

## CalWORKs Children's Play/Waiting Area - Michelle Zapata

### **How the Funds Were Used**

We used the award to update the Children's Play/Waiting area in the CalWORKs new office in building 1600. Oftentimes, the CalWORKs students bring their children with them when they have counseling appointments. In order for the student to have a productive meeting with the Counselor, a child's play/waiting area is an essential component to our program. However, when we relocated to our new office in building 1600, the CalWORKs Program lost some of the space that we used for (1) a student waiting area; (2) a computer workstation; and (3) a children's waiting area.

Our grant request included a request for funds to purchase a new children's table, a DVD player, wireless headsets, puzzles, children's DVD movies, and coloring books. Unfortunately, the prices on some of the items increased and the sales tax that was included prohibited us from purchasing all of the items that we originally requested. With the CARE grant that we received, we purchased: a new children's table, a DVD player, wireless headsets, and a new puzzle.

### **Project Outcome**

With the purchase of our new items for a Children's Play/Waiting Area, our student area has been completely transformed. The new, smaller children's table allowed for a new layout in the waiting area. This provided us with more open space and allowed us to comfortably fit our two-computer workstation and a seating area for the students. With the addition of the DVD player and headsets, we have the option of offering our students' children a movie to watch while they are waiting for their parent. The movies have been a huge hit with the children, with many opting to watch. The headset keeps the noise level contained to a minimum. We also added a new wooden puzzle to our toy collection that will last for years to come.



Purchased with CARE grant: table, DVD player, headsets, and wooden puzzle.



One of our students' children, enjoying a movie while his mom is meeting with the Counselor.