



Raising Quality! Newsletter

December 2015

Visit Our Website



**Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season
from all of us here at First 5 San Joaquin!**

News & Events

For events and the latest news on *Raising Quality!* and other important efforts in San Joaquin County, stay informed by visiting our updated [News & Events page](#). Here are just a few:

- **IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive)**
While we have filled all slots for Race to the Top, we are excited to announce continued funding for our work in *Raising Quality!* New funding through First 5 California will allow us to transition to the IMPACT program, dubbed "Race, Jr.", when Race to the Top ends in June 2016. We are currently in planning phases but will keep you posted so that you can continue your work in *Raising Quality!* [IMPACT Program](#)
- **Coaching Opportunities: One on One with Cathy Cole**
Both center-and home-based providers can take advantage of this opportunity for four-hour, one on one coaching sessions. Cathy Cole, an Early Care and Education professional with many years of experience, will observe and analyze the provider/teacher's facilitation of the classroom and interactions with the children. At the end of the session, Cathy will meet with the provider/teacher to give immediate feedback.

Providers' feedback has been overwhelmingly positive:

- "I got a lot of useful and helpful information that is directly beneficial to my practice."
- "I liked how everything was explained in the simplest terms with examples shown."

Sessions will be available in February, March and April 2016. Please stay tuned for information on signing up for this great opportunity!

- **Upcoming trainings**

Play: It's How Children Learn . . .

January 23, 2016 8:30 am - 12:00 pm (San Joaquin County Office of Education)

January 26, 2016 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (FRRC)

Please contact First5 San Joaquin at (209) 953-7695 or email sjckids@sjgov.org for information.

Contact Family Resource and Referral Center to register for the following trainings:

(209) 461-3029 or email awatkins@frrcsj.org

Effective Teacher-Child Interactions: CLASS Assessments 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

January 12, 2016

February 4, 2016

March 10, 2016

April 7, 2016

May 3, 2016

June 16, 2016

Quality Improvement and ERS Observations 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

January 21, 2016

February 11, 2016

March 17, 2016

April 12, 2016

May 19, 2016

June 21, 2016

- **Scholarship Program:** Don't forget to send in your official transcripts for your completed Fall 2015 classes! Download the application for Winter and Spring coursework: [Scholarship Application](#)



Keys to *Unlocking a lifetime of learning*: Display your keys (and lawn signs) proudly! Stay tuned as we update the ***Raising Quality!*** website to acknowledge your commitment to quality and the investments you've made in raising the quality of your early care program. If you need a lawn sign, give us a call or email!

[View all News & Events](#)

Provider Stories & Spotlights

There are so many wonderful community programs that participate in ***Raising Quality!***

We're excited to share the following success stories. We salute these providers and others for the tremendous work that they do to help the children of our community.



- **FCCERS trainer sites:** Many thanks to the family child care providers who graciously opened their programs to FCCERS trainers this fall--Paula Baca, Claudia Barron, Denyse Gray, and Annette Nicholson. You provided essential access to your program in order for First 5 staff to maintain reliability in the FCCERS tool!
- **New provider races to higher tier:** Nancy Acosta, owner of Nancy's Day Care in Stockton,

recently advanced two tiers! Nancy implemented child observation and developmental screening in her program. While Nancy admitted it was difficult at first to learn the new tools, she advised providers to "stick with it." She added that it was gratifying to see the "pieces of the puzzle come together" as she was able to connect a child with needed resources.

Congratulations to Nancy and all of you providers who have worked so hard in ***Raising Quality!***

- **Home Health & Safety Assessments:** Assessments have begun for this Quality Improvement Initiative, with participants reimbursed up to \$1,000 to improve their child care environments. The program has been well received, with FCCP Rosie Hurtado saying, ". . . very very exciting things! I'm so glad to be working with youguys on this. Again I appreciate all your help in helping my daycaregrow!! :) "
- **If you'd like to share** your success story, contact us at (209) 953-KIDS (5437) or email us at sjkids@sjgov.org.

[View Partner Programs](#)

New Providers to ***Raising Quality!***

Welcome the newest group of Family Child Care and Center based providers. Our community is better with you participating in the ***Raising Quality!*** program.

Family Child Care Homes

Tanya Andrews LeakyLee BeariBear DayCare
Paula Barioni Little Heaven Daycare
Leticia Burks Burks Building Blocks
Vickie Green Oh! Happy Daycare
Eleanor Lopez Little Dinosaurs Daycare
Susan McCurdy Auntie Susan's Day Care
Felicia Quiroz Happy Kids Daycare
Neeta Shinde KidzCorner



Centers

CAP Kern Early Head Start Walnut
CAP Kern Early Head Start California
Creative Child Care, Inc. Michigan Heights
CDIWanda Hirsch
CDI Art Freiler
CDI Jacobson
CDI Villalovoz
CDI South School
CDI Wicklund
CDI George Kelly
El Concilio Van Allen
El Concilio Casa de Esperanza
El Concilio Farmington
Theory of Play
FRRC Joan Richards Learning Village
Annunciation Preschool

San Joaquin County FamilyChild Care Association invites Family Child Care Providersthroughout the county to join them on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month at **7PM at Family Resource andReferral Center** located at **509W. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA**. SJCFFCA offers its members ahost of benefits including networking and support, free and low costprofessional growth and development trainings and

workshops, business referrals, resources and information to help providers improve their businesses, further their education and more! Individual Membership is \$40.00 per year or \$5.00 per meeting for non-members. For more information, please visit them online at www.sjcfcca.org Call them at 877-835-ABCD or 209-914-5934.

Resources to Help *Raise Quality!*

As they say, “It takes a village.” There are many resources throughout San Joaquin County to help support, collaborate and encourage the work done by *Raising Quality! Partners*. This month we highlight two resources:



- California Early Childhood Online (CECO)
www.caearlychildhoodonline.org
CECO provides free, online access to comprehensive resources and courses in one centralized location to meet the ever-changing needs of the early childhood field.
- ECERS All Stars <http://ecers.sdcoe.net/index.html>
Recently, the San Diego County Office of Education received a grant and worked with Thelma Harms, developer of the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment tools, to create “ECERS All Stars.” This site focuses mainly on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) tool, however, much of the information is helpful if you are working with the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) as well. This website provides simple guidance and tips for becoming familiar with the ERS assessment and creating quality environments for young children. In this website, you will find an **Overview** that includes Frequently asked questions and hints from practitioners and coaches. One of the most exciting areas of this site is the **Topics** section. This section of the website is dedicated to giving hints to help improve your scores in various items including ART, Blocks, Mealtime and Gross Motor.

[View complete Resources List...](#)

About *Raising Quality!*

Raising Quality! is a quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs in San Joaquin County. Funded by a federal Race to the Top grant and organized by First 5 San Joaquin, *Raising Quality!* will improve the quality of early learning programs and help close the achievement gap for our youngest learners.

- **The next Regional Race to the Top Consortium meets the week of January 25, 2016 from 9-11:30AM at Public Health Services of San Joaquin at 1601 E. Hazelton Ave, Stockton, CA 95205. Stay tuned for more details.**

[Read more about Raising Quality!](#)



STAY CONNECTED:

