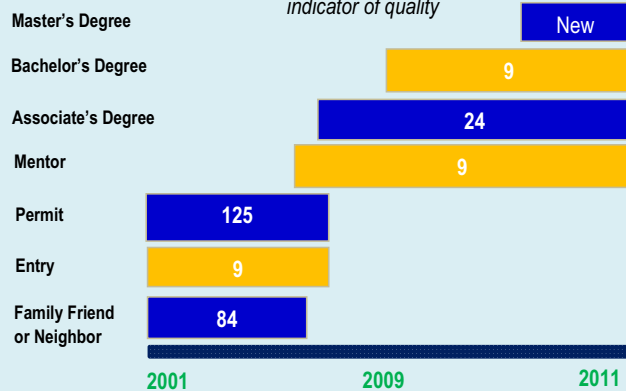


# EAFES Program Community Impacts

## Quality=Education

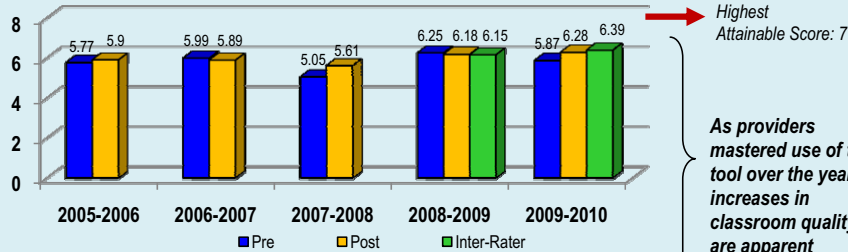
Research indicates that education attainment among providers is a significant indicator of quality



**12%**  
of providers attained an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree as compared to statewide CARES rates of 6%

## Quality=Environment

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) is a tool designed to measure the quality of the classroom environment



As providers mastered use of the tool over the years, increases in classroom quality are apparent

Child Care Centers were arranged to enhance learning environments in the following domains:

- Space and Furnishings
- Personal Care Routines
- Language Reasoning
- Activities
- Interaction
- Program Structure
- Parents and Staff

## Systems Change

## Quality=Success

### Provider Highlights



"The CARES Program encouraged me to get my Bachelor's Degree," Tina Najarian

Tina Najarian participated in the CARES program for 7 years. She began as an in-home child care provider. In 2007 she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development. She currently provides mentorship to CARES participants. Tina's knowledge and experience have not gone unrecognized as she works for Early Care and Education in Madera Unified and currently serves as the First 5 Preschool Specialist.



"The CARES Program was a great motivation for me to feel good about continued education in Early Childhood Development," Patricia Harris

Patricia Harris has participated in the CARES program for 4 years. She began her career in early childhood development in 1983. She began her participation in the CARES program in 2001. In 2007, Patricia opened her own private child care center "Full Circle Preschool." She will complete her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development in May 2011.

Ongoing surveys of CARES participants to drive program enhancements

ESL classes added to support providers

Coordination with the Madera Center Community College to bolster the variety of Child Development courses offered

Unit bearing courses made more accessible (i.e. at FRC, MCOE, on Saturdays, in the evenings, in Spanish, etc.)

Tutoring for General Education coursework that was proving to be the most difficult for providers

Continued advocacy at the Community College to ensure necessary classes were offered to participants

Shift in CARES Program to focus on AA and BA degrees versus an abundance of coursework

Addressed barriers and continued to advocate for participants to ensure accessibility of appropriate classes

CARES participants received early priority registration to ensure they received classes they needed

2004-2006

2006-2008

2008-2010

# What is the CARES Program?

## The Economics

The CARES Program (**Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Education Standards**) is partnership with Madera County Office of Education. The CARES program is a a matching funding initiative uniquely designed by First 5 California to increase the retention of early care and education providers through the provision of monetary stipends, professional trainings and a variety of other services and supports. The overarching goal of the program is to increase quality in early care and education settings through training and retention of providers.

*Since 2001, First 5 Madera County has invested \$1,360,476 in the Madera CARES Program. For each dollar invested, the broader statewide impact is two dollars, a return on investment of \$2,720,952.\**

*Accessible, quality child care supports the ability of parents to participate in the workforce, be economically self-sufficient and balance their work and family needs.\**

### 2009-2010

- 21 Providers Served
- 145 Early Childhood Education Units Gained
- 149 General Education Units Gained
- 3 Bachelor's Degrees Completed
- 9 Applied for Permit
- 1 Upgraded Permit



\*Planning for Family-Friendly Communities Briefing Paper April 2010

## Contact Us



**CARES Program**  
**Madera County Office of Education**  
 1820 Howard Rd.  
 Madera, CA 93637  
 (559) 662-3825 or (559)662-3821

**Target Area:** County-wide

**Eligibility:** Providers must have worked in the ECE field for one year prior to application, and work with children 0-5 for a minimum of 15 hours per week in a licensed family or center based program.



Tele: (559) 661-5155 Fax: (559) 675-4950

Supported by Funds From



www.first5madera.net

525 E. Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93638



# 2009-2010

Community Impact Report

*EARFB Program*

