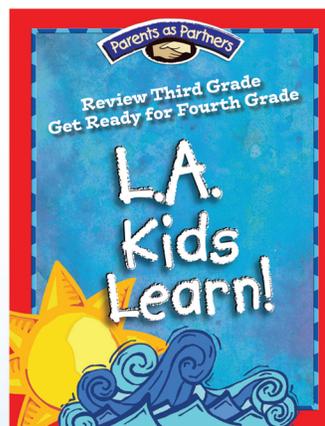


Here's what parents say
about **L.A.
Kids
Learn!**



Survey Results
for the
**Los Angeles
Unified School District**
2007–2008





Introduction

The *Parents as Partners, L.A. Kids Learn* project began in 2005. The goal of the project was to provide parents with a tool to help their students continue learning beyond the classroom. To achieve this goal, summer resource books were created by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Teacher Created Materials (TCM), entitled *Parents as Partners, L.A. Kids Learn*. Research shows that summer learning loss can equal at least one month of instruction.*

L.A. Kids Learn! prevents and slows learning loss by providing structured daily activities to be completed during the summer or intercession. These resource books review the skills students learned during the previous school year and prepare students for the upcoming grade. Students complete activities in the resource book that give them practice in reading, writing, and mathematics. The resource book also includes parent-friendly ideas and suggestions of things to do at home and in the community, lists of books for vacation reading, websites for parents and kids, strategies for fluency practice, and a glossary. Additionally, parent information and directions for the activities are written in both English and Spanish. Parents are also provided with an answer key for each of the activities.

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) and the District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) played key roles in the development of *Parents as Partners, L.A. Kids Learn*. The mission statement of these committees is to “promote increased student academic achievement by building the capacities of local schools and communities to train, educate, and support parents as partners in their children’s education.” These committees provided direction and feedback to ensure these resource books met this mission.

L.A. Kids Learn! supports student academic achievement in the areas of language and mathematics. The resource also supports parents by serving as a learning tool for parents to use with their children, and it educates parents on the academic content their child is expected to master in the upcoming school year. The success of this resource reflects these organizations’ goals to empower parents as partners in their children’s education.

*For a summary of pertinent research on learning loss experienced during breaks from school, visit www.tcmpub.com/research.

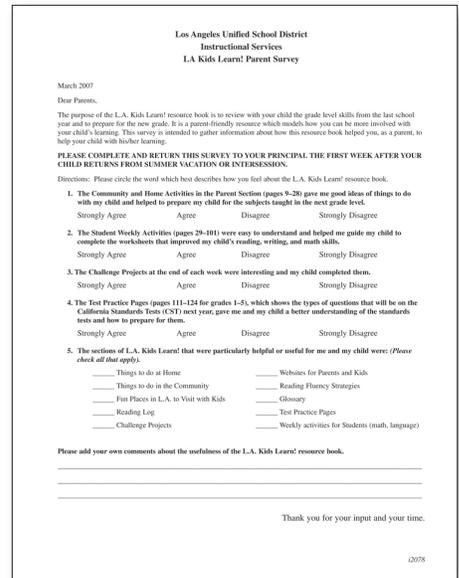
L.A. Kids Learn Parent Survey

Each year LAUSD and TCM revise and update the resource based on feedback and comments from parents. For the summers of 2007 and 2008, a parent survey was included in the back of the resource. LAUSD and TCM thank you for completing this survey. The feedback from this survey was very helpful and extremely positive. Los Angeles Unified School District and Teacher Created Materials are proud to share the success of this resource with you illustrated in these combined survey results.

Five questions were asked on the survey. The directions for the first four questions said to circle the word to best describe how you feel about the *L.A. Kids Learn!* resource book. The choices were: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree. For the fifth question parents checked sections of the book they found useful. Here are the survey questions:

1. The Community and Home Activities in the Parent Section (pages 9–28) gave me good ideas of things to do with my child and helped to prepare my child for the subjects taught in the next grade level.
2. The Student Weekly Activities (pages 29–101) were easy to understand and helped me guide my child to complete the worksheets and improved my child’s reading, writing, and math skills.
3. The Challenge Projects at the end of each week were interesting and my child completed them.
4. The Test Practice Pages (pages 111–124 for grades 1–5), which show the types of questions that will be on the California Standards Tests (CST) next year, gave me and my child a better understanding of the standards tests and how to prepare for them.
5. The sections of *L.A. Kids Learn!* that were particularly helpful and useful for me and my child were: (Please check all that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/> Things to do at Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Websites for Parents and Kids
<input type="checkbox"/> Things to do in the Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Fluency Strategies
<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Places in L.A. to Visit with Kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Glossary
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Log	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Practice Pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Challenge Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Activities for Students (math, language)

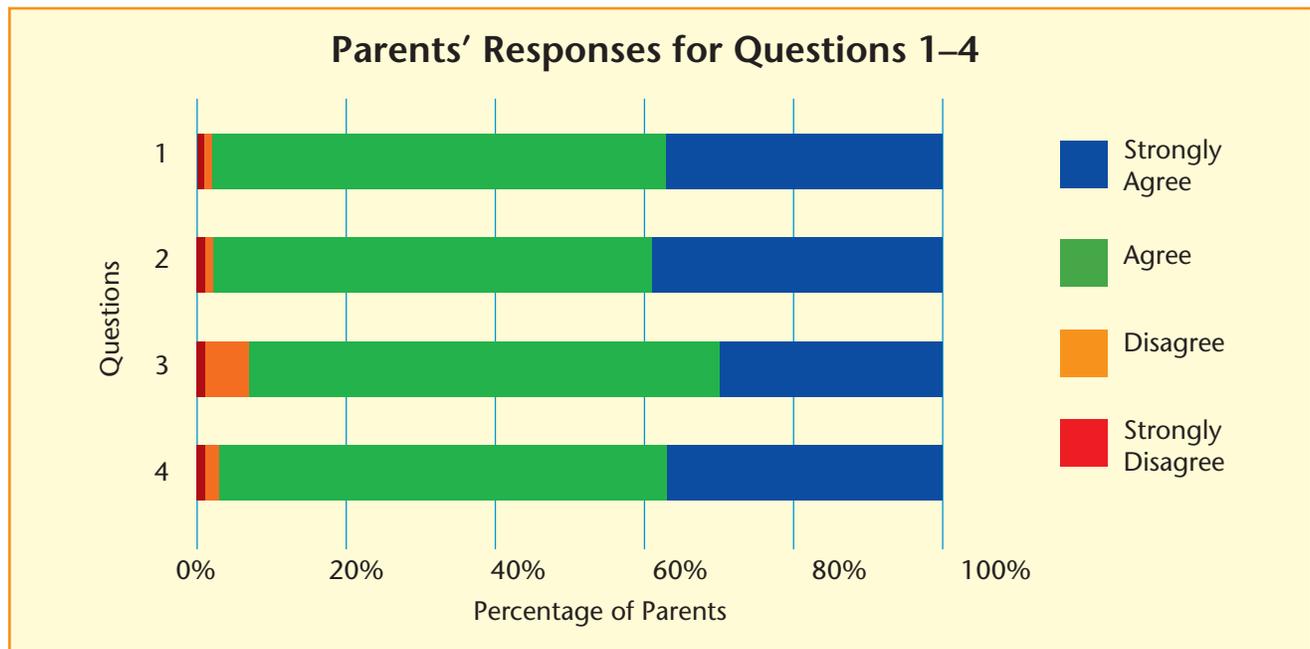


Summary of the Survey Results

The table below shows the percentage of parents who chose each possible response for questions 1–4.

Parents' Responses for Questions 1–4				
Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The Community and Home Activities in the Parent Section (pages 9–28) gave me good ideas of things to do with my child and helped to prepare my child for the subjects taught in the next grade level.	37%	61%	1%	1%
2. The Student Weekly Activities (pages 29–101) were easy to understand and helped me guide my child to complete the worksheets and improved my child's reading, writing, and math skills.	39%	59%	1%	1%
3. The Challenge Projects at the end of each week were interesting and my child completed them.	30%	63%	6%	1%
4. The Test Practice Pages (pages 111–124 for grades 1–5), which show the types of questions that will be on the California Standards Tests (CST) next year, gave me and my child a better understanding of the standards tests and how to prepare for them.	37%	60%	2%	1%

The graph below represents questions 1–4. It shows the combined percentage of parents who selected each response on the 2007 and 2008 surveys.



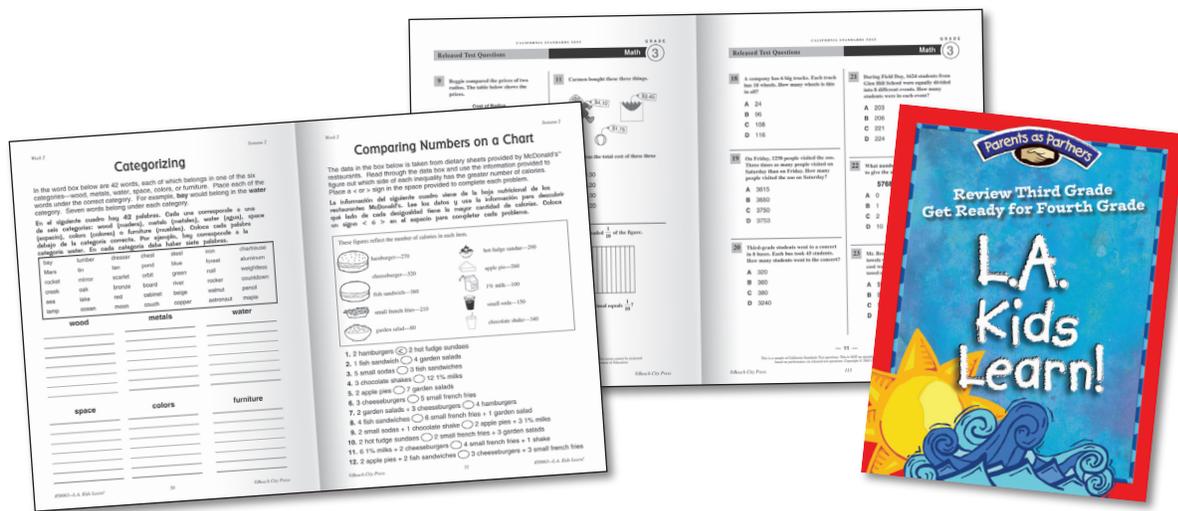
Summary of the Survey Results (cont.)

For questions 1–4, the vast majority of parents strongly agreed or agreed that activities in *L.A. Kids Learn!* were valuable. The combined percentages of parents who chose strongly agreed or agreed for questions 1–4 on the 2007 and 2008 surveys are summarized below.

- 98% of parents agreed that the Community and Home Activities in the Parent Section (pages 9–28) gave them good ideas of things to do with their child and helped them to prepare their child for the subjects taught in the next grade level.
- 98% of parents agreed that the Student Weekly Activities (pages 29–101) were easy to understand. They felt the activities helped guide their child to complete the worksheets and improved their child's reading, writing, and mathematics skills.
- 93% of parents agreed that the Challenge Projects at the end of each week were interesting and that their child completed them.
- 97% of parents agreed that the Test Practice Pages (pages 111–124 for grades 1–5), gave them and their child a better understanding of the standards tests and how to prepare for them.

For question 5, parents were asked to check those sections of *L.A. Kids Learn!* that were particularly helpful and useful to them. The majority of parents felt the Things to do at Home, Things to Do in the Community, Reading Log, Reading Fluency Strategies, Test Practice Pages, and the Student Weekly Activities were the most useful and helpful sections of the resource book. The bullets points below give the percentage of parents that selected each section.

- 64% of the parents surveyed felt the suggestions for Things to Do at Home were helpful and useful.
- 63% of the parents surveyed felt the Student Weekly Activities (math and language) were helpful and useful.
- 54% of the parents surveyed felt that the Reading Log was helpful and useful.
- 54% of the parents surveyed felt that the Test Practice Pages were helpful and useful.
- 54% of the parents surveyed felt that the Reading Fluency Strategies were helpful and useful.



Encouraging Feedback

The last question on the *L.A. Kids Learn!* Parent Survey asked parents to add their own comments and feedback about the usefulness of the *L.A. Kids Learn!* resource book. LAUSD and TCM truly appreciate all the parents who took the time to write comments and share feedback about using the resource book. The parents who used this resource with their children expressed both enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to support their children's education.

Many parents said the resource book helped to inform them about what their children were learning in school. They also said the resource book improved their children's skills in math and language, as well as helped them remember what they learned the previous school year. Others shared that by working with their children they (the parent) also learned new things. Many children found the book fun and interesting. Parents expressed that it kept their children busy during the summer months when boredom can set in.

A selection of the comments that parents wrote on the 2007 and 2008 surveys are shared below.

- "This book is so much easier than spending hours and money on the internet for summer work for my kids. I love this program!"
- "It helped me to share time with the girls—we practiced reading, math—we learned to have challenges."
- "I just want to say thank you for taking care of our children('s) education. Parents also learned in the process. Thank you *L.A. Kids Learn!*"
- "It helps them a lot because it reinforces what they have learned during the school year and this way they don't forget."
- "Thank you for a GREAT GREAT book that provided good guidance for us and especially the weekly activities and test practices. Keep up this service please."
- "Well, I liked this book because I was able to help my daughter and it is in Spanish, that made it easier and it has interesting information."
- "The book helped me to identify where my child needed improvement."
- "The activities are easy to understand. The book is very helpful to review concepts. The ideas are great. Thank you."
- "The book helped my child to develop his skills in math and reading."
- "This book was perfect to keep my child's interest in learning. I had her do two pages a day until the book was complete. Thank you!"
- "The book was a great challenge for me and my daughter but at the same time, it was very useful. It is the best idea so far to help us."
- "The book has helped [my child] because she just learned to read. It also helped her count better. I would like to have more information so that I can help her with her homework."

Conclusion

The results of this survey positively indicate that *Parents as Partners, L.A. Kids Learn!* resource books benefit both parents and students. Approximately 98% of parents agreed that these resource books gave them good ideas of things to do with their child; were easy to understand; improved their child's reading, writing, and mathematics skills; were interesting and challenging; and gave them a better understanding of the standards tests and how to prepare for them. Through this program, parents learned ways to support their children. By doing reading, writing, and mathematics activities throughout the summer, students retained their knowledge from the previous school year, and they continued to improve their skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Parents are clearly interested in participating in this program in the future. As one parent commented, "Send us more books to keep practicing during vacation."