Monday Morning Report

May 29, 2006
To submit comments or items (3 weeks in advance) for this e-newsletter, please contact Vivien Hao, Public Affairs officer, First 5 LA at vhao@first5la.org or (213) 482-7563.

Don’t miss the next Monday Morning Report. If this was forwarded to you, sign up now!

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CALENDAR

June 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: A Family Book Fair, presented by LAUSD, City of LA, and Families in Schools at LA City Hall (outdoor steps). For information, contact info@familiesinschools.org or (213) 484-2870 x240.

June 5, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.: Quality of Life for Families X: Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy, presented by the Perinatal Advisory Council, Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale, 100 West Glencoe Blvd., Glendale 91202. For information, call Jennifer Taylor at (818) 788-6850.

KTTV Fox 11 to Launch Series With Health Topics for Early Childhood Years

The importance of early dental care will be the focus of a weekly series, “Good Beginnings,” on children’s health, safety, and early learning, starting this Thursday on KTTV Fox 11.

Produced in coordination with First 5 LA, these news and interview segments, to air on the morning show Good Day LA, are designed to provide helpful tips to parents and caregivers of children prenatal through age 5.

“We are delighted to be partnering with First 5 LA to bring to our viewers valuable information that will help improve the lives of young children in our community,” said Jose Rios, KTTV Fox 11 news director. "Since the early years are so important to the development of children, 'Good Beginnings' will focus on bringing tips and resources to parents and caregivers.”

With experts calling poor oral health the number one childhood epidemic in the country, the first segment this Thursday will feature a visit to the Children’s Dental Center in Inglewood, where children as young as 1 are receiving free or low-cost dental care from UCLA and USC dental students under the supervision of licensed pediatric dentists.

An in-studio live interview follows with Dr. Maritza Cabezas, a dentist and public health advocate with the LA County Department of Health Services.

Cabezas will discuss five tips for early oral health:
1) Brush twice daily
2) Use fluoride toothpaste
3) Give only water in a bottle at bedtime
4) See a dentist by 1st birthday
5) Get a dental cleaning/exam twice a year

Other health topics in future weeks will include childhood obesity, allergies and asthma, and healthy pregnancies and births.
June 5, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: It Takes a Village to Raise Healthy Children: A Community Leaders Summit on Childhood Obesity, presented by Citrus Valley Health Partners, Queen of the Valley Campus, 1115 S. Sunset Ave., West Covina 91790. To register by May 31, contact Abel Mesa at (626) 813-2813 or amesa@mail.cvhp.org.

June 17, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.: 2nd Annual Kindergarten Transition Symposium to feature Los Solecitos with educational workshops, giveaways, entertainment, and food. Presented by Pasitos, Tweedy Elementary School, 9724 Pinehurst Ave., South Gate 90280. Space is limited. To register, call Silvia Cervantes at (562) 806-5400 X173.

June 20, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.: Safely Surrendered Baby Law and Prevention of Infant Abandonment: Los Angeles County Hospital Training, presented by the Perinatal Advisory Council at St. Anne's Maternity Home, 155 N. Occidental Blvd., LA 90026. For information, contact Andrea Hoberman at (818) 788-6850 or ahoberman@paclac.org.

June 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Implementing Preschool for All: Research Implications for ECE Leaders, Directors & Teachers of Young Children, sponsored by the CDPI Education Fund, PreservationPark, 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland94612. Early-bird registration by May 31 is $150 and late registration is $200. For information, call (415) 362-4880 or visit www.childlinkca.org.

June 21, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Importance of Early Attachment: Relationships and Resilience in the Development of the Brain, presented by the Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, Radisson Hotel Whittier, 7320 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier 90602. For information, call Benny Garcia at (562) 692-0383 or visit www.intercommunity.org.

For information, visit www.first5la.org or contact Vivien Hao, First 5 LA public affairs officer, at vhao@first5la.org or (213) 482-7563.

Childhood Obesity Summit to Focus on Community Strategies and Best Practices

How can community partners, policy makers, health care professionals, educators, clergy, and parents work together to stem the epidemic of childhood obesity that threatens to create a generation with higher rates of heart disease and diabetes than their parents’?

That's the focus of "It Takes a Village to Raise a Healthy Child: A Community Leaders Summit on Childhood Obesity," to be presented June 5, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Citrus Valley Medical Center, Queen of the Valley Campus, West Covina.

The event, sponsored by First 5 LA and Citrus Valley Health Partners, is free and open to the public.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Neal Kaufman, a pediatrician, First 5 LA commissioner, codirector of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, and professor of pediatrics and public health at UCLA.

He will speak on ""Dia besity: The Growing Epidemic of Obesity and Diabetes and What We Must All Do to Reverse It."

The summit will also feature panel discussions on best practices for elected officials and community leaders, as well as presentations on healthy eating, active lifestyles, and web resources.

Register by May 31 by contacting amesa@mail.cvhp.org or call (626) 813-2813.

GRANTEE PROFILE
Six Pasadena Organizations Partner to Mentor Preschool Teachers and Providers

After a serious ear infection, 2-year-old Devean Gutierrez stopped speaking and seemed to be tripping and falling all the time. He was diagnosed with delayed speech and motor skills, so his teacher at Kathy Kredel Nursery School in Pasadena turned to special needs experts at the Frostig Center for help.

"At first I didn't know how to help him, but after I consulted with the Frostig Center, I got lots of new ideas for ways to encourage Devean to speak more and increase his coordination," said teacher Sara Potter. "Now he's improved greatly, and is even riding a tricycle."
EVIE’S DESK
New Media and Corporate Partnerships to Expand Outreach
This week, First 5 LA media partner KTTV Fox 11 begins a series of special news segments on children's health, safety, and early learning. This is part of our mutual commitment to public education—and an acknowledgment of how the first five years of life can define one's prospect for future success.

But for us, "Good Beginnings" is truly just the beginning. We look forward to working with KTTV Fox 11 in many other ways, and we also are actively cultivating relationships with other media and corporate partners to further expand our outreach.

Soon, First 5 LA will be launching a new communications campaign to bring to the public's attention all the resources available in LA County for families with young children. We will highlight four key areas:

1) **Healthy Kids Insurance**, which provides health, dental, and vision coverage to any LA County child 5 years and under.

2) **Healthy Births Initiative**, using a collaborative network to raise awareness of the importance of prenatal and inter-pregnancy care for women in order to reduce the number of preterm and low-birth weight babies.

3) **Partnership for Families Initiative**, using a collaborative network to prevent child abuse and neglect.

4) **Universal Preschool**, through Los Angeles Universal Preschool, which seeks to make available free or low-cost quality preschool to every 4-year-old in LA County by 2014.

These are big issues, and First 5 LA is looking toward our many community, media, and corporate partners to work with us to truly make a difference for LA County children and families. We invite you to join us.

Frostig Center is one of six organizations in the First 5 LA-funded Pasadena Collaborative Literacy Project (PCLP), a unique partnership that provides training and mentoring to early-childhood teachers and child-care providers in all aspects of early childhood development and education.

By pooling resources from both public and private organizations, the collaborative provides about 100 early care professionals free college courses on early childhood literacy, a mentoring program, and easy access to library programs and resources on children with special needs.

Other partners are the Child Care Information Services, Pacific Oaks College, the Center for Community and Family Services Head Start Program, the Pasadena Public Library, and the Center for Improving Quality Childcare at UCLA.

By helping early childhood professionals understand their own literacy abilities, we help them see literacy as a life-long learning experience that they can share with the children, said Fiona Stewart, PCLP project director.

For information, call Stewart at (626) 405-4343. To register for the project, call Crystal Gonzalez at (626) 397-1333.

CHAMPION PROFILE
Liz Guerra Promotes Family Literacy, Achievement, and Self-Sufficiency
Champion Profile features individuals who exemplify First 5 LA’s tagline: “Champion for Our Children.”

Liz Guerra, senior project director of the Family Literacy Support Network (FLSN) at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), has provided technical assistance for family literacy programs in the Los Angeles area for more than 10 years.

The network, funded by First 5 LA, promotes academic achievement of parents and children, family goal-setting, and economic self-sufficiency. FLSN supports 24 schools and community agencies serving more than 500 families with children 0-5.

Guerra is formerly field deputy for then-State Sen. Art Torres and a teacher of English as a second language and citizenship to adults. She serves on the boards of the California Preschool Instructional Network and the LACOE Family Involvement Network.

Guerra holds a BA in political science from UC Santa Barbara and a masters in public administration from USC.
Which book has most influenced your life?
The Present by John Spencer.

What makes you angry?
People who have a lack of respect for others.

What is the greatest challenge the children and families of LA County face today?
Families that are disconnected due to the lack of quality time, language barriers and poverty.

Which living person do you most admire?
Besides my mom, LA County Supervisor Gloria Molina for her perseverance and commitment to improving the quality of life for others.

What is your motto?
"Look for the good in everyone and always do your very best."