

Queen Creek School District No.95

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Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

PRESS RELEASE

Submission Form

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 15, 2013

Department/Site: Family Resource Center

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Leveling the Playing Field: In Home Instruction Prepares Preschoolers For Kindergarten

Each week, cousins Jaden and Magaly Valdivia eagerly await the start of class. Instead of going to school, however, their teacher comes to them. Jaden, 5, and Magaly 3, participate in a federal program for preschool age children of migrant agricultural workers in which a specially trained preschool teacher provides school readiness instruction for them in Jaden's home. The program is operated through the Queen Creek School District's Migrant Education Program. Both children have parents who work in a local dairy. Because of a lack of transportation, neither Jaden nor Magaly would be able to attend preschool. Both sets of parents realize that preschool is essential to kindergarten success. Elizabeth Valdivia, Jaden's mother, says the program is a "great help for my son because there is just no way we could get him to preschool."

Teacher Marina Carbajal works with the children on fine motor skills, number, color and letter recognition, counting, and all of the other skills necessary for kindergarten readiness. "We also show the mothers how to reinforce those skills during the week. That reinforcement and parental involvement are critical to learning and school success," says Carbajal.

According to Maria Silva, Director of Special Projects for Queen Unified's Family Resource Center, this program serves 39 families engaged in agriculture in the Queen Creek area. "Research shows that early childhood education is a key building block for educational attainment and success. This program guarantees that children whose parents work in the agricultural sector, who may have to move frequently, and who have limited resources enter kindergarten with the same chance at success as their peers".

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Together We Make A Difference!
Mr. Tom Lindsey, Superintendent of QCUSD Schools