



2019-2020 Annual Report



Our Vision and Mission

Tandem, Partners in Early Learning® holds a vision of an equitable and just society where all children enter school ready to succeed. Our mission is to engage the whole community to ensure all families with children 0-5 have the resources, skills, and confidence they need to support their children’s early brain development and kindergarten readiness.



A Letter from our Executive Director

This annual report finds us at an incredibly challenging time. We are dealing with a pandemic, an economic crisis, and the challenge of systemic racism. Families and educators are struggling to figure out how children can return safely to classrooms—and if they can not, what kind of support is necessary in order to minimize the disruption to children’s learning and development. While these are important questions for all children and families, they are especially critical in communities that have experienced the pernicious effects of structural and institutional racism.



For the past decade, Tandem has worked hard to close the school readiness gap, to ensure that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn *and* that all schools and family support organizations are ready to provide high-quality learning experiences for the children they serve. This work has never been more important or urgent.

Our annual report reflects Tandem’s longstanding commitment to the vision of a just, equitable world where all children enter school poised to succeed. To work with families that are under-served by traditional systems of early childhood education and care. To innovate in critical areas like language development, literacy, mathematics, social emotional development, and trauma-informed practices.

As we move forward and work together to build a more equitable future, here’s what you can expect from Tandem:

- If you are an educator or a family member, you can continue to rely on us to offer you resources to promote exceptional learning experiences for the children in your life.
- If you are a community partner, you can continue to count on us to work with you to create something together that neither of us could do on our own.
- If you are a donor or volunteer, you can expect that we will continue to be judicious with our resources, transparent in how we use them, and innovative in designing and delivering services to our community.

In everything we do, you can be confident that we’ll hold ourselves accountable to our goal of listening to and following the lead of the communities we serve, and supporting children and families in the ways they find most valuable.

I’m so honored to share the results of our work in 2019-2020. I look forward to our continued partnership as we adapt to respond to the urgent needs of this moment.

Thank you for being a part of the Tandem community.

Savitha Moorthy
Executive Director
Tandem, Partners in Early Learning

Tandem by the Numbers

In 2019-2020, we served:



15,977

children
and families



1,493

parents
and caregivers



3,571

educators and
family support
professionals



801

StoryCycles
classrooms

We held:



135

workshops



36

community events

We distributed:



42,555

books in circulation
through StoryCycles



20,842

books given away
to families and
educators

Tandem Programs

StoryCycles®

StoryCycles is a school-to-home book-sharing program accompanied by training that introduces educators and caregivers to simple, practical strategies for building children’s kindergarten readiness skills through book-sharing, word games, rhyming songs, and hands-on activities.

In 2019-2020, 801 classrooms and 14,458 children participated in StoryCycles, with each child bringing home 2-4 high-quality, multicultural, multilingual, books to share with their families each week.

More books in the home is associated with reading more frequently.



84%

of StoryCycles families report reading on a daily basis with children, and for at least 15 minutes each time.

In contrast, a national survey, How America Reads Aloud to its Children, released in 2018 found that

ONLY 42%

of Americans with children aged 3–5 read to their child every day

ONLY 32%

report reading to their children every day for 15 minutes or more.*



When access to books is coupled with workshops for families on interactive reading strategies, professional development for educators, and site-based technical assistance, families also report changes in attitudes and behaviors towards reading with children.

89%

of StoryCycles families noted that because of Tandem’s program, they learned how sharing books can help their children succeed in school

85%

spend more time engaging with their child after sharing a book

* <http://www.readaloud.org/surveyreport.html>

Tandem Programs

What kind of books are in the Tandem StoryCycles library?

This year, Tandem had 42,555 books in rotation through StoryCycles and gave away 20,842 books to families and educators to build their home and classroom libraries.

Our collection relies on high-quality books that intentionally reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the communities Tandem serves. Following Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop's guidelines¹, we look for books with:



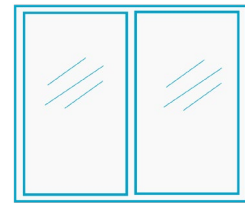
Mirrors

Children can see themselves and their own experiences reflected in the book.



Windows

Children can learn through the book about other people, places, things, and experiences.



Sliding glass doors

Children can enter into the "book world" through their imagination.

Tandem takes great pride in the quality of our book collection. We actively work to uplift individuals from diverse backgrounds by purposefully selecting books that provide authentic mirrors, windows, and doors for the children and families in our communities.

68%

OF BOOKS WITH HUMAN CHARACTERS ADDED TO OUR COLLECTION IN 2019-2020 FEATURE CHARACTERS OF COLOR

in comparison to only 23% of new books in the American publishing market in 2018.

THE STORYCYCLES COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS BOOKS THAT FEATURE

DIVERSE GENDER REPRESENTATION AND FAMILY STRUCTURES

OUR COLLECTION INCLUDES

1,300

BOOKS IN

21

LANGUAGES

Check out a small selection of our ever-growing StoryCycles collection [here](#).

1 <https://ehe.osu.edu/news/listing/rudine-sims-bishop-diverse-childrens-books/>

Tandem Programs

Early Learning Everywhere

Early Learning Everywhere focuses on supporting children who are not enrolled in preschool by partnering with community organizations to provide high-quality learning experiences for children and caregivers. Early Learning Everywhere programs include (but are not limited to):

Caregiver and Family Support Professional workshops

Multilingual family workshops build upon families' strengths. Workshop topics include: language and literacy, dual language learning, social emotional development, mathematics, and more!

Literacy Champions

Through an apprenticeship model, Literacy Champions work hand-in-hand with Tandem staff to lead activities within their own communities and neighborhoods as early learning community ambassadors. In 2019-20, Tandem's Literacy Champions led 13 workshops on various early learning topics and a 10-week parenting class.

Give Me 5

A series of five multilingual, play-and-learn sessions that foster social emotional development and build a variety of kindergarten readiness skills, including curiosity, persistence, language, literacy, and mathematics. Caregivers play with their kids through guided activities while gaining knowledge of how to best support their children's development.



“[This was a] beautiful way to learn about fun ways to reach your child because all children are unique and special and different in many ways.” - San Francisco Family Member, Early Learning Everywhere Participant

Early Learning Everywhere includes additional programs designed in collaboration with families and community organizations. Read on for highlights from this year!

2019-2020 Program Highlights

Early Math

Because early math is highly predictive of children's later academic achievement, Tandem has partnered with the Developmental Research in Early Mathematics Education (DREME) Family Math group and the Institute for STEM Education at CSU East Bay to develop and implement high-quality early math programming. Tandem's math workshops and activities support parents and educators by providing them with the resources and skills to incorporate math-focused activities and talk into children's routines at home and school.



“The partnership between the Institute for STEM Education at CSU East Bay and Tandem, Partners in Early Learning, has been extremely helpful...The Tandem approach to integrate everyday math concepts through literature and activities using materials found in most homes has relieved the common math anxiety of many adults, and the joyful and participatory approach of the workshop facilitators has been invaluable in building and sustaining a regular audience.” - Bruce Simon, Executive Director, Institute for STEM Education at CSU East Bay



2019-2020 Program Highlights

Give Me 5 Train-the-Trainer

The Give Me 5 Play and Learn series was created based on feedback from a focus group of fathers in 2017 about parent workshops. These committed dads were eager to learn more about engaging their young children in learning, but, as one father remarked, *"I get to spend so little time with my kids as it is, I'd rather go to a workshop with them than spend time away from them learning."*



The success of the Give Me 5 Play and Learn series combined with broad community interest in the curriculum lead Tandem to develop a Give Me 5 Train-the-Trainer institute. Aimed at an audience of family support professionals, the goal of the Train-the-Trainer institute is to expand the capacity of community-based organizations to offer Play and Learn groups for the children and families in their care. In February 2020, Tandem implemented the two-day Train-the-Trainer institute; participants included father-focused family support professionals from a total of 11 agencies, including: The Oakland Public Library; A Better Way; Family Paths; The Alameda County of Public Health Father's Initiative; 4Cs of Alameda County; Child, Family and Community Services; Bananas; Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center; Homeless Prenatal Program; Contra Costa County of Public Health; and Teaching Excellence Center.

Many of the participating agencies have already launched their own Give Me 5 Play and Learn groups, and Tandem will be using this train-the-trainer module to partner with more organizations across the Bay Area in the future.



2019-2020 Program Highlights

Social-Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care

In the face of trauma and stress, the consistent presence of a caring adult is a critical factor that helps children develop resilience. At the same time, these conversations can be difficult for parents and caregivers — and in this context, art and stories can help. Processing stress with an adult in the context of sharing a book or an art activity can help children build trust, and even rewire a child's brain to respond differently to overwhelming feelings and emotions.

While Tandem strives to incorporate trauma-informed practices and build social-emotional learning in all programming, two series of workshops directly address these needs.

Talking about the Tough Stuff: Building Empathy & Resilience Through Storytelling & Play with Preschoolers. In this multi-day training, families practice using art, play and storytelling to help young children cope and communicate through big emotions and traumatic experiences.

Sharing Our Stories: Using books to promote social-emotional development in children and support conversations between caregivers and children who have family members impacted by the justice system. Participants learn to use children's books to support crucial conversations between caregivers and children about incarceration and related impacts.



“[Books are] an outlet for emotions...To me this is power.”

- Parent Caregiver Advisor Group member, participant



Sharing our Stories workshop with the Safe Return Project in October 2019.

2019-2020 Program Highlights

Tandem's Response to Covid-19: Supporting Distance Learning

We continue to provide families with resources to implement high-quality early learning at home. Our book distribution program (which includes multilingual books, activity guides, and virtual read alouds) offers families a cohesive, engaging educational experience, sensitive to technology access issues. Additionally, Tandem continues to work with community partners to provide virtual workshops for families and professional development for educators and family support professionals.

Over the span of a few short months, this has included:

Book Giveaways

In collaboration with partners and funders, we have distributed over 14,000 high-quality, multilingual books with accompanying activity guides to families with young children.



“Yesterday I put all these books together for teachers and families for our summer program, and I am just blown away. I can not wait to get these books into the little hands of our kinders so they can build their home libraries.”

- Katelyn Sbani, Kindergarten Teacher and Summer Kinder/TK Bridge Teacher on Special Assignment, Oakland Unified School District

Virtual Resources

- A library of virtual read alouds featuring over 80 books in five languages accessible via mobile phones, tablets, and computers.
- Storybook activity guides aligned with book giveaways and virtual read alouds. These offer a short synopsis of the book, talking tips for conversations, and activities for families to do at home.
- Professional development webinars for educators and service providers.




“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be learning in this way and for providing us with strategies that I am going to implement in my work.”

- Educator, Attended StoryTime Magic Webinar

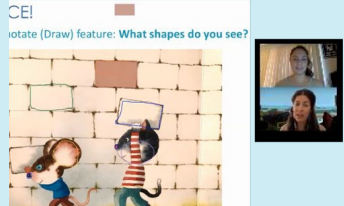
Enjoy a few of these new virtual resources here:

<https://www.tandembayarea.org/resources/learning-at-home/>


2019-2020 Program Highlights



[Storytime Activity Guide: Ruby Finds a Worry](#)



[Oakland Public Library and Math in Storybooks](#)



[San Francisco Unified School District Book Distribution](#)

Read more about our work on the Tandem Blog
www.tandembayarea.org/category/blog



[Inside Tandem's Diverse Children's Book Collection](#)



[Innosanto Nagara on Raising Socially Conscious Children](#)

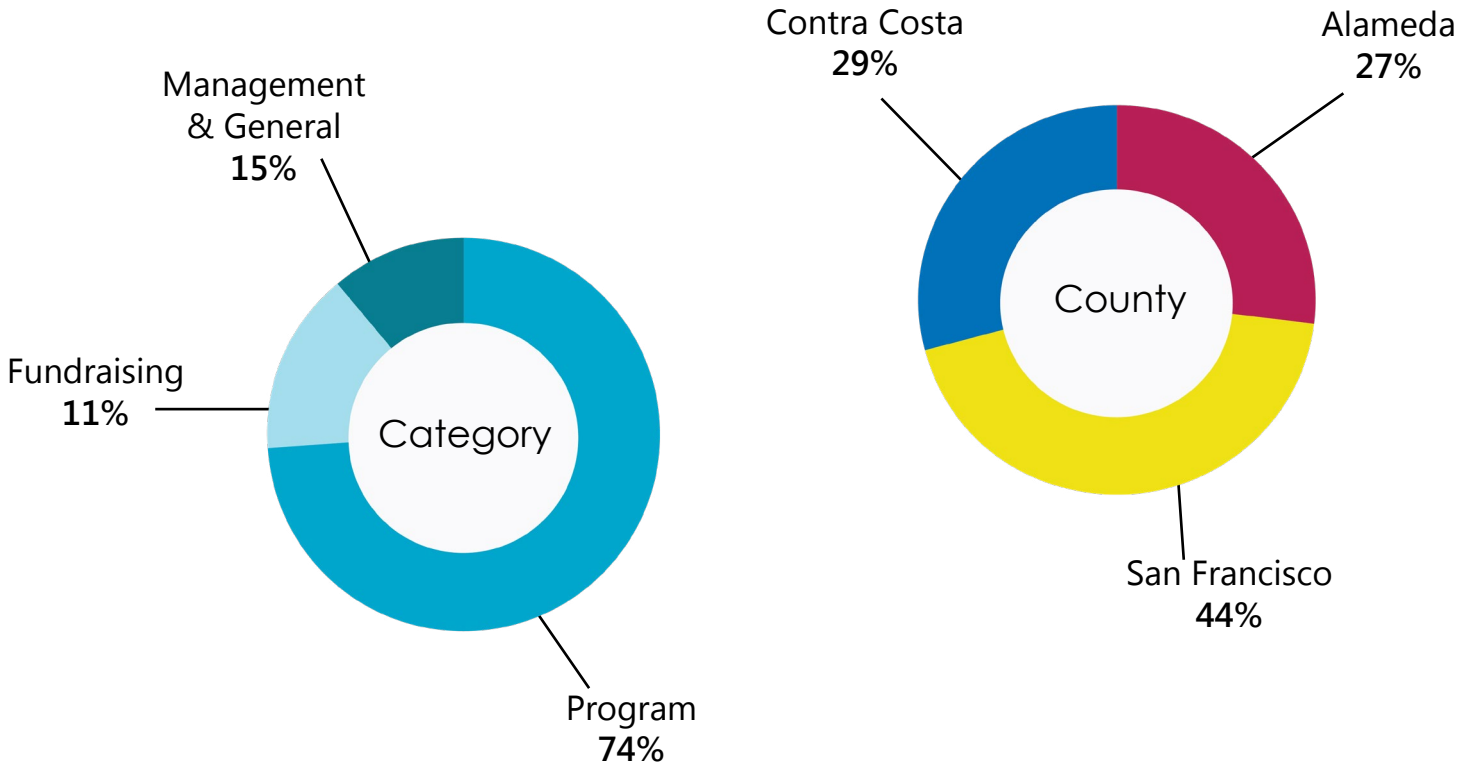


[Literacy Champions](#)

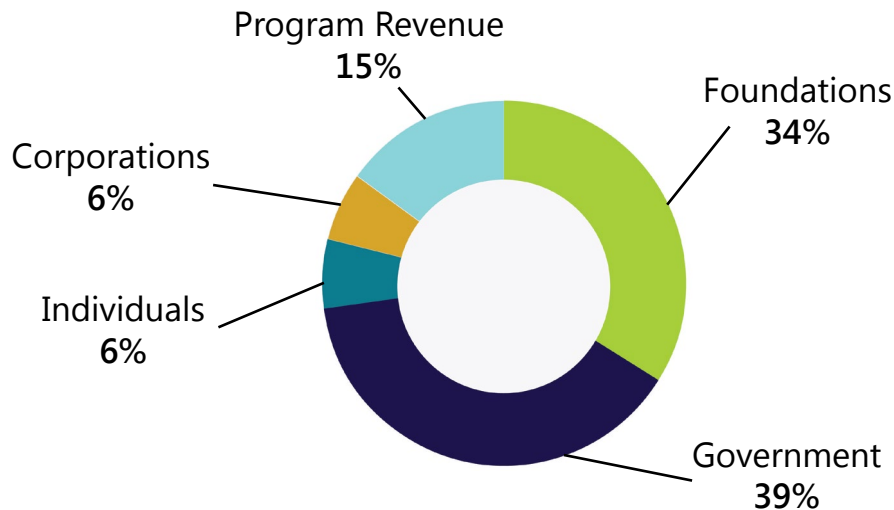
Financials for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$1,697,485.74



Revenue



Thank You to Our Program Partners

We are grateful for our partner organizations, classrooms, and educators. Working alongside you, we are able to create something together that we would not be able to do on our own.

Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership: Parent Caregiver Advisory Group

Alameda Fathers Initiative

Aspire Education Project

BANANAS

BMAGIC

Boston College, Lynch School of Education

Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative

Cal State East Bay Institute for STEM Education

Child Family and Community Services

Children's Council of San Francisco

City of Oakland Head Start

CoCo Kids

Community Child Care Council of Alameda

Compass Family Services

Contra Costa Community Services Bureau, Head Start Program

Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Early Care and Education

Contra Costa Crisis Center

Contra Costa Public Library

DREME Network

Edgewood Family Resource Center

FACES SF

Family Connections, Inc.

Family Justice Center

Fatherhood Initiative of San Francisco

FCC Quality Networks

Felton Institute

First 5 Alameda

First 5 Centers in Contra Costa

First 5 Contra Costa

First Baptist Head Start

GLIDE

Hamilton Families

Hayward Promise Neighborhood

Hayward Public Library

Heron's Head Park EcoCenter

Homeless Prenatal Program

Human Services Agency Foster Program

Japanese Community Youth Center

Kai Ming

Lincoln Family Services

Mission Neighborhood Centers

Mission Promise Neighborhood

Mount Diablo Adult Education Preschool Programs

National Book Foundation, Book Rich Environments

Oakland Ed Fund

Oakland Housing Authority

Oakland Literacy Coalition

Oakland Public Library

Oakland Starting Smart and Strong

Oakland Unified School District

Pittsburg Unified School District

Prescott Joseph Center for Community Enhancement

Read Aloud Volunteer Program

Refugee & Immigrant Transitions

Roots Community Health Center

Saint Vincent's Day Home

Safe Return Project

San Francisco Recreation and Parks

San Francisco Unified School District

SF Family Support Network

South of Market Child Care

The Lantern Center for Hospitality and Education

University of California, San Francisco (Mt. Zion)

West Contra Costa Unified School District

WIC San Francisco and Contra Costa (Women Infant Children)

Wu Yee Children's Services

YMCA Bayview Family Resource Center

YMCA of San Francisco

YMCA of the East Bay

And the many other organizations that we have the honor of collaborating with each year!

Thank You to Our Community of Supporters

We are grateful for our generous government, foundation, and corporate funders:

Adobe Employee Community Fund
Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 2
Anonymous Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation
Bank of San Francisco
Bella Vista Foundation
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation
Campbell Foundation
Clorox Foundation
Couric Family Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation
Chronicle Books
Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation
Dodge & Cox
Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund
First 5 Contra Costa
First Tech Credit Union
Fremont Group Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation

Horizons Foundation
Joseph & Mercedes McMicking Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Kathlyn McPherson Masneri and Arno P. Masneri Fund
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Mimi and Peter Haas Fund
Mission Economic Development Agency
Quest Foundation
Pinto Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
San Francisco Foundation
San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education
Silverbird Fund
Stocker Foundation
Trio Foundation
Warriors Community Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

Thank you to our StoryBlocks volunteers

Salesforce	Focal Point LLC
Nasdaq	Bank of San Francisco
Wells Fargo	Heffernan Insurance Brokers
Handshake	Presence
Clark Hill LLP	IPM

To our community of individual donors and volunteers:

Your ongoing partnership and support helps make everything you've read about in this report possible. We are grateful for your involvement in the Tandem community and look forward to continuing to work alongside you.





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Thank you from our [Staff](#) and [Board](#)

