



Great Futures Start Here

School readiness for children
Great careers for you

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



We're Hiring!

Find out how you can reach your
career goals by working for
Preschool Services

INSIDE

Diana Alexander, Director of the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department, says her department offers so much more than preschool — it helps families find self-sufficiency.

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUMA

'We're More Than a Preschool'

A Letter from Preschool Services
Department Director Diana Alexander



Our mission is 'To improve the well-being of children, empower families, and strengthen communities.'

Diana Alexander
Director, San Bernardino County
Preschool Services Department

What's in a name? Sometimes it fully represents everything about an individual or an organization, but sometimes the name just doesn't tell the whole story. That is the case with the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD). Some people hear our name and automatically think we are in the babysitting business. I get responses like "Oh how cute! You get to be with the babies." While that's partially correct it fails to include the phenomenal work our staff does every day to fulfill our mission and vision.

Our mission is: "To improve the well-being of children, empower families and strengthen communities."

Through our vision we are committed to ensuring that our children excel when they leave us; that our families' quality of life will be measurably better after participating in our programs; and that our efforts will increase the quantity and quality of sustainable resources and services countywide. We are not "babysitters." We are a team of well-educated professionals providing incredible, high-quality services that are changing the lives of children ages 0-5, families and communities in our county.

We do this by providing an academic foundation in math, science, literacy, etc. for our children that aligns with the California Common Core State Standards. We

assess their skills to determine how to individualize their educational needs. We ensure that our children receive health screenings such as dental, vision, hearing, immunizations, etc. We also assess the skills of teachers, and our classroom environments, to ensure that the children are receiving the best instruction in the best classroom.

The best news is that PSD is right here in your community providing services that will change the course of the lives of children and families, from cradle to career. Come and see for yourself. We welcome you!

PSD Puts Our County's Children on a Path for Success

A child's early development years are significant when it comes to learning. As Chair of the Head Start Shared Governance Board, my objective is to bring comprehensive developmental services and support to nearly 7,000 disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5. The San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department Early Head Start and Head Start programs provide our community with the opportunity to foster early education, and create a path for school readiness.

The Preschool Services Department is a vital resource within our County that supports educational programs to address a child's cognitive,

social and emotional development. Addressing these life skills early on builds the foundation for children to be successful in school and in life.

Preparing our children for a successful future starts with their early development and ensuring that they have access to programs and opportunities regardless of their economic situation. San Bernardino County prioritizes populations that are in need of services the most, including children in foster care, children under Child Protective Services, children with disabilities/special needs and children and families experiencing homelessness.

Exposure to education early on provides children

with the skills and passion to become life-long learners. Through the programs provided, children and their parents are given the tools and resources necessary to build an educated workforce and support our children from cradle to career.

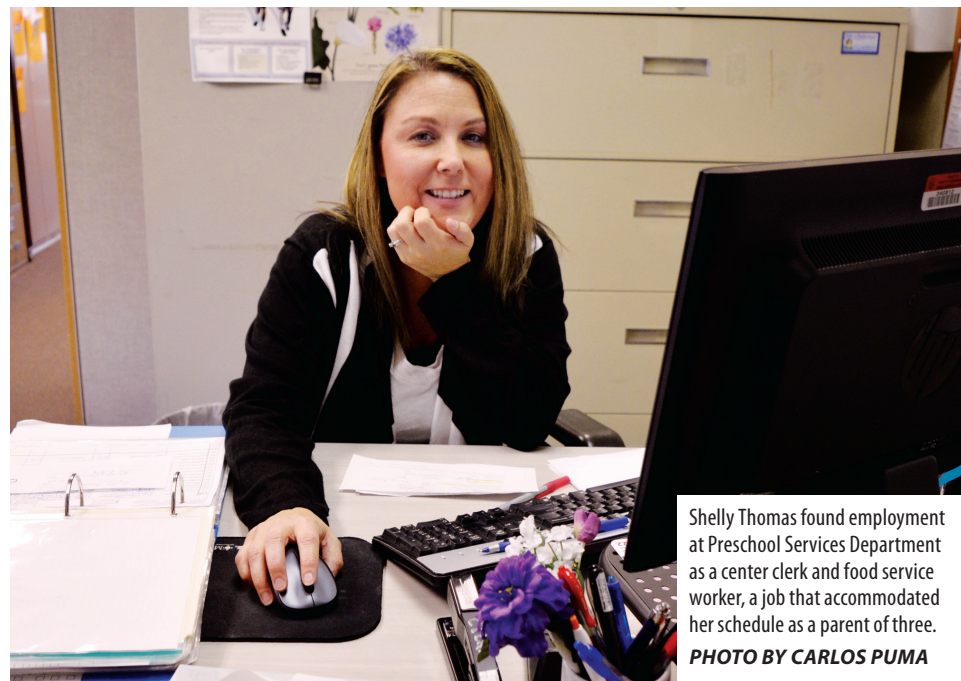
Josie Gonzales
San Bernardino
County Board of
Supervisors,
5th District



Opportunities for Families

Mother finds new career and a preschool for her children at PSD

by Amanda Caraway



Shelly Thomas found employment at Preschool Services Department as a center clerk and food service worker, a job that accommodated her schedule as a parent of three.

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUMA

For Shelly Thomas, life changed dramatically when she was given custody of her nephew and two nieces. She was suddenly faced with raising three children and providing them with an education. The children had been in foster care prior to moving in with her, which enabled them to qualify for the San Bernardino County Head Start program.

“The Head Start program has had a huge impact on all our lives,” Thomas says. “My youngest is still in the program, but the older two read and study at a level above their current grade. They continue to pass all the tests at an advanced level.”

It was through her involvement as a parent at the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD) that Thomas discovered services that would benefit her as well. Before adopting the children, she worked as a medical assistant in a doctor’s office. Once she had the kids, she could no longer work the hours required for her job.

“The thing that makes PSD so unique is that they care for the whole family, not just the child,” Thomas says. “They help parents in order to improve the lives of kids. This program has impacted my life as much as the lives of the kids.”

Thomas enrolled in one of the apprenticeship program at PSD and began volunteering at the school to get experience. She also became involved with the Policy Council and eventually served as the chairperson.

“Parents play a big role at the school,” Thomas says, recalling her experience on the council. “We vote on policies and are invited to sit on interview panels to help hire new employees.”

While serving on the council, Thomas gained valuable experience that led to her current employment as center clerk and food service worker for one of the PSD centers, a job that accommodates her schedule as a parent.

“PSD helped pay for my classes and training, and all of the necessary certificate fees,” Thomas says. “They are still helping me pay tuition while I

work on my teaching degree.”

Thomas enjoys her job and loves the opportunity to help families and give back to the community. She also treasures the amazing benefits the PSD program has given her children.

“The teachers at PSD have a huge influence on the kids,” Thomas says. “The two who have left the program like to go back and visit their teachers whenever they can.”

The thing that makes PSD so unique is that they care for the whole family, not just the child. They help parents in order to improve the lives of kids.

Shelly Thomas
Center Clerk for
San Bernardino County PSD

★ PSD recognized for excellence

Because of the outstanding services provided to children, parents and the community, the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD) has won some noteworthy awards.

The National Association of Counties has given PSD two **Achievement Awards**, one in 2013 for the **Preschool Referral Project** and one in 2015 for the **Community Partnership Project**. The Achievement Award recognizes innovative programs that help modernize county government and increase services available to county residents.

PSD was also recognized by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, with a resolution for providing **50 years of Head Start services** to the community. The resolution commends Head Start for serving as the premier model for providing the “whole child with an opportunity for success in school and in life” and helping **more than 32 million children** nationally since the program’s inception.

Cherie Hudson credits PSD with enriching her own life as well as the lives of her children.

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUMA



Inspired to Achieve

Young mother finds dream job while pursuing an education for her kids

by Amanda Caraway

Cherie Hudson was unemployed when she discovered the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD) in 1989. On the advice of a neighbor, she enrolled her daughter, who was 3 at the time, in the Head Start program.

“Like many young parents, I couldn’t afford traditional preschool,” Hudson says. “PSD truly gave my daughter an edge.”

Hudson was so pleased with her daughter’s experience, that she enrolled her son a few years later. Today, Hudson credits PSD with preparing her children for kindergarten, which put them on the path to lead successful lives.

PSD had a profound impact on Hudson’s life as well. She was deeply influenced by her daughter’s teacher, Leonora Olmos, who became a mentor.

“Being a young parent, I had a lot to learn from Leonora, so the program was rewarding for me, too,” Hudson says. “Leonora helped me discover how to teach my kids through play.”

Because of Olmos’ influence, Hudson was inspired to become a teacher. She didn’t have the necessary education, so Olmos helped her enroll in the Parent Training program at PSD.

“They provided child care and money for gas so I could take classes,” Hudson says. “The staff was incredibly supportive.”

After completing the required classes, Hudson applied for jobs at PSD and volunteered until she was hired as a teacher in 1993. She continued her education and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development from Azusa Pacific University. Hudson was especially proud of this

accomplishment because she was the first of her siblings to graduate from college, and neither of her parents graduated from high school.

“I am so grateful to PSD for helping me get an education and find a field of work I enjoy,” Hudson says. “Now, I have the satisfaction of helping families and giving back to the community.”

Hudson was promoted to site supervisor in 2005 and enjoys mentoring other teachers and staff members. Her daughter is following in her mother’s footsteps and also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development.

“PSD played a huge role in helping my kids become successful adults,” Hudson says. “My daughter is a college graduate, and my son first discovered his love for the carpentry trade through activities in his PSD classes. Today, he has a successful career as well.”

Become a PSD Teacher

The San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD) is looking for men and women who love working with kids to serve as teachers. This gratifying career gives one the opportunity to not only educate kids, but make a positive impact on families and the community. PSD teachers work in multiple settings and serve as role models for struggling parents and eventually mentor other teachers. Qualified individuals will possess an Associate of Arts degree in early childhood education or a related field and have a permit in child development or teaching. Applicants should work well as part of a team and have a love for learning, a desire for ongoing education and a wish to help others. The many job benefits include a \$1,000 per year tuition reimbursement, job security, opportunities for career advancement and a full benefits package.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, VISIT [CMS.SBCOUNTY.GOV/HR](https://cms.sbcounty.gov/hr).

“I am so grateful to PSD for helping me find a field of work that I enjoy. Now, I have the satisfaction of helping families and giving back to the community.”

Cherie Hudson
Site Supervisor for San Bernardino County PSD

'They Support Us'

Family of seven benefits from wraparound services

by Anna Quinlan

It's hard to find a parent with a greater depth of experience with the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department (PSD) than Veronica Guillen. Guillen has had six children go through various early education programs offered by the organization, ranging from in-home services to traditional classroom learning environments. She enrolled her oldest child in 2001, and her youngest, a 3-year-old, attends currently.

Beyond the learning experiences Guillen's family has participated in, they have also benefited from the wraparound services that the PSD offers. It's well documented that children whose basic needs are unmet often struggle in school. So the department aims to ensure that families have access to school supplies, books and even household goods that allow children to thrive.



Veronica Guillen, top, and her children have received everything from school supplies to bedding to help provide for the children's basic needs.

PHOTO BY
CARLOS PUMA

"It's been a great impact on our family," says Guillen of the services the family has received. "For us being low-income, it's hard to go to the store and buy whatever books or things the kids might need. But we were blessed that we were able to get vouchers to go to Kmart and get warm bedding and school supplies."

The family also received Children's Fund Vouchers through PSD to purchase two new beds at a local furniture store to replace beds that had broken, as well as a small collection of books to help them start a home library and encourage the children to read.

More than having tangible needs met through the department, Guillen says that what she values most is the parenting classes and family services that she and her family have received.

"They just really support us," she says.

For us being low-income, it's hard to go to the store and buy whatever books or things the kids might need.

Veronica Guillen
Mother of six children in Preschool Services

A Great Head Start

Mother attributes daughter's success to Preschool Services

When Harriet James enrolled her then 3-year-old daughter, Shanna, in San Bernardino County Preschool Services in 1994, she had no idea how much it would shape both of their lives.

Although she'd earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies in Pakistan, Harriet's degree wasn't recognized once she immigrated to America in 1979. When a welfare worker notified the family about the opportunity to enroll in a Head Start preschool program, Harriet decided not only to enroll Shanna but also to volunteer in her classroom. The decision led to a career in early childhood education.

"It was such a great program," Harriet says of the Redlands North Head Start program where Shanna was enrolled. "The teachers were wonderful. When I saw how they were teaching the children, really teaching the whole

child, I thought to myself, 'Now, that is a child who will be able to succeed.'"

Inspired by the teachers that she was assisting as a volunteer, she eventually enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College and earned her associate degree in early childhood education. She was later hired as a full-time Head Start teacher, and eventually promoted to a supervisor position.

Shanna went on to continue her schooling, eventually earning a Bachelor of Science in nursing and becoming a Registered Nurse. Now 25, she works full-time as a nurse, including working with children with behavioral issues.

"She had such a great head start," her mother says about beginning her education at Redlands North Head Start. "It gives me great pleasure to see how successful my daughter is, and to see all the children I've worked with succeed."

Helping Families Helps Students

Broad services for families improve outcomes for students

by Anne Stokes

Many families in San Bernardino County grapple with poverty-related issues. Chronic hunger and lack of reliable health care can make learning an even more difficult task for young minds. San Bernardino County Preschool Services is a vital link connecting families to health screenings, disability and behavioral services, job training and parenting classes, helping address the underlying obstacles these families face.

According to PSD Program Manager Joe Prologo, the agency has three main goals: to prepare children for future steps in their education, empower families and strengthen the community it serves.

“What we want to do is to engage parents and children in such a way that we move them away from poverty into a more meaningful education and career path that will improve their quality of life,” he says.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

PSD works with local community organizations to provide students with health, vision and dental screenings and connects families to local health resources.

“A lot of families have medical insurance through Covered California or Medi-Cal, but they really haven’t identified an ongoing source of medical care,” Prologo says. “We work with families to find a local medical and dental doctor with whom they keep regular contact.”

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

PSD provides supplemental nutrition to students through CalFresh as well as educates parents on helping their children make better food choices.

“Many of our children will come to school hungry. So we try to find out what kind of nutrition is fed at home,” Prologo says.

Lack of adequate nutrition can manifest itself as problems in the classroom, he says, but supplementing students’ diets can help them self-regulate their behavior.



MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Mental health struggles can be hard to detect but are best addressed early because they can impact classroom performance. According to Prologo, many students enter the program with a lag in social or emotional development, which can result in difficulties at school.

“If they’re unable to self-regulate their over-activity or they’re withdrawn, they’re not going to move forward [in their education] very well,” he says.



DISABILITY SERVICES

According to Prologo, about 11 percent of children enrolled in PSD programs have some sort of disability. Students are assessed and provided Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) to ensure their specific needs are met.

“We’re looking to see if the child may have some sort of qualifying disability that directly impacts the child’s ability to learn,” Prologo says. “We want to identify them early and provide the appropriate support services so those can be addressed.”



FAMILY SERVICES

PSD serves nearly 6,000 Head Start families a year, 41 percent of which include parents who did not complete high school, according to Prologo. Using a variety of community resources, PSD connects parents with job training opportunities, GED test prep, high school diploma courses and parenting classes.

“If 90 percent of jobs in the United States today require a diploma, then you can see [why] 97 percent of our families live in poverty,” he explains. “We don’t want to see generational welfare, we want to see families reaching their full potential. To do that requires engaging families, so we have a number of systematic programs set up within our organization that will offer a wide variety of opportunities.”



Serving healthy food prepares students to focus on learning in the classroom. It’s one of many programs PSD offers that help support the education of children by supporting their whole family.

PHOTO BY CARLOS PUMA

“Moving parents and children away from poverty into a more meaningful education and career path will improve their quality of life.”

Joe Prologo

San Bernardino County Preschool Services
Department Program Manager

San Bernardino County Community Cradle to Career ROAD MAP



A Collective Approach to
Achieve our Countywide Vision

College and career readiness refers to the content knowledge, skills and habits that students must possess to be successful in postsecondary education or training that leads to a sustaining career.

A student who is ready for college and a career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial or developmental coursework.

In 2012, the San Bernardino Associated Governments Board and County Board of Supervisors adopted a regional implementation goal developed through the Countywide Vision process, targeting cradle-to-career success. The goal calls for partnering with all sectors of the community to support the success of every child from cradle-to-career.



Academic & Career Readiness Success Indicators: *Show the development of college and career plans through awareness, exploration, and preparation*

Strong developmental foundation (birth to 36 months)	Prepared for school	Read at grade level by 3rd grade	Grade level competent in ELA/Math by the end of 6th grade	Pass algebra 1/ integrated by 9th grade	Pass college/ career readiness measurement exam by 11th grade	Graduate from high school college & career ready	Enter & complete college, &/or workforce training with 21st century skills	Enter a sustaining career as a productive, contributing citizen Enter & complete advanced education &/or certification
0-3 Years 4-5 Years	Kindergarten	Grades 1-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-9	Grades 10-11	Grade 12	Grades 13-16	Grades 17-20
Age appropriate interaction with the environment & others	Communicates needs, feelings & interests	Enjoys & appropriately interacts with others	Makes friends & understands social rules & consequences	Increasing awareness & acceptance of differences in people	Positive self-esteem & motivation to succeed	Increasing self awareness & identity, building social problem-solving skills & focus on the future	Exploration of attitudes, values & life possibilities	Lifelong learner & desire to make a lasting impact on future generations

Personal & Social Readiness Success Indicators: *Show the development of self, self-control, motivation to learn, positive relationships with others, and social problem solving*



Parents & Family



Education



Government



Business & Labor



Community &
Faith -Based

PILLARS OF SUPPORT

Get Involved!

How to enroll your child and become part of the Preschool Services team



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

662 S. Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415
www.sbcounty.gov/psd
1-888-KIDS 025

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents can enroll their children by visiting one of the many PSD centers. Find center locations on the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department website or e-mail

psdsupport@psd.sbcounty.gov. PSD serves children in foster care, low-income households and those with special needs. All programs are free for those who qualify.

SERVICES FOR EXPECTING MOTHERS

Pregnant women who might qualify are encouraged to enroll before their child is born. PSD offers many services for pregnant mothers, including home visits

from registered nurses. Qualified mothers will receive services in the home until the child is old enough to attend preschool classes.

WORK AT PSD

There are several career opportunities available for those who want to work at PSD. The county is currently hiring for numerous teaching and administration positions.

PSD offers:

- Onsite training
- Apprenticeship programs
- Full benefits package
- Tuition reimbursement

Best of all, PSD employees get to enjoy the positive impact of working with kids and helping struggling parents.

For more information and to view job openings, visit the Human Resources section of the San Bernardino County website.