

2016/2017 SNAPSHOT

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting children with quality early care and education begins with a strong and qualified workforce. The knowledge that 90 percent of brain development happens in the first five years of life has fundamentally changed a common perception that child care is “just babysitting.” Numerous studies show that teacher effectiveness is an important factor in improving the quality of early learning programs and leads to success in school and life. Realizing the importance of early education providers, First 5 Monterey County has funded the CARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) program since 2002.

“CARES is a one-stop shop for students who are interested in the field of early childhood education,” explains Amber Kerchner, the CARES Early Childhood Education Counselor at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC). CARES Counselors, located at both MPC and Hartnell College, advise early childhood education (ECE) students, providing professional growth and overall educational planning, as well as referrals for college resources. An annual early education career fair links students to bachelor’s degree programs and local jobs in the field. Students work toward their degrees while maintaining coursework for their early education teacher permits, a requirement for working in licensed child care programs.

CARES Provider Spotlight: REBEKAH



Like many families in our county, Monterey resident Rebekah was faced with a decision when her children were young—to stay home or return to work. Needing income yet unable to afford child care, she started caring for her niece and nephew to supplement her family’s bottom line. It was during this time that she found her calling.

Deciding to take her passion and turn it into a business, Rebekah enrolled in classes at MPC. She remembers connecting with the CARES Program, “Amber showed me the general direction in which I should go so that I wasn’t misled or misdirected in getting to my goal as quickly as possible.”

Rebekah sees her education as a gateway, “I could give more to the children I was working with, more to the parents who were asking questions. I realize how important families are, how important communities are, and how we work together to really provide structure and a foundation for the children...the next generation.”

CARES At-a-Glance 2016/2017

465

early education students took classes to improve knowledge

Early education career fair held at Hartnell

145 students

10 employers

6 four-year colleges

MPC reported a

4x increase

in the number of

ECE degrees*

*From 2013-2014 to 2015-2016



2016/2017 Funded Agencies

ACTION

- Alisal Union School District
- Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities
- Chualar Union School District
- City of Salinas - Salinas Public Library
- Community Action Partnerships of San Luis Obispo
- Continuing Development, Inc.
- Door to Hope
- Easter Seals Central California
- GoKids, Inc.
- Gonzales Unified School District
- Greenfield Union School District
- Hartnell College and Hartnell College Foundation
- Hartnell College Child Development Center
- Kinship Center - A Member of the Seneca Family of Agencies
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
- Monterey County Health Department, Behavioral Health
- Monterey County Health Department, Public Health
- Monterey County Office of Education
- Monterey County Probation Department
- Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) and MPC Foundation
- Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
- North Monterey County Unified School District
- Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc.
- Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Praxis Consulting
- Soledad Adult School
- WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention

Commissioners

- Simón Salinas (Chair)
- Julie Drezner (Vice-Chair)
- Josefina Silva (Secretary)
- Elsa Jimenez
- Elliott Robinson
- Chris Shannon
- Jamie Valenzuela-Mumau

First 5 Monterey County works to: increase early childhood funding; collaboratively enhance access to resources and services for families with young children; and inspire policies and practices supporting early learning. In fiscal year 2016/2017, funds supported the following types of programs: parent-child playgroups; parenting classes; home visiting; family, friend, and neighbor playgroups; event sponsorships; college counseling for early childhood educators; technical assistance and quality support to child care centers; mental health counseling; and special needs support.

\$7.1M
INVESTED

35,423

CHILDREN, PARENTS, CAREGIVERS,
PROVIDERS, AND EDUCATORS SUPPORTED

Total Expenditures: \$7,143,821

Programs & Services: \$6,085,188

Evaluation: \$328,128

Administration: \$730,505

HOW WE INVESTED
IN PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES



44%

Parenting Programs



29%

Child Care Quality Programs



27%

Mental Health & Child Well-Being Programs

Childhood doesn't last forever but the experience lasts a lifetime.

www.First5Monterey.org 831-444-8549