

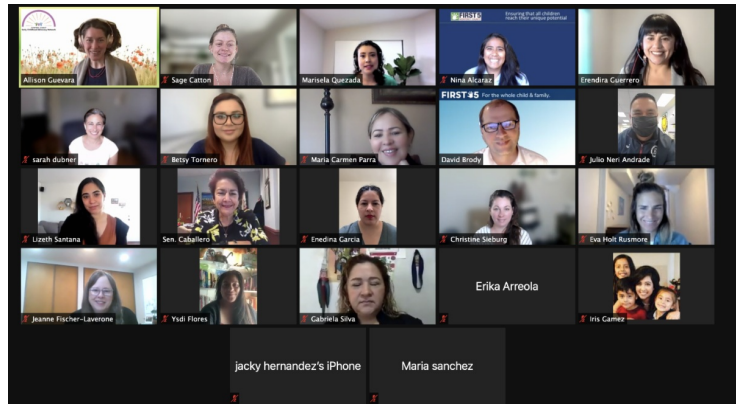


## *A Bit Better*

### *News From First 5 Santa Cruz County*

## Advocacy Efforts Elevate the Importance of Early Childhood Issues and Parent Voices

During these past few weeks of May, the **Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network** (CCECAN) virtually hosted several local legislators to join in the conversation



about current issues directly affecting families with young children. Legislators and their staff had the opportunity to hear from community voices including parents and partners advocating for CCECAN's priorities. These priorities include stabilizing and strengthening child care and early childhood systems, ensuring that schools safely reopen, expanding access to mental health services and increasing housing and financial stability. Lizeth Santana, a Live Oak Cradle to Career parent leader, shared during one recent meeting that "I like to find spaces where we can connect with stories, that's where I realize that we all have challenges on the path of motherhood. I believe that these spaces, rather than giving us tools, connects us with a support network that strengthens us, for me that is the most gratifying."

The CCECAN partners from the counties of Monterey, Santa Benito and Santa Cruz represent over 94,000 young children. First 5 Santa Cruz County is a founding member of the network that was formed in

early 2018 to help coordinate regional efforts and amplify community voice in support of just and equitable policies and systems for all children and families on the Central Coast. “What started as a nascent idea to collaborate regionally on policy advocacy for young children and families, has blossomed into an amazing partnership of parents and early childhood systems leaders acting collectively in the interest of young children and families in our region” said David Brody, Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County.

**If you would like to learn more about the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network [click here](#).**

Additional advocacy efforts took place statewide in late April when First 5 Santa Cruz County joined other First 5's from across the state on our annual Advocacy Day to raise awareness with legislators about First 5's current work and priorities. These include supporting families to be resilient, access to quality early learning, developmental screenings and comprehensive health care coordination, and the sustainability and scale of systems and services for children and families. Legislative visits specifically addressed the needs for early childhood mental health and trauma support, health equity for young children and mothers, the need for increased investment in child care, and equitable financial stability policies. To learn more about First 5's policy work and priorities click here for the **[First 5 Policy Agenda flyer](#)**.

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**Santa Cruz County ACEs Network: Getting to Know Our Network on June 9th**

# Santa Cruz County ACEs Network

Learning Session

## La Red de ACEs del Condado de Santa Cruz

Sesión de Aprendizaje

Co-hosted by / Copatrocinado por



In Partnership With / En colaboración con



## Getting to Know Our Network



## Conociendo nuestra red



Join us for the sixth – and final – session of the Santa Cruz County (SCC) ACEs Network of Care Learning Series, Getting to Know Our Network, co-hosted by First 5 Santa Cruz County and CORE Investments Santa Cruz County.

Attend this virtual, bilingual session to:

- Understand the countywide vision for – and your part in – creating a “Network of Care” that prevents, identifies, treats, and heals Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and builds community resilience.
- Learn about the role of health clinics in the Network of Care, the steps they’re taking to implement ACEs screenings, and how they connect people to resources that “buffer,” or reduce, the effects of ACEs and toxic stress.
- Learn about the role of community-based organizations in the Network of Care, how they provide trauma-informed “buffering services” that foster healing and resilience, and how they connect people to other resources in the Network of Care.
- Share your ideas about how Santa Cruz County’s Network of Care can continue to provide a space to learn together, center community voice and leadership, and advance racial equity through antiracist practices and policies.

[Register Today!](#)

## Child Care Providers Share Why They are Getting Vaccinated in New Video Series

“I’m getting vaccinated so I can invite families back into the classroom,” says preschool provider Desiray Taylor. Over the past year, child care providers have put their lives on the line for the children and families they serve. Now, all individuals ages 12 and older in California are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine, including essential workers like early care and education providers. It’s normal to be nervous about a new vaccine, but all of the vaccinations available are safe and effective at preventing serious illness —and getting vaccinated can help you and your community return to normal life. Child care providers from around the state, like Desiray, share why they got vaccinated in a new series of videos from **First 5 Association** and **First 5 California**. They share reasons like protecting their community, keeping their students and families safe, and helping to end the pandemic.

Click **[here to watch the videos](#)** and hear their stories.

For more information on where to get vaccinated visit:

**<https://myturn.ca.gov/>**



### *Community Announcements*

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#### Local Pediatric Dental Appointments Available

There are pediatric dental appointment openings at local clinics for children 0 to 3. Please check out this **[flyer](#)** for more information about the importance of bringing young children in to have regular dental checkups.

## Local Assistance Available to Help with Health Insurance and CalFresh Applications

Having access to health insurance and food for our families is of vital importance. If you, a family member, friend or neighbor need help completing or renewing an application to county or state health insurance programs, Certified Application Assistors can answer your questions and offer free application assistance. Call an Application Assistor directly at any of the agencies listed on this [flyer](#) for more information.

### *Community Resources*

#### Parenting and Caregiver Resources

- First 5 Santa Cruz County- [\*\*Triple P parenting support\*\*](#)
- Watsonville Public Library - [\*\*Storytime Kits\*\*](#)
- Community Foundation Santa Cruz County: [\*\*May Family Resource Calender\*\*](#)
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education website focused on [\*\*Distance Learning\*\*](#)
- 
- First 5 Association - [\*\*Resources for Families, Children and Communities\*\*](#)
- First 5 California's [\*\*Parenting Website\*\*](#)
- Resources from [\*\*Sesame Street in Communities\*\*](#)
- California Surgeon General's Playbook: [\*\*Stress Relief for Caregivers and Kids during COVID-19\*\*](#)
- From the National Institute of Mental Health - Flyers on Stress and Anxiety in [\*\*English\*\*](#) and [\*\*Spanish\*\*](#)

If you are in need of child care,  
please call the Child Development Resource Center



## Child Development Resource Center

*Serving those who care for and educate young children.*

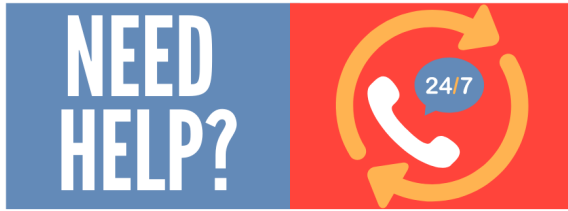
**(831) 466-5820**

**[cdrc@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:cdrc@santacruzcoe.org)**

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## COVID-19 Related Community Resources

- Santa Cruz County Office of Education
    - For information about vaccine appointments for adults go to [sccoe.link/COEvax](https://sccoe.link/COEvax) and for students ages 16 and older go to <http://sccoe.link/studentvax>
  - County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency:
    - [Vaccination Information](#)
    - [COVID -19 Resources and Information Website](#)
    - [Testing Sites](#)
  - Abriendo Puertas Shares Multi-Lingual COVID-19 Resources for Families: [Website](#)
  - Mental Health Tips & Local Resources for COVID-19 – [ENGLISH](#) & [SPANISH](#)
  - California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response:
    - [COVID -19 Resources and Information Website](#)
-



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This newsletter is a collaborative effort of First 5 Santa Cruz County staff.



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