

# OUR **IMPACT** THROUGH

United Way  
Monterey County



## SUMMER BRIDGE



### PATRICIA'S STORY

As a preschool teacher, Patricia knows how important early education is. However, even she did not have access for her children. Her 5-year-old daughter did not have the opportunity to attend preschool, where social, emotional, and language development leads to kindergarten readiness. Unfortunately, Patricia's daughter is one of many children in Monterey County who are unable to receive quality early learning opportunities.

Patricia was excited to learn about the Summer Bridge Program, funded by United Way Monterey County in partnership with the North Monterey County Unified School District. The program's objective is to increase school readiness for incoming kindergarten children and prepare them academically, socially, and emotionally to achieve success in kindergarten and beyond. Summer Bridge provides five weeks of school experience, so kids feel ready for the first day of kindergarten.

Research shows that quality pre-K programs can have a significant positive impact on the lives of children, especially those in low-income families. It can also benefit parents, other family members, and the community at large. A recent study correlated high quality pre-K education and enduring positive effects on future earnings, health, mental intelligence, and crime reduction. Moreover, when children have access to quality care and learning, parents have the freedom to pursue education, work experience, and increased earning capacity through participating in the workforce.

### Summer Bridge

The Summer Bridge Program benefitted Patricia's daughter immensely. She has become more independent, easily makes friends, and most importantly she has the skills to have a great start in school. Last year, the program at Castroville served 28 children; 30% displayed increase in kindergarten readiness.



**28** children  
attended a five  
week kinder prep  
summer program

**30%** showed  
improvements  
in kindergarten  
readiness skills

