



(above) Students at All Five drawing on the outdoor chalkboard funded by a EPAK grant.

Educators responding to debates about affirmative action agree on one idea: we must expand educational opportunity. Nicolas Kristof, writing in *The New York Times*, argues, **“If we’re serious about promoting equality, we can champion early childhood education programs: To get more kids in a university, invest in pre-K.”** (NYT 7/30/23)

EPAK expanded its reach to do just that by giving grants directly to teachers in pre-K through high school in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. All Five Preschool, in the EPAK family of schools, states on its own website, “Research shows that 80% of brain development happens by age three. Between the ages of three and five years old, children are wired to make huge gains in language, mathematics, and critical thinking.”

With this idea in mind, EPAK has supported a number of projects and teacher requests at All Five. All Five teacher Kristina S. writes:

“The items I received with this EPAK grant have added significantly to the learning environment in our toddler program. The outdoor chalkboard has been an excellent addition to our play yard. It is long enough for 3-4 children to scribble and draw on it at the same time. It is both a fine motor and social activity. I am very grateful and

appreciative to EPAK for making these additions to our learning spaces possible! Thank you!"

EPAK will continue to "narrow the gap" and promote diversity in educational opportunities in our area with the help of its invaluable supporters and partners.

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For 30 years, we have provided grants to teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) and public charter schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

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