

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First 5 Invests \$15,000 into In-Home Child Care Providers

(Madera) The vast majority of children under five years old in Madera County are cared for in in-home child care facilities throughout the county. According to researchers, in high quality child care environments, children are not just passively entertained but actively participating in learning experiences. This bolsters their development and ability to be ready to start school. Recognizing this, First 5 Madera County partnered with 20 local licensed in-home child care providers to increase their knowledge of the importance of quality learning environments for children by offering them training on a nationally recognized environmental assessment tool called the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS). Following the day long training, these 20 licensed child care providers used the assessment tool to evaluate the quality of their own in-home child care facilities. Most facilities rated around 5 points out of a 7 point scale, modest findings.

In exchange for their commitment to participating in the training and assessing the quality of their in-home child care facilities, First 5 Madera County allotted each provider \$750 to be spent at GW School Supply for the purchase of furniture, materials, manipulative, books, etc. that addressed the areas of need as identified by the findings of their FCCERS assessment. The purchases were customized for each provider to strategically address the unique needs of each in-home licensed child care provider, based on their FCCERS assessment. "Without the support from First 5 Madera County, I would not have the resources to provide my center with quality enhancement

materials. The resources that I was able to purchase through the Provider Purchasing Event allowed me the opportunity to offer a quality learning environment to the children that attend my family child care center,” said Monique Jimenez, Licensed Family Child Care Provider.

To establish the value of this investment, First 5 Madera County deployed an independent Preschool Specialist to each in-home child care facility, who received funding, to conduct a post FCCERS assessment. In short, it was our belief that each facility should demonstrate improvements in the quality of their environment based on their FCCERS training and quality enhancement purchases. Post scores averaged 6.3 points out of a 7 point scale, a marked improvement.

Most young children spend a significant portion of their waking hours in child care settings. At First 5 Madera County it is our goal to maximize child care experiences so that children are learning at very early ages and are ready to begin school when it is time. “With this small project, we invested \$15,000 into 20 in-home licensed child care facilities throughout Madera County which impacted almost 120 children. And, the training attended by the child care providers will continue to positively impact future children who attend their child care facilities. That’s capacity building.” said Chinayera Black Hardaman, Executive Director.

For more information about the supports for in-home licensed child care providers or to learn more about First 5 Madera County, please call 559-661-5155 or visit us at www.first5madera.net.

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years of life and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California

voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0-5. First 5 Madera County distributes approximately \$2 Million a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.