



- Founded in 2000, HABLA's staff consists of 4 site coordinators and 38 trained home visitors who include 12 bilingual UCI students, 16 AmeriCorps members and 10 community members
- Clients served: More than 1000 two-to-four year-olds from families with mean income \$18,000 and mean parental educational level between 8 and 9 years
- HABLA has received more than \$1.5 million in combined funding from the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, California Children and Families Commission, AmeriCorps/VISTA, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank and the Simon Family Foundation

949.824.9632 | vmann@uci.edu
www.socsci.uci.edu/habla

HABLA, short for Home-based Activities Building Language Acquisition, is an outreach program that trains home visitors to help Orange County's Spanish-speaking parents prepare their toddlers for kindergarten. HABLA home visitors coach parents to read and play with their children while incorporating program lessons into their daily lives – all in their native Spanish. The program's home visitors help parents to become their children's first and most important teachers.

investigate

The program is built on the idea that children who are proficient in their home language will be better equipped to pick up English in school. The program also teaches math and science fundamentals, such as categorizing and grouping by colors and shapes.

innovate

Led by cognitive sciences professor Virginia Mann, HABLA has grown to serve more than 1,500 families in Anaheim, Garden Grove and Tustin in its 10 years of existence and can be adapted to serve other immigrant communities in California and beyond.

impact