

### **Early Literacy Outreach Services**

In November of 2021, the Bella Vista Foundation granted the Library \$150,000 to establish an early literacy outreach program. The grant funds will be used for one-time purchases, such as a specially equipped outreach vehicle and educational kits and books to give away. The purpose of establishing this program is to provide mobile, early literacy services to the following socio-economically disadvantaged communities: Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Byron, Concord, El Sobrante, Knightsen, Monument Corridor in Concord, North Richmond, Oakley, Pinole, Pittsburg, Rodeo and San Pablo.

An annual allocation of \$200,000 is proposed to establish dedicated staffing to operate the early literacy outreach program. With dedicated funding for staff, the Library will have the capacity to be able to address some of the unmet early childhood education needs that were identified in the 2020 Sales Tax Working Group's Needs Assessment. Additionally, only 27% of socio-economically disadvantaged third graders in Contra Costa County are reading at grade level. \* The Library is a critical part of the early childhood education infrastructure, most importantly by introducing and reinforcing the early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing that are so essential to early childhood development.

### **Recommendation**

On on-going allocation of \$200,000 in Measure X funding is recommended to support early literacy.

\*[CA Reading Report Card \(careads.org\)](http://careads.org)