

First 5 San Joaquin

Making a Difference...

Enhancing Early Care



2008 Results Recognition Event

Quality Child Care (Workforce Development)

What are we measuring and why it is important

Links between quality early childhood education and a child's development and readiness for school are well documented. Studies show that one of the main contributors to a quality learning environment for young children is a well-trained, qualified early childhood workforce. Research has linked higher levels of formal education, training, and college coursework in early care and education (ECE) with higher quality child care programs.¹ In addition to a well-trained, qualified early childhood provider, other elements of the child care environment are important. Child-teacher ratios, provider-child relationships, curricula, classroom routines and equipment have all been found to play a role in a child's development and preparation for school.

In California, family child care providers are only required to complete 15 hours of training in preventive health practices (e.g. Health and Safety, First Aid, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) with no ongoing training or credentialing required. Child care center providers do have pre-service qualifications, but neither ongoing training nor a degree in ECE is required; which some other states do require.²

First 5 San Joaquin investment

To address child care provider workforce development, First 5 San Joaquin has currently invested approximately \$3,500,000 to improve the quality of early childhood education by strengthening the child care provider workforce and improving the quality of the child care environment.

Who are the funded partners

The San Joaquin County Office of Education Child Care Professional Growth Project (CCPGP) began in 2004 to improve the quality of child care by providing education stipends and professional growth training opportunities, implementing systems change activities by holding an annual college and career fair to promote the field of ECE, aligning the CCPGP program with the California State AB 212 program (a program that provides education stipends to providers working in State funded child care centers), and leveraging First 5 California State Match Funds.

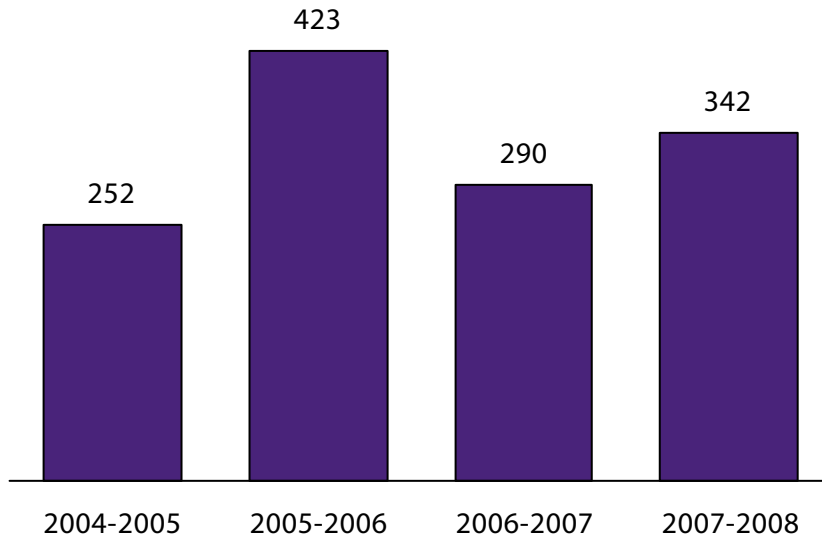
The Family Resource and Referral Center Quality Environments for All Children began in 2006 to establish a child care quality assessment and improvement system by training staff on the use of the Environment Rating Scales (ERS), piloting the ERS database system in California, completing assessments using the ERS database system, providing technical assistance to providers needing support with environment modification, providing trainings for child care providers based on identified needs from ERS scores, and providing materials to enhance environments and raise low ERS scores.

¹Raikes H.A., Raikes H.H., Wilcox B. Regulation, Subsidy Receipt and Provider Characteristics: What Predicts Quality in Child Care Homes?

²National Child Care Information Center. Center Child Care Licensing Requirements. October 2006. Accessed from: <http://www.nccic.org/pubs/cclicensingreg/cclr-teachers.html>.

Evaluation Highlights

+ Nearly 350 Stipends Awarded to Child Care Providers in San Joaquin County in FY 07-08



- In FY 07-08, 342 stipends were awarded to child care providers in San Joaquin County.
- Since 2004, over 1,300 stipends have been awarded to encourage providers and teachers to increase their education.

“The most important thing about the stipend program is that I am able to take higher education classes. Without the stipend I might not have been able to [take classes] due to financial reasons.”

-Stipend recipient

+ Environment Rating Scale Assessments Show Quality Improvements in Child Care Settings

ECERS/R and ITERS/R*		
Subscales	Baseline n=150	Six Month Follow-Up n=67
Space and Furnishings	5.15	5.43
Personal Care Routines	3.54	4.43
Language-Reasoning	5.44	5.70
Activities	4.86	5.24
Interaction	6.32	6.42
Program Structure	6.11	6.16
Parents and Staff	6.07	6.20
Overall Scale Score	5.24	5.57

- San Joaquin County preschool and infant toddler programs have higher average ECERS/R scores at baseline (5.24) and follow-up (5.57) compared to the national average—the national average for preschool programs is 4.26 and Head Start is 4.81.
- After receiving a follow-up visit and an enhancement plan, scores increased on all of the subscales—moving several into the “good” range.

* ECERS/R is the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale/Revised and the ITERS/R is the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale/Revised

+ Programs Improved Child Care Quality Through Collaboration and Systems Change

- The San Joaquin County Office of Education’s Child Care Professional Growth Project (CCPGP) and Family Resource and Referral Center’s Quality Environments for All Children (QEAC) work together to improve the quality of child care in the county by meeting regularly to coordinate trainings based on ERS assessment data. In addition, CCPGP has collaborated with institutes of higher learning to enhance services to the early childhood workforce, and FRRC has helped change the way providers in the county view quality by implementing a countywide assessment and improvement system.