracy@THINKTogether.org

Site Background

THINK Together began at Tracy Elementary, in Baldwin Park Unified School District, in February of 2006, and was certified as a Healthy Behaviors Initiative Learning Center in 2010. Since that time, we have incorporated nutrition education, physical activity, character education and conflict resolution into our program. We also incorporate youth development practices by building student leadership into the program. As an academically-based program, we focus on academic enrichment skills such as math, language arts, and science. We are funded for 84 students per day, 86.3% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch. Student demographics at Tracy Elementary are: African American 8%; American Indian 1%; Asian 29%; Filipino 26%; Hispanic 87.5%.

The organization's mission is to provide high quality academically-oriented out-of-school programs for students regardless of race, creed or socio-economic status.

We have established a specific vision, which is for every student to make healthy choices throughout their lives and encourage those around them to do the same.

We have established nutrition goals and physical activity goals for the site, emphasizing and encouraging wellness. Knowing that students will make healthier eating choices by themselves, our nutrition goal is that students will eat more fruits and vegetables in school and at home. Our goal for physical activity is that students will improve their physical activity during program by participating at least four times a week in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

What We Do

Healthy Living is promoted through a four-pronged approach that includes:

- ✚ CATCH: Coordinated Approach to Children's Health curriculum which promotes physical activity.
- ✚ Nutrition Education including Harvest of the Month, and lessons from Clevercrazes.com, the Network for a Healthy California, Media Smart Youth, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and 4H. All activities are hands-on and engaging to the students.
- ✚ Conflict resolution utilizing People Smart curriculum, where students learn and practice skills using conflict resolution strategies.
- ✚ Character Education aligning with school day programs that focus on key character traits like respect and responsibility.

Making a Difference

Students are able to choose from a variety of enrichment activities including:

- Gardening: students learn about seasonal fruits and vegetables, how to grow and maintain a garden, and practice their skills with the school garden.
- Yoga: students learn poses, the importance of stretching, and have fun practicing yoga.
- Cooking/Nutrition: students are able to learn and try new healthy recipes.
- Sports: a variety of sports activities including soccer, football, and basketball are offered throughout the year.
- Student Choice: students are able to choose and plan other engaging clubs such as the Wii club,
- Fun Fridays: dances, themed parties, and fun-filled days selected by students and Program Leaders happen at least once a month and the program earns extra culminating parties for the Jog-a-Thon.

Academic enrichment is also an important component.

- Homework assistance is provided to students individually or in small groups to help them understand and complete daily assignments. THINK Together staff and trained volunteers focus on inquiry to foster the child's ability to work independently and understand concepts as well as find the correct answer.
- Language skills are intentionally promoted through fluency-building strategies that include repeated reading of leveled passages, sight words, phrases, and affixes.
- Reciprocal teaching strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing/retelling) are utilized to promote comprehension and vocabulary development.
- Academic achievement for English learners is supported through the implementation of Robert J. Marzano's academic vocabulary development strategies which are specifically targeted to scaffold vocabulary development in English learners. We also utilize sentence frames which promote the understanding of syntax and the appropriate use of newly acquired vocabulary. Finally, we build background knowledge by frontloading academic vocabulary and content through experiential learning and by tapping into the child's prior knowledge.
- Mathematics is supported by Math Blast which builds mathematical skills and fluency in identified math strands, such as number sense, measurement and geometry, probability and statistics. Algebra and functions are incorporated into games, simulations and explorations. Problem solving strategies to unlock word problems and math vocabulary building activities are also imbedded in the curriculum.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education centers on developing content understanding and exploration. We support the application of the scientific method in which youth explore questions of interest, predict what they think will result from an experiment, conduct the experiment and determine what was the learning in the process.

Our Partners

We have a great partnership with the school district and the community, which has made our program very successful. To support our success, we have partnered with the Network for a Healthy California, Kaiser Permanente and General Mills. They have provided funding as well as nutrition classes for our students and parents.