

Maria Federico: A Family That Reads Together...

Maria Federico brings her youngest children to the [Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library](#) twice a month to attend the [Families for Literary programs](#) (FFL) – an activity that is making a big difference for her son, Oscar Acevedo.

“He won’t have the same trouble I did in school,” Maria says. When he received a book from FFL, Maria told staff, “Oscar loved the book of poetry so much...he hasn’t put it down since! He took it to school the next day and I have to tell him to put it aside so he can go to sleep. But I really don’t mind. I’m so happy he is reading.”

FFL is operated by [READ/San Diego](#), the Library’s award-winning adult literacy program, and introduces low-literate adults and their families to the Library’s literacy services. It teaches parents and grandparents to be a child’s first and foremost teacher.



Oscar Acevedo shows a strawberry snack craft he made at a recent Families for Literacy event. Oscar’s mother credits the program with helping the entire family read more.

“Oscar loved the book of poetry so much...he hasn’t put it down since! He took it to school the next day and I have to tell him to put it aside so he can go to sleep. But I really don’t mind. I’m so happy he is reading.”

Enrolled families attend classes twice a month and are encouraged to read at home. However, many homes, particularly those with low-literate adults, do not have children’s books to read. With a generous grant from QUALCOMM, approximately 500 children and parents/caregivers—110 families in all—recently received 3,000 new books to build home libraries.

Showing that the program is for the entire family, Maria even brings three-month-old Anna Victoria to class. As a mother, she is excited and pleased with how much the program is helping all of them. As a result of attending the family literacy program, Maria has more patience and more confidence as a parent and proudly reports that, “the *whole* family reads more.”

To help support the Families for Literacy program or other literacy programs at the Library, please call the Library Foundation at 619-238-6638 or [donate now](#).