

First 5 Amador Program and Evaluation Report 2024 - 2025



Our mission is to promote, support, and enhance the optimal development of Amador County's children from zero through five years of age. Our Commission believes that broad community involvement is critical to the success of this mission. With Proposition 10 funds, we support projects that make sense locally based on identified needs and opportunities for children and families in Amador County.



This fiscal year, First 5 Amador proudly celebrated 16 years of funding the Imagination Library for families with children from birth to age five in Amador County. Established by Dolly Parton in 1996, this program mails a new, age-appropriate book to participating children each month. First 5 Amador chose to sponsor the Imagination Library to build early literacy skills and strengthen the bond between adults and children. This initiative also provides an opportunity to connect families with additional programs and services offered by First 5 Amador.

We recognize that there can sometimes be a misunderstanding regarding First 5's ability to provide opportunities to all Amador families with children from pregnancy through age five, irrespective of income. By highlighting the significant percentage of families with young children in the county who participate in the Imagination Library, we address hesitation they may have in pursuing other First 5 opportunities. **This year, 1,305 children received books in the mail, marking a slight increase over fiscal year 2023-2024. Based on mailing data through the Imagination Library, the program maintained a participation rate of approximately 70% among age-eligible children, with data indicating that 94% of 4-year-olds, 82% of 3-year-olds, 75% of 2-year-olds, and 51% of 1-year-olds in Amador participated this fiscal year.**

Over two decades of research conducted by the Imagination Library demonstrate that parents read aloud more to their children as a result of this program. First 5 Amador's previous parent surveys align with this research.

Welcome Baby!

First 5, First Steps



Home Visiting

Welcome Baby and Home Visiting Collaborative

The Welcome Baby Home Visiting Program continued to provide support and education to expectant and new families with children to 18 months. First 5 California kits are customized by the Welcome Baby Coordinator with local resources, handmade donations from Amador residents and helpful items such as insulated bags from the Resource Connection – Child Care Resource and Referral agency.

During this fiscal year, **84 Welcome Baby Kits were provided to families, with 70 visits completed and 14 families receiving a kit without an in-person visit.** This fiscal year was met with a few challenges including the lack of availability of the First 5 California parent kits. Even with the interruptions in service, the total number of families served decreased only slightly (88 in 23/24 to 84 in 24/25). In recent years, Amador County's annual birthrate continues to range between 300 and 310.

Post-COVID, most families continue to prefer meeting at First 5 Amador's family resource center (FRC) in lieu of a visit in their homes. This introduction to First

5's facility provides an opportunity to show families first hand the facility's indoor and outdoor learning labs, meeting areas, etc. This has proven to be a benefit to families' comfort level in future program participation.

Parents continue to express appreciation for time spent reviewing child development and safety information, and most stated that they were unaware of the number of resources available to families in Amador County.

Referrals come from a variety of organizations and agencies, including friends and family. Sutter Amador Women's Center continues to be the office referring the most families.

Visits create an opportunity to establish a trusting relationship that sees families returning for events and classes offered, or promoted, by First 5. There was follow-up by families asking for information and looking for resources for basic needs (food, diapers, gas, housing, medical, dental, etc.). Ages and Stages Developmental Screening tools are introduced to families in an attempt to normalize the process similar to what is encouraged for a well-child or dental check-up. Support for siblings is addressed with books distributed to "big sisters or brothers" in anticipation of the soon-to-be change in their household.

Smoking, vaping, marijuana use, etc. are discussed during each visit in an effort to address the hazards associated with exposure. Custom-made tobacco quit-kits are offered to the parents and/or family and friends of those close to the family. These Kick it Amador kits were created in conjunction with Amador County Public Health – Tobacco Reduction and include local resources as well as Kick it California material.

Of the 70 mothers who received a Welcome Baby visit, 41 (58.5%) completed the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS). Eight (8) mothers (19.5%) were referred to services with a First 5 Amador contracted Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

First 5 Amador's Executive Director participated in a statewide committee with First 5 California to update the content and resources for the next Parent Kit iteration. This update is still underway and maintaining inventory throughout the year has been challenging. Staff has copied and reconstructed the current kit as best as possible when our local inventory is depleted in order to maintain the services for families.

Welcome Baby – continued

Tobacco and substance misuse (self-reported during visit)

- 7 mothers smoked – 2 smoked outside; 1 used marijuana
- 5 fathers smoked; 3 vaped; 3 smoked outdoors
- 3 grandmothers smoked; 2 smoked outdoors; 1 used marijuana (included due to shared household living)
- 1 mother reported vaping with no interest in quitting (recently sober)
- 1 mom recently quit smoking
- 1 mom quit both smoking and marijuana use during the first trimester
- 1 father quit smoking during the third trimester

Family Engagement and Community Impact

- 3 Welcome Baby visits were for families with open CPS cases (these families continue to actively participate in First 5 activities and maintain contact with staff).
- First 5 staff continued to collaborate with the local Promotora de Salud and Adult Education -- English Language Learner staff to connect with pregnant and new families.
- Staff works closely with the Amador Pregnancy Help and Family Resource Center through cross-referrals and the sharing of resources (diapers, etc.).

Staff remain responsive to parent requests for mental health support. A new mother disclosed past trauma affecting her well-being. Staff immediately provided a referral to First 5 Amador's licensed clinical social worker demonstrating the program's ability to address family needs in real time.

Visits continue to be provided to families living across Amador communities.

- Ione (16 families)
- Jackson (21 families)
- Pine Grove (11 families)
- Pioneer (14 families)
- Sutter Creek (10 families)
- Plymouth, Volcano, Amador City, Fiddletown and River Pines (12 families).

Amador Home Visiting Collaborative

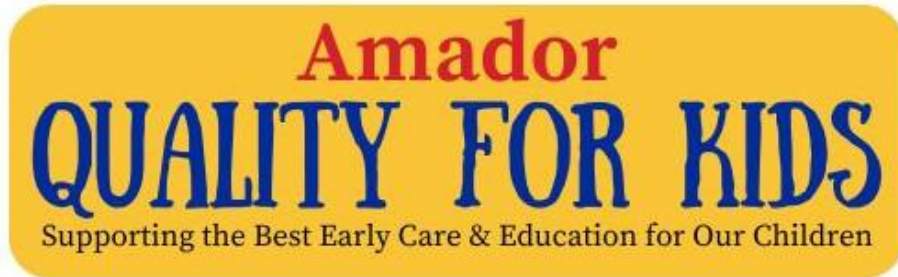
In partnership with First 5 Sacramento as the lead agency for the First 5 California Home Visiting Coordination Grant, First 5 Amador established a local collaborative comprised of programs including Head Start, Early Head Start, Head Start Home Base, Public Health (Parents as Teachers), Nexus Youth and Family Services, and the Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD) – Foster, Homeless and Family Liaisons.

Meetings brought home visitors together in an effort to identify gaps in the home visiting system and create a seamless referral system for families. Educational sessions regarding lead exposure, drug/alcohol misuse, community resources, etc. were embedded in the meetings so that information shared throughout the community would be consistent for families.

First 5 Amador's Executive Director assisted in the planning of a regional conference that was offered in Sacramento. Amador's licensed clinical social worker provided workshops related to stress reduction for home visitors incorporating art as a stress-reduction strategy. Multiple breakout sessions were offered providing attendees with new skills and resources that would assist them in their day-to-day interactions with families. Representatives from Amador County Public Health, ACUSD, Head Start and First 5 Amador's Welcome Baby participated in the event that was attended by 300 home visitors throughout the Sacramento region.



First 5 Amador staff contributed to the creation of a home-visiting kit that provided educational resources for home visitors to share with families. Utilizing this grant funding, kits were made available to all programs providing services in the region.



Amador Quality for Kids offers support, coaching and incentives to assist early childhood providers and educators in reaching higher levels of quality care.

Quality Counts California (QCC) is composed of three layers – local, regional and state. Amador’s initiative – Quality for Kids (Q4K) is supported by multiple funding sources. In addition to local efforts, Q4K participates and shares regional learning opportunities with Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, Family Childcare Providers, Private Centers, California State Preschool Programs and Head Start sites.

Local partners include the Resource Connection Resource and Referral, Amador College Connect, Amador Child Care Council, Head Start, Amador’s California State Preschool program.

During fiscal year 2024-2025, twenty-six (26) participating sites (including Family, Friends and Neighbors) completed early childhood education classes, professional development and/or monthly topic-specific campaigns at their sites. Five sites implemented a Brush in a Box program that offered supplies and a framework for daily dental care.

Q4K staff worked with Amador’s Adult Education program through the Amador County Unified School District to educate and encourage the participation of three (3) of their early care providers. These providers assist families with young children who are enrolled in English as a Second Language classes. All three participants completed 25 hours of professional development.

Ten (10) Q4K participants received incentives for meeting their Quality Improvement Plan goals. Thirteen (13) participants received incentives for completing 25 hours of professional development.

This year, Q4K offered material incentives for participants interested in science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math projects. Two providers took advantage of this opportunity by submitting successful proposals for chicken and frog hatching projects. Eleven participants received incentives for outdoor environment improvement projects to support unstructured outdoor play and large motor activities.

Through these efforts, 644 children benefited from the professional learning and activities completed by those caring for them throughout the year.

In addition to completing California Preschool Instruction Network training among others, Q4K participants attended local educational opportunities such as a Nurtured Heart Training; Let's Get Messy – self care techniques for providers celebrating Provider Appreciation Day; Positive Childhood Experiences; Learning the Basics of an IEP; and a Launch event to introduce new providers to the initiative and assist with the development of annual Quality Improvement Plans.

In an effort to encourage high school students to consider working in the field, First 5 Amador and the Child Abuse Prevention Council sponsored Safe Sitter scholarships for those unable to afford the training through Sutter Amador Hospital.



Music and Movement

(California Arts Council and Amador Arts Council – Fiscal Sponsor)

This program launched with a new lead during this fiscal year. We are pleased to report that the weekly music and movement classes, supported by the California Arts Council and Amador Arts was extremely successful. Throughout the grant period, we provided 46 classes attended by 104 unduplicated children aged 0–5 years.

These engaging and educational events typically saw attendance ranging from 15 to 35 children, along with their accompanying adults, and quickly became one of our most popular offerings. For a small population county, this consistent average attendance of approximately 25 children demonstrates an exceptionally high level of community engagement.

Program Outcomes:

- **Skill Development:** The classes helped children build crucial skills, including fine and gross motor skills, rhythm and rhyming, and self-regulation through fun activities involving musical instruments, scarves, etc.
- **Family Engagement:** We observed participation from mothers, fathers, grandparents, and childcare providers who found a comfortable environment to connect with other families. Families appreciated the high-quality, fun, and free nature of the program.
- **Community Impact:** Families reported that their children continued singing the songs and rhymes at home. The program is offered to all families in Amador with children 0–5, ensuring a shared experience for children in foster care, those with special needs, and those from different socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Our key evaluation metric was program participation, monitored through a database tracking attendance. Anecdotal feedback confirmed that families valued the experience, noting improvements in children's social-emotional skills (patience, sharing, turn-taking).

First 5 Amador also incorporated indigenous drumming and stories during playgroups and Messy Mornings to introduce children and families to the benefits of drumming and other rhythm instruments. Families learned the benefits of drumming as a self-regulation technique that could benefit their children at home.

Transition to Kindergarten Bridge Program

First 5 Amador hosted its 23rd Transition to Kindergarten Bridge summer program. With the addition of Transitional Kindergarten in the public school system, we have experienced a decline in participation from a high of 120 in 2018 to 34 this fiscal year. Our goal is to provide this program at each of the five elementary schools, however, due to low enrollment at Pioneer Elementary, we determined a combined class was necessary for two schools in this unincorporated area. Teaching staff included kindergarten teachers, Head Start teachers and aides, a State Preschool teacher and aide. The preferred teaching team is a kindergarten teacher and pre-k aide. This has proven to be a successful strategy in building relationships and promoting cross learning.

The 3-week (4 half days per week) program was designed for children entering kindergarten in the fall. Priority given to children who spent little or no time in a preschool setting. The program introduced young children to the structure and rhythm of the classroom.

In addition to the daily programming, First 5 staff collaborated with the Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD) to conduct developmental screenings at each site. ACUSD professional staff (speech therapist, psychologist, etc.) conducted on-site screenings. Thirty-four (34) children were assessed with key observations including: Most knew all colors and three shapes; most were able to count – some as high as 50; most could sing the alphabet song and were able to draw shapes. Two students' home language was Spanish. Unlike the prior year; we determined it was best to focus this program on children entering kindergarten in the fall. During fiscal year 2023-2024, we included transitional kindergarten students. This created challenging learning environments for the children needing this experience. This fiscal year's approach proved to be a more effective strategy with staff and parents reporting a very productive and positive 3-week program.

Of the 34 student participants--

- 7 children were already eligible for speech services.
- 7 children were referred to school district teams to monitor their performance in one or more areas (academic, gross/fine motor, or behavioral)
- 1 child was referred for a speech assessment

Playgroups

(Jackson, Ione and Plymouth/Pioneer)



Our weekly playgroups are provided in multiple locations to meet families' needs and schedules. Offering these in several locations reduces barriers such as drive time and costs, etc. This also allows families living in the same areas to get to know one another and build relationships that could lead to more social interactions. During this reporting period, playgroups were offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays each week (Jackson, Ione and Plymouth). The Jackson playgroup is held at First 5's family resource center, Ione is located in a community center also utilized by WIC during the month making it a safe and comfortable setting for families. Our Plymouth site was established in a small community room at a local church. Mid-year, the Plymouth program was discontinued due to low participation. A decision was made to attempt a playgroup in an area referred to as "upcountry." The new venue is in a community room at a church in Pioneer. Once moved to Pioneer, participation increased significantly from a couple of attendees to between 6 to 12.

Activities such as painting, drawing, puppet play, circle time and dress-up are provided each week. Parents, grandparents, nannies and other family, friends and neighbor providers attend these events. The format during playgroup is slightly more structured than Messy Mornings with circle time including songs and stories. Time for parent-to-parent interaction occurs during free play. The conversations are rich with caregivers supporting one another through the sharing of parenting tips, personal experiences and emotional support during challenging times.

Playgroups were offered 104 times throughout the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year. A total of 165 unduplicated children participated with attendance ranging from one visit to 30 by two families at the Jackson site. Some families' schedules allow for only one to two visits per month while others attend multiple playgroups throughout the week. Similar to Messy Mornings, adults accompanying the children include mothers, fathers, family child care, nannies, and grandparents. Many families return shortly after the birth of their second child to maintain consistency for the older sibling as well as connect with other parents for their own social and emotional well-being. Many fathers attend in general with increased participation while on family leave.

- At a playgroup, parents and caregivers (2 fathers, 1 grandmother, 4 mothers) expressed appreciation for the safe, welcoming space to connect and make friends. One mother of a 5-month-old shared that she felt less isolated and more engaged in her community as a result.

Playgroup t-shirts with Talk-Read-Sing messaging are offered to participants. These shirts are worn outside playgroups as well helping promote the program to others throughout the community.



Messy Mornings

Messy Mornings provide a safe and engaging sensory-focused experience for children and their caregivers to explore art, sand, water, and other materials in an unstructured way. Messy Morning t-shirts are provided in an effort to ease parents' concerns regarding "getting messy." These shirts also promote the early learning message and program when worn throughout the county.

Children assisted in the planting and harvesting of a fruit and vegetable garden throughout the year. Families were excited to look for strawberries, peas, etc. and consume them directly from the garden. Pumpkins and flowers were grown and offered to families to enjoy at home. To introduce the families to composting, a worm bin was established with the assistance of the UC Cooperative Extension.



The activities and outdoor environment provide children and adults opportunities to learn and explore science, technology (building small motor skills and problem solving), engineering, art, and math. Themes are introduced each week and included – numbers, colors, animals, eggs (to align with our egg-hatching project), dinosaurs, friends, etc.

First 5 Amador's playgroups and Messy Morning programs offer a space for parents and caregivers to connect with other adults and share a positive outdoor experience with their child/ren.

During the fiscal year, 47 Messy Morning events were offered. 287 unduplicated children participated for a total of 1,535 visits. 46 children participated in 10 or more Messy Mornings throughout the year.



A survey was offered to families to measure the effectiveness of the program. 20 families participated in the online survey.

- 19 felt more connected to other families
- 20 stated they increased knowledge of their child's social and emotional development
- 20 felt their child's social well-being had improved
- 20 would refer other families to the program



Dad and Me

(Saturday mornings – every two months)



Research confirms that fathers engaged in their children’s lives significantly improve outcomes in education and social-emotional well-being. To support this, First 5 Amador facilitates a Saturday morning program every other month. Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of fathers and grandfathers participating in our Playgroups, Music and Movement and Messy Mornings, however, these Dad and Me events provide an opportunity for the children to have a dad-only experience.

| Dad and Me Events | Adults | Children |
|--|--------|----------|
| Outdoor adventure/mock camping trip at our facility in Jackson | 7 | 8 |
| Pizza making at a local pizzeria | 16 | 21 |
| Amador Flower Farm - Pumpkin Patch | 19 | 29 |
| Mini-Farmers Market at First 5 | 10 | 12 |
| Bookcase Building (fathers only) | 7 | |
| Total visits | 59 | 70 |
| Unduplicated participants | 46 | 59 |

We successfully facilitated five events this year with participation up slightly from the previous year.

Mom-Me Time

This program offers monthly gatherings in a supportive environment for mothers focusing on community, connection, and topics requested by the participants. These events address challenges faced during the early years of their child’s life and offers a platform for moms to share experiences and learn from each other. To remove barriers to participation, First 5 offers a light meal, on-site child care and resources to take home that are relevant to the subject matter.

| Mom-Me Time Events | Adults |
|--|--------|
| Eating Healthy Lunches on the Go | 13 |
| Positive Parent-Child Communication | 8 |
| Harvesting Food and Memories | 10 |
| Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) | 10 |
| Relationships | 13 |
| Heart Healthy Habits | 14 |
| Self-Care (Taught by Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Watercolorist) | 18 |
| Safety and Accident Prevention | 7 |
| Calm Parent, Calm Child | 13 |
| Picky Eaters | 12 |
| Total visits | 118 |
| Unduplicated | 46 |
| *The on-site child care was provided to 5 – 20 children at each event. | |

Mom-Me Time  **WOW**

May 1st
5:30 p.m.

Repeating with a new topic on the first Thursday of each month!

*Calm parent,
Calm child*

Take home a complimentary gift
*while supplies last

Providing gentle reinforcement as children learn natural consequences through exploration.

Light meal for Moms.
Childcare available for 0-7.
Light snack for children.
Please call ahead if you need childcare.
209-257-1092

 **FIRST 5 AMADOR**
Meet Sara Kozler, MS, NCC, LPCC
First 5 Amador
975 Broadway
Jackson

Sponsored in part by the Mental Health Services Act

Mom-Me Time Continued-

These monthly events are funded in part by the Mental Health Services Act. Evaluations are offered at the end of each event. A licensed clinical social worker attends the events offering immediate feedback and support as well as an introduction to her services offered for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

Participants are asked to rate the following:

- The objectives were clearly outlined and accomplished.
- The workshop was well organized.
- The workshop session was a good use of my time.
- I will be able to use the information I learned from the workshop today.
- The handouts are useful resources.
- I will share the information with others.
- The presenter was able to answer questions and respond to concerns raised.
- The presenter displayed a thorough knowledge of the material.
- The presenter made the material interesting and kept my attention.

Overwhelmingly, moms strongly agreed that their expectations were met and the information provided would be helpful to their families.

Feedback received throughout the year included:

- "This program overall has given me new perspectives and allowed me to grow as a mom and wife in a positive way."
- "It has taught me how to spend more quality time with my child and be calm and patient with her."
- "Mom-Me Time allows me to relax and have self-care time."
- "It makes me think twice about what I say and do."
- "I learned how adverse childhood experiences effect life later on in adulthood."

To allow for a low-key social experience for moms, grandmas, etc., First 5 hosted a "Mom Prom." Moms dressed up and enjoyed music, snacks and conversation. A mom and her mother attended with the new mom wearing her high school prom dress she was unable to wear due to COVID. The family expressed their appreciation for the event that celebrated moms.

Behavioral Specialist Services

For more than 10 years, First 5 Amador has been offering services to families, child care providers and preschools experiencing child behavior that challenges adults utilizing Mental Health Services Act funding. This fiscal year, we offered consultation services to six families and two child care providers through our partnership with Amador County Behavioral Health. These services are offered by a licensed clinical social worker with a degree in early childhood. The consultant offers phone and on-site assistance to programs and families as well as linkages to ongoing services that would benefit children and their caregivers. The objective is to provide early intervention to keep children from being removed from their current settings due to challenging behavior.

During the fiscal year, Calming Kits, mental health coloring placemats, crayons, children's books regarding stress and essential goods for struggling families were distributed to reduce stressors. First 5 continued to provide support for families and early care providers by offering training opportunities such as Nurtured Heart, Calm Parent – Calm Child, and Relationships.

Resources regarding challenging behavior, stress reduction and self-care tips are offered monthly through our e-newsletter and Facebook posts. First 5 staff continue to be active participants and members of ongoing Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services Act Steering/Cultural Competency meetings and the Student Mental Health collaborative to reinforce the importance of early identification and services for young children and families. Bus ads continue to promote the importance of supporting children's mental health and developmental screenings in an effort to normalize the conversation regarding the importance of social and emotional well-being.

Tobacco Education and Cessation

First 5 Amador continued to participate in Tobacco Reduction of Amador County (TRAC) coalition efforts. First 5 and TRAC coordinated marketing opportunities such as ads on high school sports calendar/posters to educate and offer cessation services to individuals who may become parents within a few years and to reduce children's exposure to second and third-hand smoke.

“Kick it Amador” quit kits are offered by First 5 and TRAC to families and the community-at-large. Quit kits and local resources are offered during Welcome Baby visits to encourage soon-to-be and new parents to stop using nicotine products.

The dangers associated with exposure to tobacco products and programs to address education and cessation are shared regularly in our lobby as well as social media outlets.

Outreach / Community Collaboration

First 5 continued to offer our meeting space to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for their monthly meetings and community training programs.

First 5 staff are members of the Local Child Care Planning Council and assisted with the annual Celebrate Our Children event held during the Week of the Young Child. More than 1,000 individuals attended this engaging and educational event.

To support safe and nurturing care for young children, First 5 offered scholarships to Sutter Amador Hospital's Babysitting Classes. We see this as an effort aligned with Child Abuse and Neglect/Safety as well as an opportunity to introduce high school students with the early childhood education and care field for future consideration.

First 5 continued to participate in events hosted by Amador Adult Education – English as a Second Language to build rapport with students with young children. Monthly Family Engagement Kits are offered with bilingual books and material.

Working with a local parents' group (Supporting Amador Families Together), First 5 assisted in a Mom Prom and child and adult clothing exchanges. These resulted in hundreds of individuals benefiting from these events and resources.



First 5 encouraged families to participate in the county fair by completing an art kit (self-portrait) for children to complete and display during the event. We have done this for several years and demonstrating to families how their children can participate in the annual event. First 5 staff and families marched in the opening day fair parade and designed a display window highlighting the importance of unstructured outdoor play.



In partnership with the Family Resource Network, First 5 offered a workshop for caregivers – Understanding the Basics of an IEP – to assist those new to the system understand what is available to their child/ren and their rights in accessing those services.

First 5 continued to offer our indoor learning lab for supervised and unsupervised visits to families engaged in child welfare services. This has resulted in positive outcomes with families continuing to participate in First 5 programs such as playgroups, Messy Mornings, etc. once custody is returned.

Our Child Abuse Prevention Council staff continued to offer car seat safety checks and participate in the Amador-Calaveras Safe Kids collaborative.

This year the Amador Child Abuse Prevention Council hosted the first “Light of Hope” event in Amador. Child Abuse Prevention Month activities such as pinwheel gardens representing a happy childhood were “planted” by staff and council members.



Working with Public Health's outreach technicians and Maternal and Child Adolescent Health nurse, a bicycle rodeo and general safety event was hosted at First 5. This successful event was held at our facility where families are comfortable.

A fire safety themed Messy Morning brought a fire truck and education where families learned tips and children explored the trucks and equipment.



First 5's Welcome Baby coordinator is an active participant in the Amador-Calaveras Breastfeeding Coalition. Staff continued to refer families to the support group offered through Sutter Amador Hospital and to WIC and other lactation specialists. First 5 assisted in the successful grant application and establishment of two nursing nooks at the county fair. These locations continue to offer families safe and comfortable spaces to feed babies.

First 5's staff oversees the Amador-Calaveras Perinatal Wellness Coalition which continues to meet to examine the system that addresses perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. The coalition distributes material, aligns screenings by utilizing a universal tool, and maintains an updated list of clinical services to share with families.

First 5 continued to host nursing cohorts from Samuel Merritt University and William Jessup. These nursing cohorts assisted with First 5 activities while learning about early childhood development. Each nursing cohort is required to complete a project which is presented to First 5 staff and/or parents and child care

providers. Projects completed this year included sun safety and kids in the kitchen to help address picky eating.

Visitors to our playgroups and Messy Morning include the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) nutrition education, Head Start to inform families about options, a therapy dog and his handler, UCCE's master gardeners assisting with the introduction of a worm bin, the Jackson Fire Department and California Highway Patrol.

