

Service Learning

COOL Families

COOL Families is designed to provide parents with family resources and educational opportunities. It makes practical classes available to parents, along with supportive care for their children, free of charge. In partnership with Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College's English as a Second Language program, and several local school districts, COOL Families offers parents ESL, GED, and literacy classes while their children receive homework assistance and participate in fun learning activities. The program has received major funding since 2002 from the Corporation for National and Community Service - California Services Corps., the U.S. Department of Education, and the California Department of Education.



Comments from parents about COOL Families:

I like that the teachers pay a lot of attention to the children and they help out with homework, especially when the children don't understand.

I like how this program helps the children so that parents can continue progressing.

Thank you for teaching our children and taking care of them while we parents are also learning to improve our education.

Web address: www.sonoma.edu/cihs/serves
Contact: Julie McClure & Michele Craig
Phone: 707-664-4232; 707-664-4399
Email: julie.mcclure@sonoma.edu;
michele.craig@sonoma.edu



Activities

- Developing and implementing effective English language, general education, and parenting classes
- Providing engaging, structured child care activities and homework assistance
- Conducting outreach to more closely link parents with their child's school
- Implementing a family literacy program to foster a love of reading within the family

Accomplishments for 2005–6

- Provided evening classes to over 450 families at elementary schools in Santa Rosa
- Supported academic enrichment and homework for 265 children while their parents were in class
- Created leadership opportunities through AmeriCorps for ten college students who served as family literacy mentors
- Connected parents to their children's schools
- Enlisted school volunteers, who contributed 200 hours of service