

# First 5 El Dorado Commission

*Growing Children, One by One...*



***El Dorado County  
Board of Supervisors***

***Year of the Child Proclamation***

***March 26, 2013***



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# First 5 El Dorado Commission

## *Growing Children, One by One...*

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*Community Representative*

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**Patricia Charles-Heathers**

*County Representative*

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*County Representative*

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**Norma Santiago**

*BOS District 5 Representative*

**Sherri Springer**

*Community Representative*

**Janet Saitman**

*Community Representative*

**Paige White**

*Community Representative*



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## *Vision and Mission Statements*



“The people of El Dorado County will promote nurturing, stable and loving family environments so that all ***children enter school physically and emotionally healthy, ready to learn.***” - *Vision*

“First 5 El Dorado Commission is committed to improving the lives of children 0 through 5 and their families by promoting, enhancing, and developing ***comprehensive early childhood systems*** through collaborative partnerships, early care and education, health, and community services.” - *Mission*



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## *Investing in Early Childhood*



“...every \$1 spent on high-quality early education programs saves society \$7 in future costs for special education, delinquency, crime control, welfare benefits, lost taxes and other areas.”

~ Dr. Arthur Reynolds,  
University of Wisconsin



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# Is your child Ready?

## *School Readiness*

***Children that engage in early learning activities are better prepared for school.***



*Children that have early learning experiences prior to school entry are on average more prepared than their peers. As of Fall 2012:*

✓ 74% of children entering kindergarten in the Fall were ready for school.



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Ready



**School Readiness Initiative:** The Commission's overarching objective is to prepare children for school. Research tells us that families whose children have regular well child exams and dental visits, developmental screens, read on a daily basis, use high quality early care and education and are connected to their community are better prepared for school.

Healthy



**The Children's Health Initiative:** Community Health Workers connect families with children to medical and dental services, including the El Dorado Children's Dental Van. The Initiative maintains partnerships with a broad network of health service providers and connects families with young children to resources that allow them to have a regular doctor or dentist and encourages well child visits.

Caring



**Best Beginnings:** Nurses provide newborn home visits for families delivering at Barton and Marshall Hospitals. Families with newborn children are offered a follow up home visit through Best Beginnings. At the visit, families receive a Kit for New Parents and a Child Health Record with information about community resources to support them and their newborn child.

Growing



**Together We Grow:** Early Childhood Specialists offer periodic developmental screenings and everyday parenting support and education beginning at 2 months of age through kindergarten entry. Children are screened utilizing a combination of 3 screening tools: Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), ASQ-Social Emotional, and a health questionnaire. Early care and education providers receive assistance in creating quality programs and assisting children with special needs in their care. Parents and providers are offered support in addressing their child's developmental needs.

Learning



**Ready to Read @ Your Library:** Early Childhood Librarians promote language and literacy through monthly activities: preschool "Let's Read Together" storytimes, infant "Mother Goose on the Loose" storytimes, toddler "Musical" storytimes, Spanish storytimes, other special storytimes, workshops, and outreach visits to early care and education programs.

Connected



**Community Strengthening:** In an effort to ensure that families and service providers are informed about the services available in their community, Commission Initiative and early childhood partners meet on a regular basis to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate. These meetings are facilitated through three Regional Community Strengthening Groups: Divide Ready by 5, Western Slope Ready by 5, and the Lake Tahoe Collaborative.

# Is your child Ready?

## Children's Health Initiative

**Take your child to all well-child visits with the doctor and see a dentist by their first birthday.**

**Children who have annual health exams are better prepared for school. As of 2011-12:**

- √ 93% of children engaged in First 5 Initiatives had a well child exam in the last 12 months.
- √ 65% of children ages 1-5 engaged in First 5 Initiatives had seen a dentist within the last 12 months. Of those entering kindergarten, 85% had an oral health exam in the last 12 months.

**Kristine Oase Guth, MPH**  
**El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency**



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# Is your child Ready?

## *Ready to Read @ Your Library*

***Read with your child each day.***

***Children that are engaged in early literacy activities are better prepared for school. As of 2011-12:***

√ 78% of families engaged in First 5 Initiatives reported reading to their child every day.

**Jeanne Amos, Library Director  
El Dorado County Library**



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# Is your child Ready?

## *Together We Grow*

***Make sure your child's development is on track.***



***Parents and early care and education providers that understand a child's developmental milestones help them to be better prepared for school. As of 2011-12:***

√ 56% of families engaged in First 5 Initiatives reported that their child had a developmental screening in the last 12 months. 34% of those screenings required some follow up to address parent questions or concerns about the child's development.

**Elizabeth Blakemore, Assistant Director  
El Dorado County Office of Education**



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## *Growing Children, One by One...*



- ✓ *Take your child to all well-child visits and see a dentist by their first birthday.*
- ✓ *Connect with your Community.*
- ✓ *Make sure your child is developing on track.*
- ✓ *Choose quality child care programs.*
- ✓ *Read with your child each day.*



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