



Early Learning sets the Foundation for a Lifetime

Parental involvement in early learning benefits kids and teachers

*Lani Schiff-Ross, Executive Director
First 5 San Joaquin*

It is well established that providing children with quality early learning is essential in developing the language, cognitive, and social skills they need to succeed in school and in life. This is why early learning teachers play a significant role in nurturing young children's growth and fostering a love of learning.

In honor of California Day of the Teacher on May 12, First 5 San Joaquin offers parents the following tips to help support teachers and providers in their goal to support healthy development and help kids build a solid foundation for success.

Get Involved

Teachers and providers always appreciate when parents are actively involved in their kids' education.

- Talk to your children every day about their day at school and what they learned.
- Attend open houses, PTA meetings, and parent-teacher conferences to build a strong relationship with your child's teacher.

Communicate Often

It can be challenging for busy parents to speak with teachers often, but there are other ways to maintain regular contact.

- Introduce yourself at least once in person and check in when you can through e-mail, written notes, or phone calls, depending on the teacher's preferences.
- Keep track of your children's progress, even if they are performing well. Teachers like to hear from parents and know they are engaged in their child's education.

Read Daily

Reading aloud to your children every day helps them develop skills for school success.

- Encourage your children's interest in books by talking about stories that they like and providing books they will enjoy.
- Take time to enjoy a book yourself. Kids learn by example, so if they see you reading, they will want to read, too!

For more information about early childhood education, contact First 5 San Joaquin at (209) 953-5437 or www.sjckids.org and www.first5california.com/parents.

About First 5 San Joaquin

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years 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 to 5. First 5 San Joaquin distributes approximately \$15 million in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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