

Commissioner Gomez's notes and observations from the Book Rich Environment Event

Largely attended by Latino community members.

- Most of the adults at the event are interested in reading.
- Even non-reading parents encourage their children to read more.
- Some parents are not aware of the importance of reading to children from day one.
- Other parents, even when exhausted, read to their younger children every night.
- Some parents are not aware that they can model reading habits to their children.
- Like in many families, reading to children ends in the pre-teen years. I shared with some parents that I read to my own kids all through high school as if I were a book on tape (though, of course, not every night).
- Some mothers want more strategies of how to get their pre-teen and teen boys to read more. I shared my own experience with them and suggested illustrated books of non-fiction such as sports biographies and science topics.
- One mother shared that she had her son read one page and tell her about it. The next time he read two pages by himself. Then three...
- Some parents are not aware that audio books are available.
- Many people wished that there had been books for adults in the giveaway.
- Language is a barrier to library use. Many immigrant parents are intimidated in majority-English situations and avoid them.
- Transportation is a barrier to library use, as even willing mothers who don't drive would have to devote too much time getting there and back.
- Schedule is a barrier to library use. Most parents living in poverty work long hours and cannot devote time to visit.
- Schedule is a barrier to story hour.
- Technology is a barrier to library use. Many immigrant parents struggle with basic literacy and don't know how to approach a library system.
- Many adult English learners don't have the time/transportation to devote to their own literacy until their children are older.
- Most parents are not aware that BLDG 61 is free and available to them and their children.
- Some parents who are aware of BLDG 61 are intimidated at the thought of having to follow instructions in English.
- There are also cultural barriers to library use, such as real or perceived expectations of behavior and inclusivity.