



A parent-run, parent-led grassroots organization fighting for affordable quality child care for all

Parent Voices chapters are hosted by child care resource and referral agencies throughout California.

Knowledge is Power: Advocacy training for parents

Evelia Sanchez says she has become a stronger advocate since taking Parent Voices' Knowledge is Power training. Sanchez signed up for the annual workshop that trains parents in leadership and advocacy skills because "I was motivated to educate myself."

Sanchez, mother to Alberto, 16, and Cecilia, 12, has been involved with Parent Voices for over two years. "I spoke with parents and took them to meetings to sign up for Parent Voices. I collected signatures and letters asking for (increased child care) funding."



EVELIA SANCHEZ

Evelia Sanchez (seated) with her children.

says, "I was more inspired to find out who to vote for. I began to educate myself more, and felt the government made decisions that didn't benefit parents in any way."

"Before the training, it was hard when I spoke with parents," she adds. "But now I feel more capable of communicating with parents and educating them a little (on the issues). I can encourage parents to make change for the benefit of their children. I know what to say now and how to say it."

—Amanda Montague

Practice speaking out

During the training, parents "role-played and learned how decisions are made," says Sanchez. Parents role-played the governor, legislators, and parent advocates. This helped her see how parents can really change policies that impact child care, she adds.

"I spoke about how difficult it is to work when children need child care," she recalls. "Many people don't have the resources to pay for child care. When my children were young, I had to leave them with different people while I worked. Many times parents have to leave work, because if you can't find someone to care for your children you can't keep your job."

Support from Parent Voices

Parent Voices provided food, child care, and transportation for those that attended. These services are "very important because it's a way to animate parents," says Sanchez. "They also tried to have the training at a convenient time to bring the children."

Lasting impact

Sanchez has put the skills she learned at the training to work. "When (they) told us we could make change," she

Knowledge is Power! trains parents about the state budget, legislative process, and advocacy skills: Bay Area: Jan. 26, Sacramento: Feb. 2, Fresno: Feb. 23, LA: to be determined. Please attend to find out about any child care cuts in the Governor's Budget proposal. For info: 415-882-0234

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