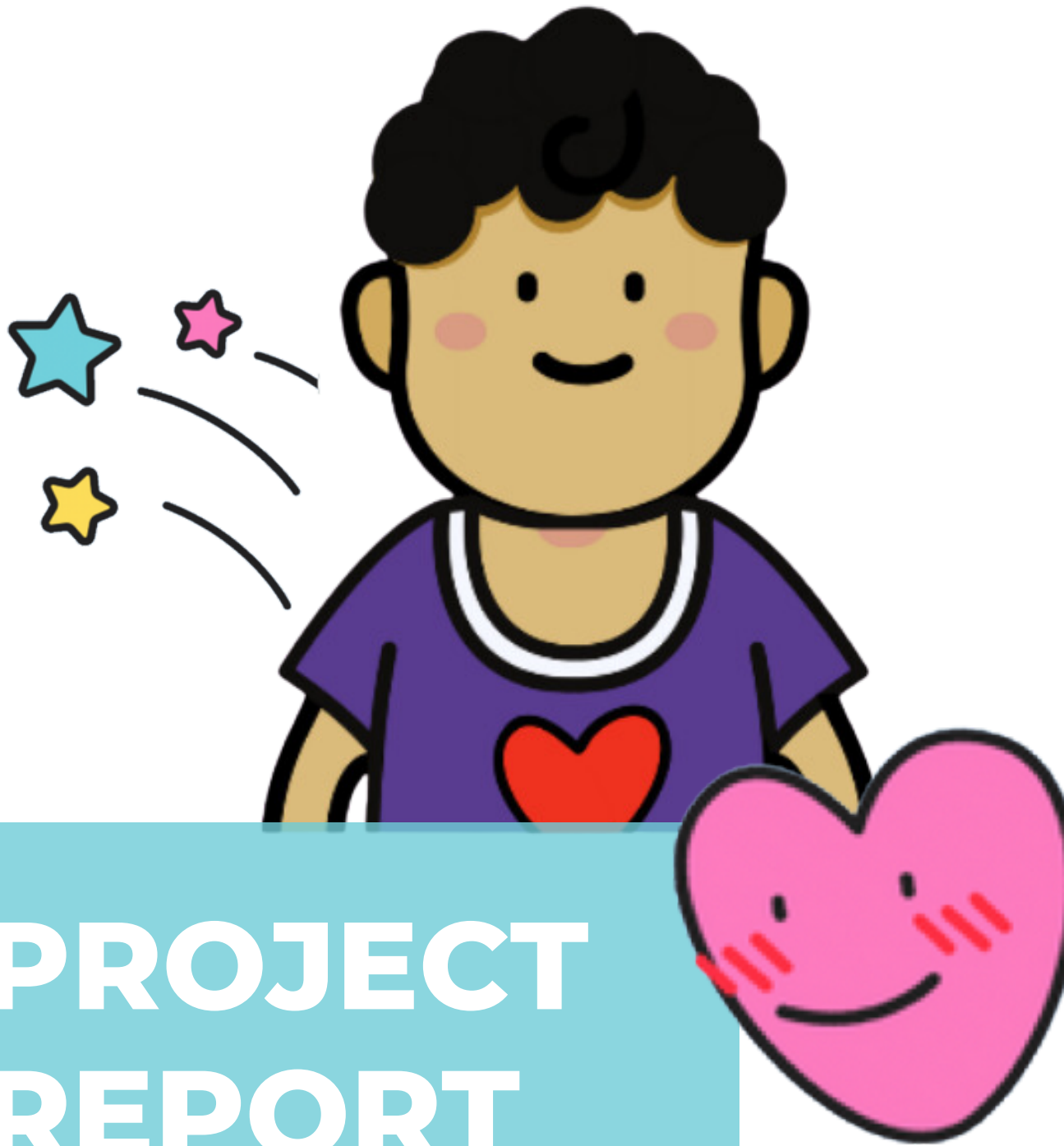


2024



PROJECT REPORT

★ RAINBOW KIDS ★



ABOUT RAINBOW KIDS

WHAT IS RAINBOW KIDS?

Community Equity Collaborative (CEC) launched an initiative called Rainbow Kids in 2022 to increase knowledge and awareness about topics related to sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE) in early childhood and work toward a more expansive world for all children.

WHY FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Kids develop concepts about gender, love, and family before the age of five. Rainbow Kids provides practical and age-appropriate resources for parents, caregivers and educators of young children who wish to celebrate and normalize diversity when it comes to gender and what it means to be a family. Creating gender-aware and inclusive environments are essential as young children form foundational concepts about who they are, whom they can love and what makes a family. By understanding issues related to sexual orientation/gender identity and expression (SOGIE) and engaging in age-appropriate conversations with young children about these topics, we give them the language and freedom to explore their identities from day one.

GOALS OF FUNDING

With the success of Rainbow Kids' hallmark online training and demonstrated interest, CEC sought to expand the scope and scale of its offering over the past year. Program expansion included adapting the existing English-language training to be culturally relevant for a diverse Latinx audience and delivered in Spanish, developing facilitation guides and materials to enable more partners to deliver Rainbow Kids content, creating new Rainbow Kids resources (including video shorts) covering additional topics, and positioning this content and resources to be shared by others.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

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English Language Training

Nearly 400 individuals attended the Rainbow Kids webinars, and hundreds more accessed our resources and materials via social media. In October 2023, an expanded version of Rainbow Kids was showcased at a conference attended by around 500 educators, including Izzi staff and other Head Start professionals. Beyond the 500 attendees of our English and Spanish webinars, our Rainbow Kids awareness campaigns on social media, featured in CEC's newsletter and outreach efforts, have reached over 2,000 educators, childcare providers, nonprofit staff, city and county leaders, commissions and community members.

Spanish Language Training

CEC recruited Jennifer Ventura, a queer, Latinx early educator and trainer, and Tania Cisneros-Ventura, a bilingual, Latinx family therapist with experience supporting diverse families to work with us and adapt the webinar to be culturally relevant for a diverse Latinx community, translate the content into Spanish, and facilitate the trainings. Israel Cruz, a bilingual school counselor with expertise working with LGBTQ+ youth, then joined the team as a content advisor. In November 2023, community leaders serving the Latinx, LGBTQ+ and early childhood sectors attended a beta session of Rainbow Kids en Español to provide feedback before the official launch. In February 2024, CEC successfully delivered the first of four scheduled webinars in Spanish (Feb 13, Mar 21, Apr 17, May 16).

Expanded Resources

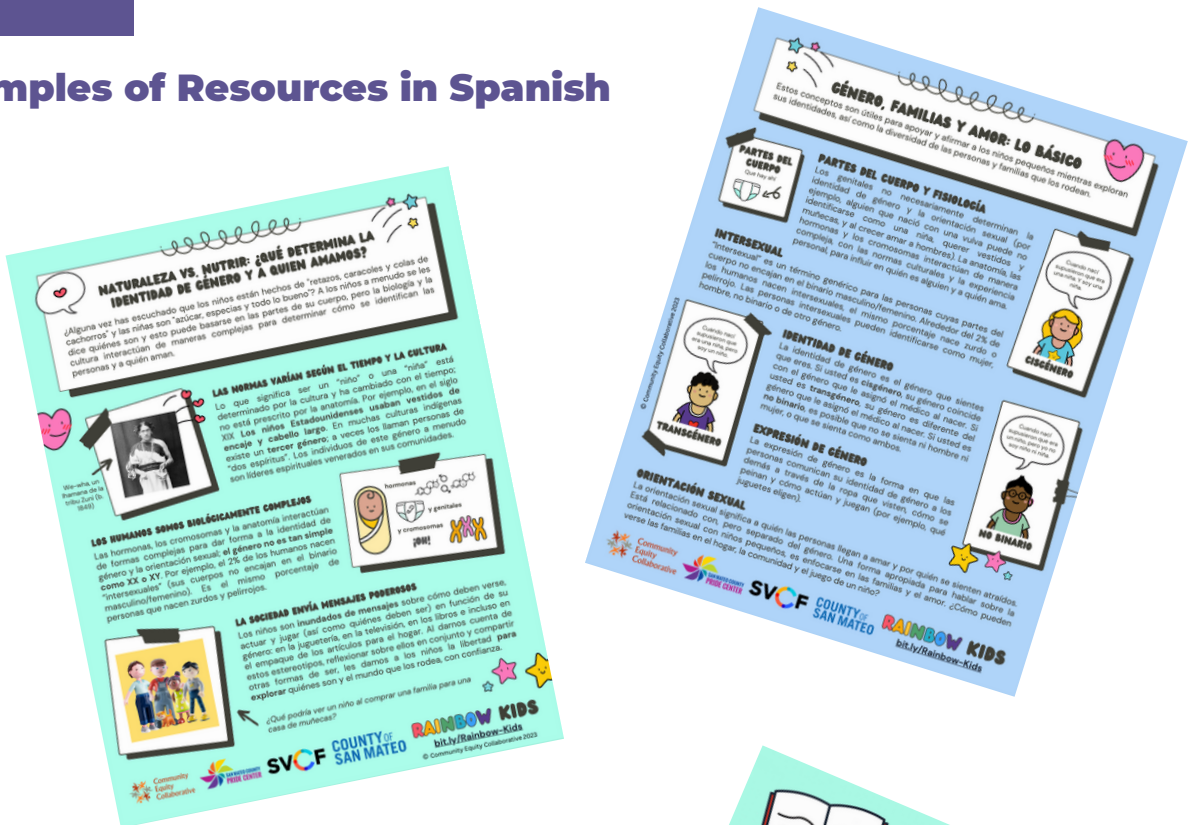
CEC developed a library of video shorts and resources to supplement original webinar content. In these videos, family members and faith leaders offer stories and perspectives on WHY it is important that we all work towards a more inclusive world and HOW we can support the young children and families in our lives. In addition, we created a Facilitator's Guide that equips others to deliver Rainbow Kids content. These new resources will go live in summer 2024.



RESOURCES

05

Examples of Resources in Spanish



Images from a Video Short



RAINBOW KIDS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

06



One Pagers

- [The Basics](#)
- [Simple Ways to Discuss](#)
- [Nature vs Nurture](#)
- [Diverse Families](#)
- [Public Health](#)

Videos

- [Full Presentation](#)
- [Q&A](#)
- [Intersectionality](#)
- [Faith & Culture](#)
- [Friends & Family](#)
- [College & Adult Ed](#)

Facilitation & Instruction Guides

- [General Facilitation Guide \(for presentations or webinars\)](#)
- [Instructor Guide for College & Adult Ed](#)



Spanish Resources

- [Slides](#)
- [Script](#)
- [One pagers](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Online Resource library](#)



Presentation Materials

- [Slides](#)
- [Script](#)

Online Resources Library

- [Link to partner organizations, hotlines, reading lists and more.](#)

FEEDBACK

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Rainbow Kids en Español Evaluation

Over 100 parents, family members, educators, child care providers, nonprofit staff, and community members registered for the Rainbow Kids en Español webinar. Nearly 90% of evaluation respondents said they strongly agree or agree that after the training they have a better understanding of issues related to SOGIE in early childhood, feel more capable of supporting young children in situations related to SOGIE, think the training was culturally relevant, well-paced and engaging, and said they would recommend it to others. One participant shared “More of these workshops are needed for the community, thank you for this valuable resource.”



Testimonial from K12 Teacher

"I have been engaged in this work for nearly a decade and have participated in and/or led many workshops around supporting LGBTQ+ kids and honestly, yours was one of the best I have experienced. I left feeling very inspired, especially after years of hearing from other educators, administrators, and well-meaning adults that these topics are just too much and that we as a society are not ready to openly support elementary aged queer and trans kids (ie: we are afraid of the backlash so we would rather stay quietly in our comfort zones and wave rainbow flags once in a while).

It is also important to understand that we have LGBTQ+ youth of all ages in our schools. I have a student (now in 5th grade) who came out as trans in kindergarten and transitioned his gender upon entering 1st grade. I use this example whenever I hear comments saying that students in elementary schools are too young to understand LGBTQ issues. They exist at all ages and it is important that we validate their identities."



NEXT STEPS

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Expand Resources and Accessibility

CEC is currently transforming existing Rainbow Kids content, including our signature trainings in English and Spanish, into digestible modules with supplemental guides, developing new resources to widen the topics covered and designing a distribution method that simplifies access to all of them. New resources include (1) additional short videos that address SOGIE in different contexts, (2) materials to incorporate Rainbow Kids content into early childhood curricula and (3) resources for public health providers that incorporate the social determinants of health and their relevance for LGBTQ+ youth. These Rainbow Kids resources will be free and delivered through a simple on-demand platform to support equitable and easy access.



OUR TEAM

09



Dayna Chung (she/her)
Executive Director



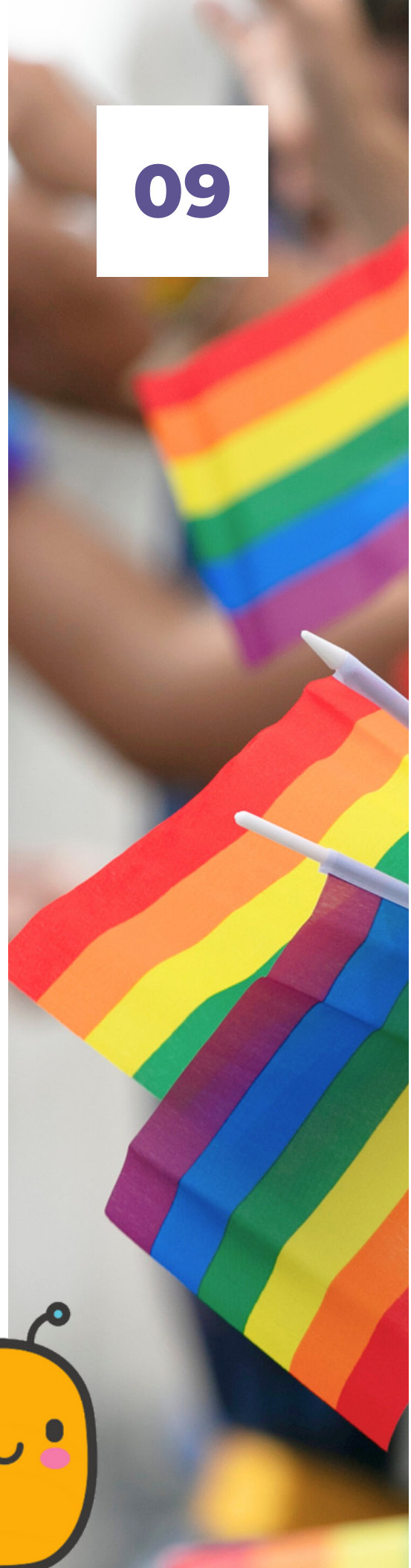
Jen Sheldon (she/her)
Director, Program Development



Timi Most (she/her)
Director, Operations & Finance



Heather Hopkins (she/her)
Organizing Member



OUR PARTNERS

CEC engaged a multitude of local partners for their expertise and professional as well as lived experiences in education, advocacy, public health, mental health, facilitation, and training particularly in the context of early childhood and LGBTQ+ youth. The individuals listed here are the core group of consultants, experts and facilitators who were integral to the creation, adaptation, and delivery of Rainbow Kids.



10



Azisa Todd (they/them)
LBTQ Health
Equity Consultant



Nathaniel Flynn (he/him)
Professor of Early
Childhood Education



Tania Cisneros-Ventura (ella)
Family and
Marriage Therapist



Jen Ventura (ella/elle)
Trainer and Consultant,
Early Childhood Education



Hannah Yanow (she/they)
Lecturer and Consultant,
Inclusion and Belonging



Israel Cruz (he/him)
Mental Health and
School Counselor



THANK YOU

CEC is immensely grateful to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Noelia Corzo for their generous support of Rainbow Kids. CEC also wants to thank the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) for their generous funding that made Rainbow Kids possible. Measure K and SVCF funding enabled us to do this essential work and bring us closer to a world where all children feel safe and welcome to be their true selves.

For more resources, scan the QR code.



Community Equity Collaborative



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INTENDED USE

Rainbow Kids is designed to provide age-appropriate information for parents, caregivers, educators, and community members who engage with young children. This content is not intended to be delivered directly to young children. Rainbow Kids content and materials are copyrighted by Community Equity Collaborative. This content cannot be altered or reproduced in any way that misrepresents its primary objectives, themes, or messages. Community Equity Collaborative is not liable for any responses individuals or organizations may encounter as a result of distributing these materials. For inclusive resources for story time or screen time for kids, please visit our website at Rainbow Kids Resources.



Community Equity Collaborative

www.communityequitycollaborative.org