



Talking Points – January 30, 2009 First 5 San Mateo County Programs and Services

In San Mateo County there are approximately 48,831 children ages 0-5 whom are racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse, speaking multiple languages.

- 7,011 of these children are living in poverty
- 39% of families with children 0-5 live on incomes under \$50,000 and nearly 11% live on incomes under \$15,000
- 58% of families in San Mateo County with one infant and 70% of families with one preschooler can not afford licensed family and center based child care respectively

We ENSURE children are healthy and prepared for school by:

- Funding **Healthy Kids**, health insurance which leads to children's well child and dental visits
- Funding **SmartKids and Preschool for All** to create over 1,200 new child care/preschool spaces and over 800 enhanced spaces in San Mateo County
- Screening children in **Preschool for All** settings and referring children for further assessment if needed
- Funding for **Preschool for All** master teachers to obtain AA or higher degrees; San Mateo classrooms outperformed preschool classrooms nationally on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- Providing **Kickoff to Kindergarten** summer transitional programs where children experience significant improvements in all National Education Goals Panel school readiness areas and eliminates school readiness gap for low-income or English language learners
- Providing training for **Preschool for All** teachers to enhance their work with English/dual language learners

We CONNECT families to parenting resources through:

- **Pre-3** Parenting Classes to improve parent's sense of competency and efficacy
- **Our Second Home** Family Resource Center
- **Pre-3** home visitation services screenings for clinical depression and identification of high-risk clients
- **School Readiness Initiative** home visiting services to improve parenting skills.
- Early childhood mental health consultation services for parents of children enrolled in our funded preschool programs for improved responses to children's needs and behavior management strategies for parents

We STRENGTHEN our community by:

- Making children a priority through all sectors of the community with county partnerships and through collaboration with agencies advocating for the healthy development of children
- Increasing provider community knowledge and understanding of the rights of children with special needs and increasing provider advocacy by partnering with **The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County**
- Partnering with the **Healthy Homes Program** to provide treatment to children whom have witnessed domestic violence and improve parents' level of family functioning