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Mission
Tandem, Partners in Early Learning® engages the whole community to ensure all families have the resources, skills, and confidence they need to support their children’s kindergarten readiness.

Vision
Tandem® envisions an equitable and just society where all children enter school ready to succeed.

Our Strategy
To provide....

- Books and Information for Families
- Training and Support for Early Childhood Educators
- Professional Development for Community-Based Organizations

Focus on Quality
We carefully design all our programs to meet the nationally recognized Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support, and we align our work with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood education. Our strengths-based and trauma-informed curriculum supports the Five Protective Factors outlined in the Strengthening Families Framework. With over 10 years of experience providing training and consultation services to families and professionals, we are constantly refining our workshops to reflect the latest early learning and family engagement research.

Our Programs
Early Learning Everywhere

To close the opportunity gap, everyone must be involved. That’s why Tandem engages the whole ecosystem of care, working together with families, educators, and family support professionals to ensure that children have the support they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Tandem provides high-quality books, informational workshops and interactive learning opportunities, to support all the adults in a young child’s life to make the most of each early learning moment. Together, we can surround families and young children with opportunities to experience the joy of early learning.

StoryCycles®

StoryCycles®, our school-to-home book-sharing program, provides schools and childcare centers with book collections tailored to the developmental level and language needs of their students. Each week, children take home a bright green bag filled with 2-4 books from the classroom collection to share with their families.
The following week, the children exchange bags with their classmates and begin the cycle again. Through this program, families access to up to 100 high-quality, multilingual, multicultural children’s books each year. Additionally, Tandem provides professional development for teachers and informational resources for families that offer actionable tips and strategies for reading interactively and using books as tools to support children's kindergarten readiness. At Tandem, we believe every book-sharing experience should be fun, and every joyful book-sharing experience supports children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning.

**Multilingual Children’s Books**

The Tandem book collection provides books that are both mirrors and windows to a child’s life; children can see themselves reflected in the story, and they can explore a world that is less familiar. Tandem families are beautifully diverse and we are committed to providing materials that are reflective and respectful of that diversity. Tandem distributes thousands of high quality, age-appropriate children's books each year to the neighborhoods where families live, in the languages they speak at home. Our collection features everything from alphabet and counting books to explorations of geography, history, and science. Our books feature a wide variety of characters with diverse family structures, life experiences, special needs, cultures and languages. Our book selection committee vets brand new publications each year. We currently source books in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Arabic, Farsi, Russian, Hindi, Punjabi, Burmese, Japanese, Portuguese, French, Urdu, and American Sign Language. Contact us if you would like to purchase books from our collection for your waiting room or event.

**Join the Tandem Community**

Facebook: facebook.com/tandembayarea
Twitter: twitter.com/tandem_bayarea
Instagram: instagram.com/tandembayarea
Website: www.tandembayarea.org

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For Families: Skill-building Workshops

Tandem’s family workshops and Read Alouds are designed to provide parents and caregivers information on early childhood brain development, interactive book-sharing techniques, and strategies for strengthening children’s kindergarten readiness skills at home. These interactive experiences build upon families’ strengths, ensuring that families have the resources, skills, and confidence they need to support their children to reach kindergarten ready to succeed.

**Skill-building Workshops**

Available in English and Spanish. *Some workshops available in Cantonese and Arabic. Contact us for more information.*

**Early Language and the Growing Brain**

*Code: BRAIN 101*

*Time: 45 - 90 minutes*

Dive deeper into learning about what happens in a child’s brain while hearing a story. We will examine three ways the brain develops in response to stories and we practice specific book-sharing techniques geared toward encouraging each type of development.

**The Neuroscience of Storytelling**

*Code: BRAIN 102*

*Time: 75 minutes - 3 hours*

Learn what happens in a child’s brain while hearing a story. Together, we will explore the brain science behind dialogic reading and how this interactive Read Aloud method strengthens neural pathways, supports reading comprehension, and helps children fall madly in love with books. This hands-on workshop includes practice to sharpen your Read Aloud skills!

**The Bilingual Family**

*Code: DLL 101*

*Time: 60 - 90 minutes*

Families will discuss the myths and truths surrounding language development in bilingual children and learn clear strategies for supporting their children’s linguistic growth and school success.

**Families Ready to Read**

*Code: LIT 101*

*Time: 45 - 60 minutes*

More than a workshop, this is an opportunity for families to come together to support one another in building book-sharing routines at home. Families are invited to share tips and success stories, as well as concerns and challenges, while discovering new ideas and building the confidence to try them out with their children.
For Families: Skill-building Workshops

**Word Play All Day!**

**Code:** LIT 102  
**Time:** 60 - 90 minutes

Children learn language from everything around them! We will identify six key early literacy skills that children need to become successful readers. We will also practice word games, songs, and hands-on activities that help children to build those skills anytime, anywhere.

**Stories that Count**

**Code:** MATH 101  
**Time:** 60 - 90 minutes

In this interactive workshop, families will practice using storybooks to support children’s understanding of counting, simple addition, subtraction, and other early math concepts. Families will deepen their understanding of what early math concepts are appropriate for children aged 0-5 and will learn how to recognize and take advantage of opportunities for building children’s math skills through book-sharing.

**Power of Play**

**Code:** PLAY 101  
**Time:** 60 minutes - 3 hours

Play is vital for developing children’s critical thinking and social skills. In this workshop, families will share ideas about how to facilitate play at home and practice using supportive language to build children’s early learning skills.

**Sharing Stories, Sharing Feelings**

**Code:** SED 101  
**Time:** 60 - 90 minutes

Social and emotional development is important for both school readiness and the general well-being of children. In this workshop, families will practice activities and strategies they can use at home for supporting children to build trusting relationships and recognize, manage, and express their emotions.
Talking About the Tough Stuff - Session 1

Code: TRAUMA 101

Time: 90 minutes - 3 hours

Families will learn evidence-based strategies for supporting and coaching their children through big emotions and traumatic experiences. They will then practice using storytelling, art, and play as tools for navigating difficult conversations with little ones.

Talking About the Tough Stuff - Session 2: Bookmaking Workshop

Code: TRAUMA 102

Time: 60 - 90 minutes

This hands-on workshop is designed to provide families and caregivers a chance to put the skills learned during Talking About the Tought Stuff session 1 to practical use. Talking About the Tough Stuff Sessions 1 and 2 are typically - and best - offered together.

Family Introduction to StoryCycles

Code: StoryCycles 101

Time: 45 - 60 minutes

In this introductory workshop, families will discuss why early literacy is fundamental to academic success and practice interactive book-sharing strategies that make building early literacy skills fun! This workshop is only provided at centers participating in the StoryCycles program.

Family Read Aloud Demonstrations

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Tandem staff demonstrate an interactive read aloud for children and their families, sharing actionable tips and strategies families can take home with them for using sound, movement, and critical thinking to make a book come to life. Demonstrations will have a specific focus on one or two of the kindergarten readiness skills listed below.

Kindergarten Readiness Skills

- Building Vocabulary
- Social and Emotional Understanding
- Phonological Awareness
- Print Awareness
- Self-Regulation
- Critical Thinking

For full descriptions of each of these skills, please see page 13.
For Families

**Literacy Champions: A Community Leadership Program**

Tandem’s leadership development curriculum engages families and community members in a series of intensive trainings so these community leaders can, in turn, train families in their own communities on using everyday moments to build children’s kindergarten readiness skills. Not only does this curriculum expand Tandem’s reach, it leverages the power of peer-to-peer interaction and creates a new opportunity for transformation through leadership.

**Give Me 5 Play-and-Learn Groups**

Give Me 5 is a structured play-and-learn series for caregivers and their children, designed to support kindergarten readiness for kids, leadership skills for adults, and fun quality time for all. The program consists of five consecutive 2-hour sessions packed with hands-on activities that focus on developing:

1. Curiosity, Persistence, Self-Regulation
2. Personal Care and Motor Skills
3. Social and Emotional Skills
4. Cognitive Skills (Math and Science)
5. Oral Language and Literacy

The program is designed for kids ages 0-5, but activities are engaging for older siblings as well. After session five, Give Me 5 culminates in a final celebration, activity, or outing planned by participating families.

**Kindergarten Readiness Events and Activities**

Coordinated in collaboration with a partner school or community-based organization, Tandem’s K-readiness events for families typically include an interactive read aloud (details on previous page), one or two kindergarten readiness activities, and opportunities for local partner organizations to share resources and information pertinent to participating families. These events differ from workshops in that children and adults participate together in activities with a less formal curriculum and a more flexible timeline.

Our hands-on kindergarten readiness activities are games or art projects that develop key skills children need for school success. They are designed using inexpensive or found materials so that families can easily replicate them at home. Our staff are present to talk with parents and caregivers about the specific benefits of each activity, and encourage continued learning. These activities are often incorporated into our own events, but can also be offered as part of a family resource fair or literacy event organized by one of our community partners.
The Tandem StoryCycles school-to-home book-sharing program is designed to make it easy and fun for families to get involved in their children's early literacy development. We do this by sending home books through classrooms, childcare centers, and other places where families and children frequently gather. By sending books home regularly, StoryCycles engages families in building a joyful habit of sharing stories with their children from a young age. StoryCycles books are high-quality, multilingual, multicultural, and inclusive. Tandem’s team of Early Learning Specialists work with educators and program providers to ensure that all books spark joy, expose families to new worlds, and reflect the communities in which they live.

Tandem provides educators with:

• One StoryCycles® bag per child
• 2-4 books per child per week
• A simple book tracking system
• Reminder notices to send home with families
• A guide filled with reading tips, tricks, and best practices
• Program support as needed

Educators or designated classroom volunteers will:

• Invite families to take books home on a weekly or bi-weekly basis
• Regularly check that all books and bags are returned and kept in good condition
• Communicate with families that have not returned books or bags on time

Free Online Resources for Parents & Families
Visit our website to find videos, handouts, and fun games to use at home:

https://www.tandembayarea.org/resources/for-parents-families/
Tandem provides high quality professional development for early childhood educators on a variety of kindergarten readiness topics. Our workshops are interactive experiences designed to build upon educators’ existing strengths while offering new ways of supporting young students’ early learning and development.

**Professional Development Workshops**

**Cultivating Creativity**
*Code: ART 201*
*Time: 75 - 90 minutes*

In this workshop, educators practice teaching techniques and activities that encourage young children to explore the world of art, take ownership of their creative process, and build the language skills they need to describe, discuss, and develop artwork.

**Early Language and the Growing Brain**
*Code: BRAIN 201*
*Time: 60 - 90 minutes*

This workshop introduces an overview of early childhood brain development, particularly as it relates to language learning. We will review research on the subject, drawing conclusions that could affect our daily interactions with students and we will practice specific interactive classroom Read Aloud strategies that support early language acquisition and development.

**The Neuroscience of Storytelling**
*Code: BRAIN 202*
*Time: 90 minutes - 3 hours*

This workshop is for educators who want to dive deeper into learning about what happens in a child’s brain while hearing a story. In it, we examine three ways the brain develops in response to stories and we practice specific book-sharing techniques geared toward encouraging each unique type of development.

**The Multilingual Classroom**
*Code: DLL 201*
*Time: 60 - 90 minutes*

Educators will identify common myths and truths of language development in bilingual children and practice strategies that best support the growth of Dual Language Learners in the classroom.
For Educators: Professional Development Workshops

**Building on Play: Authentic Assessment**
**Code: PLAY 201**  
**Time: 60 - 90 minutes**
In this hands-on workshop, we will explore the value of free play and how to use this time to assess students’ development. Educators will receive a DRDP-based observation tool to support ongoing individual assessments.

**Story, Song, and Movement**
**Code: LIT 201**  
**Time: 60 - 90 minutes**
Together we will share and practice songs and dynamic movement games for the classroom that support students’ development in a number of learning areas that are vital for kindergarten readiness.

**Building Literacy-Rich Environments**
**Code: LIT 202**  
**Time: 60 - 90 minutes**
Educators will learn how to build their students’ literacy skills all day long, not just during storytime. We will share and practice a variety of word games, rhyming songs, and hands-on activities geared specifically toward developing the American Library Association’s Six Skills of Early Literacy.

**Storywalking**
**Code: LIT 203**  
**Time: 75 - 90 minutes**
In this workshop, participants will learn about the five-day storywalk, a valuable method for scaffolding vocabulary, boosting students’ curiosity and critical thinking skills, and supporting Dual Language Learners. This approach to curriculum planning method combines interactive Read Alouds with multi-disciplinary extension activities that highlight the versatility of books as teaching tools.

**Phonological Awareness: From Rhythms to Rhymes**
**Code: LIT 204**  
**Time: 75 minutes - 3 hours**
Educators will discuss the difference between Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics and why the development of these skills leads to later reading achievement. Through fun games and activities, educators will also learn new tools to support the development of young children’s phonological awareness in developmentally appropriate ways.
Making Math Meaningful
**Code: MATH 201**
*Time: 60 minutes - 3 hours*
This workshop provides educators with a hands-on exploration of five math-related Preschool Learning Foundations: number sense; classification and patterning; measurement; geometry; and mathematical reasoning. Educators will learn about and practice engaging math activities that they can easily implement in their classrooms.

Sharing Stories, Sharing Feelings
**Code: SED 201**
*Time: 60 minutes - 3 hours*
Social and emotional development is important for both school readiness and the general well-being of children. In this workshop, educators will practice activities and strategies they can use in the classroom for supporting children to build trusting relationships and recognize, manage, and express their emotions.

Supporting Students with Trauma
**Code: TRAUMA 201**
*Time: 75 - 90 minutes*
Educators will learn what trauma is and how it affects the brain and body. We will discuss and share trauma-sensitive classroom strategies that support all children to self-soothe, in addition to learning how to create a trauma support plan for an individual child.

**The workshops below are only provided at centers participating in the StoryCycles program.**

StoryCycles Implementation
**Code: StoryCycles 201**
*Time: 45 - 60 minutes*
Educators will be able to identify the challenges and successes of running a book-sharing program. They will know the need for strong literacy skills and understand logistics of the StoryCycles book-sharing program.

StoryCycles Refresh/Reflect
**Code: StoryCycles 202**
*Time: 45 - 60 minutes*
Educators will analyze the challenges of implementing the StoryCycles program. They will propose solutions to implementation challenges and create a collaborative plan with their Tandem Early Learning Specialist for year-long support.
Classroom Interactive Read Aloud Demonstrations

A great Read Aloud develops students’ cognitive, linguistic, and social skills while connecting them with the joy of sharing stories. Our demonstrations support educators to refine their own storytelling styles and provide tools for making the most of every classroom storytime. A typical Read Aloud lasts 30 minutes and includes informational resources for educators and students’ families.

Each Read Aloud demonstration focuses on supporting one of the kindergarten readiness skills listed below. These skills are aligned with local and national learning standards, including the Common Core and Preschool Learning Foundations.

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Please choose from the following:

Building Vocabulary

Young children are developmentally equipped with an incredible memory for learning new words. The more words they hear at this age, the more they will begin to develop broader vocabularies. A strong vocabulary allows children to express themselves more accurately and improves reading comprehension.

Social/Emotional Understanding

Social understanding is the ability to form close, trusting relationships with peers, family, and community members, while emotional understanding is the ability to recognize, manage, and express emotions. Strength in these areas makes it easier for a child to adapt to a classroom setting.

Phonological Awareness

A child’s ability to recognize the prosody or “music” of a language and to notice, think about, and manipulate the individual sounds in words is an important early literacy skill. Rhyming books and songs are great tools for developing this skill and laying the groundwork for “sounding words out” when learning to read.

Print Awareness

Before they can begin the process of learning to read, young children must become comfortable with holding and handling books and identifying letters and words in print. When we focus children’s attention on the
printed words we are reading, they begin to recognize that those symbols have sounds and meanings. Asking children to help turn pages and hold a book is also a great way to foster print awareness and build confidence.

**Self-Regulation**

Read Alouds that engage children in structured movement games and verbal participation help develop the ability to manage impulses and ignore distractions without stifling creativity or motivation. The better a child can stay calmly focused and alert, the better they will be at handling more complex tasks and working cooperatively with others.

**Critical Thinking**

The ability to use information and skills in a variety of ways to solve problems prepares children to handle complex tasks such as math, science, and reading. We can foster this skill by encouraging children to answer questions and make predictions as we read together.

**Free Online Educator Resources**

https://www.tandembayarea.org/resources/for-educators-partners/
Tandem offers customized professional development workshops on a variety of topics to support organizations to embed early learning and family engagement techniques within their work. Build a custom experience for your organization by mixing and matching the topics below or choose from one of our standard workshops (see page 16).

**Customized Workshops**

**Bilingualism**
Discuss some of the benefits and challenges of growing up learning two or more languages. Explore some persistent myths about bilingualism that can get in the way of effective support.

**Book Selection**
Discover what makes a children’s book really great. Identify the kinds of books that are most appropriate for infants, toddlers, and Pre-K children.

**Brain Architecture and Trauma**
Build a model of a brain with pipe cleaners and straws to explore how both positive and negative early childhood experiences impact brain development.

**Brain Development**
Learn about what is going on in the brain of a child as they are beginning to experience the world. Discover what neuroscience can teach us about the development of language and literacy in young children.

**Early Literacy Skills**
Learn about the six skills a child needs to be ready to learn to read upon entering kindergarten.

**Early Math Concepts**
Learn about the concepts of early math and how to create a solid foundation for building young children’s math skills.

**Emotion Support and Coaching**
Practice strategies for communicating with young children about big emotions to help them build their own ability to self-soothe, as well as their trust and confidence in talking to adults about their feelings.
Equity Issues in Early Childhood
Learn what the opportunity gap is and how it manifests in young children’s lives. Explore how the simple act of talking to a baby improves their chances for long-term academic success.

Family Strengthening Practices
Practice sharing information and resources with families without feeling like you are lecturing. Discuss techniques to get parents excited about, and more deeply engaged in their children’s early development. Discover how to move beyond participation, empowering families as leaders in your program.

Interactive Book-Sharing
Learn how to make storytime engaging and empowering for children 0-5. Practice techniques for when children won’t sit still during storytime.

Trauma-Informed Practice and Strategies
Learn proven physical and mental exercises that help the brain and body handle trauma and find calm in the storm. These exercises are effective for both children and adults.

Kindergarten Readiness Skills
What does it really mean for a child to be “kindergarten ready?” Together we will explore the many different skills children need to succeed in school and discover simple, effective ways to support them.

Give Me 5 Train-the-Trainer Institute
Increase your organizational capacity by contracting with Tandem for a two-day training to certify your staff as implementers of the Give Me 5 Play-and-Learn curriculum.

Graduates of our two-day Train-the-Trainer institute receive:

• License to deliver the Give Me 5 curriculum for one year.
• A detailed manual filled with everything you need to fully implement the Give Me 5 curriculum: sample scripts, activity guides, materials lists, recommended books, and suggested modifications for different age groups.
• Evaluation tools: pre- and post-survey templates in English and Spanish for measuring your program’s success.
Professional Development Workshops

Early Language and the Growing Brain
Code: BRAIN 301
Time: 60 - 90 minutes

This workshop introduces an overview of early childhood brain development, particularly as it relates to language learning. We will review research on the subject, drawing conclusions that could affect our daily interactions with children and families. We will also practice strategies for sharing this information with families using a strength-based lens.

The Neuroscience of Storytelling
Code: BRAIN 302
Time: 90 minutes - 3 hours

This workshop is for family support professionals interested in learning more about what happens in a child’s brain while hearing a story. In it, we take a deep dive to examine three ways the brain develops in response to stories and we practice specific book-sharing techniques geared toward encouraging each unique type of development.

The Bilingual Family
Code: DLL 301
Time: 60 - 90 minutes

Participants will discuss some of the myths and truths surrounding language development in bilingual children and identify strategies for supporting children’s linguistic growth, confidence, and school success.

Story, Song, and Movement
Code: LIT 301
Time: 60 - 90 minutes

Together we will share and practice songs and dynamic movement games that support children’s development in a number of learning areas that are vital for kindergarten readiness.

Word Play All Day!
Code: LIT 302
Time: 60 - 90 minutes

Children learn language from everything around them! In this workshop we will identify six key skills that
children need to be ready to learn to read. We will also practice word games, songs, and hands-on activities that help children to build those skills anytime, anywhere.

**Making Math Meaningful**  
**Code:** MATH 301  
**Time:** 60 minutes - 3 hours

This workshop provides a hands-on exploration of the five math-related Preschool Learning Foundations. Participants will practice a variety of engaging math activities that they can easily implement in play groups or teach to families for continued practice at home.

**Stories that Count**  
**Code:** MATH 302  
**Time:** 60 - 90 minutes

In this interactive workshop, participants will practice using storybooks to support children’s understanding of counting, simple addition, subtraction, and other early math concepts. Participants will deepen their understanding of early math concepts appropriate for children aged 0-5, and will learn how to recognize and leverage opportunities for building children’s math skills through book-sharing.

**Power of Play**  
**Code:** PLAY 301  
**Time:** 60 - 75 minutes

Play is vital for developing children’s social and critical thinking skills. In this workshop, participants will practice using supportive language to develop these skills, and share ideas about how to facilitate play at home.

**Sharing Stories, Sharing Feelings**  
**Code:** SED 301  
**Time:** 60 minutes - 3 hours

Social and emotional development is important for both school readiness and the general well-being of children. In this workshop, participants will practice activities and strategies they can share with families for supporting children to build trusting relationships and recognize, manage, and express their emotions.
Supporting Children with Trauma

**Code: TRAUMA 301**

**Time: 45 - 60 minutes**

This workshop is focused on exploring what trauma looks like in children 0-5 years old. Learn about the different types of trauma, how it affects developing brains and bodies, and practice trauma-sensitive strategies for supporting children and their families through difficult times and overwhelming emotions.

Talking about the Tough Stuff

**Code: TRAUMA 302**

**Time: 90 minutes - 6 hours**

Participants will learn about different ways that traumatic experiences can affect children's development and behavior. We will practice using storytelling and play to support and coach children impacted by trauma, while using strength-based strategies to discuss these sensitive topics with the adults in a child's family.