

*The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan
for Early Care and Education,
2006-2015*

prepared by

**Santa Barbara County
Child Care Planning Council**

Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

Mission

We lead and collaborate in planning, coordinating and advocating for high quality, affordable and accessible early care and education for all children and families in Santa Barbara County.

Vision

We envision a community that values all children and families.



Operating under the authority of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Santa Barbara County Education Office.

Funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division.

www.sbceo.org/ccpc/

Acknowledgements

The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015 has been prepared by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council (the Council).

Jennifer Bergquist, Flo Furuike, Vishna Herrity, and Fran Forman, of the Strategic Plan Committee, spearheaded the preparation of the plan under the steady guidance of Valerie Kolstad, Council Coordinator, whose vision kept us going. Council members, who represent a broad spectrum of the community countywide, played a key role in developing the Goals, Objectives and Strategies detailed in the plan. Additional input was sought from community agencies and community members countywide.

Many thanks to all Council members for their ongoing efforts to support the children and families of Santa Barbara County, by planning and advocating for high quality early care and education for all children countywide. Special thanks to the members of the Steering Committee, who have provided leadership throughout the development of this plan. Appreciation is extended to individuals and community groups throughout the county who provided input on specific needs for early care and education in their area and strategies that might contribute to the development of improved services. Finally, thanks are extended to Dyan Bomer, Support Assistant for the Council, for her efforts supporting the work of the Council.

Typesetting and design by Harriet Whaley, Shoreline Design Group, (805) 963-0199.

The Child Care Planning Council and the preparation of this document are supported by funds from the California Department of Education, Child Development Division and approved by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the California Department of Education.

Questions regarding this plan should be directed to:

Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Hope Education Center
3970 La Colina Road, Room 6
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 964-4710 ext. 4473
sbccpc@sbceo.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council	1
Development of the Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015	2
Identified Needs and Recommendations for Early Care and Education	2
The Desired Outcomes	5
Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015: An Implementation Guide	7
Conclusion	24
A Call to Action	24
Acronyms	25
Collaboratives	27
Glossary and Definition of Terms	29

Introduction

The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015 (the Plan) fulfills the requirement of the California Department of Education, Child Development Division for local child care planning councils in all counties in California to complete a countywide, coordinated plan for the improvement of early care and education services. The Plan builds upon the work of the individuals and agencies countywide, who have been guided by *The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005*.

The purpose of this document is to present a plan that will guide Santa Barbara County towards the goal of ensuring that high quality, affordable early care and education is available for all families who need or want such services.

High quality, accessible early care and education is an essential ingredient of a healthy community. It is the basis of positive outcomes for children¹ in school and beyond and permits parents to join the workforce. High quality early care and education supports the social fabric of a community by ensuring that the physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs of children are met, and by providing the support needed by families. Parents whose children are in quality early care and education settings are available to work, thus contributing to the economic health of the community. The early care and education settings themselves are part of the business sector and contribute to the tax base of the community.

This plan is directed to all members of the community who are concerned about children, families and the future of Santa Barbara County. It is the purpose of the plan to inform and educate elected and appointed government officials, business leaders, policy makers, community agencies, education leaders, parents and the early care and education community about the goals and strategies that will promote the availability of high quality, early care and education.

It should be noted that throughout this document the term “early care and education” is used synonymously with “child care”. This terminology has been adopted in recent years to ensure that it is well understood that any program caring for children plays a critical role in the children’s education. The term encompasses all children from 0-12 years and children with special needs to 18 years.

The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council (the Council) operates under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The overarching responsibility of the Council, which is state-mandated and funded by the

¹ Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Robertson, D. L., et. al. (2000). *A 15-year follow-up of low-income children in public schools, Madison, Wisconsin: Chicago longitudinal study, University of Wisconsin*

California Department of Education, is to plan and coordinate early care and education services in Santa Barbara County. Specific responsibilities include establishing local priorities for state-funded early care and education expansion, completing a needs assessment of early care and education every five years, and developing a countywide strategic plan for early care and education.

Development of The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015

In 2005, the Council completed a countywide needs assessment of early care and education² and reported progress on the goals and objectives of the 2000-2005 Strategic Plan³. Following the release of the needs assessment and the progress report, the Council presented key findings to community leaders and groups and solicited input. The findings from the two reports and the community input guided the development of the desired outcomes, goals and objectives identified in the Plan.

Identified Needs and Recommendations⁴

Critical Finding: Licensed Capacity

The estimated numbers of children needing care far outstrip the number of licensed child care spaces in all regions of the county.

Recommendation

Increase the number of licensed early care and education spaces for all ages and in all types of early care and education settings throughout the county, with particular attention to the great need for infant care.

Critical Finding: Subsidized Child Care Capacity

The estimated numbers of children needing subsidized child care far outstrip the number of subsidized spaces in all regions of the county.

Recommendation

Increase the number of subsidized child care spaces countywide. Efforts to increase the capacity of subsidized care for children 0-5 years old should focus on the Lompoc Valley, specific zip codes in North County: 93458, 93454 and 93455, and pockets of greater need in 93101, 93103 and Isla Vista in South County. There is a critical need for more subsidized school-age care throughout the county.

Critical Finding: Program Waitlists

There is a substantial replication of children on waitlists for subsidized child care. This not only makes it more difficult for families to seek subsidized child care and for programs to identify the appropriate families for their enrollment, but also makes it very difficult to assess accurately the number of families actually seeking care.

Recommendation

Improve systems to coordinate and collaborate among subsidized programs.

² *Santa Barbara County: the Status of Early Care and Education, 2005*

³ *The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2000-2005: Accomplishments*

⁴ For detailed descriptions of needs and recommendations see *Santa Barbara County: the Status of Early Care and Education, 2005*, Chapter 7, pp. 86-93

Critical Finding: Benefits of High Quality

Thirty percent of the county population living in poverty were children under the age of 18 (16,294) and more than 48% of those children live in North County. Research has shown that children from low income families show proportionally greater benefits⁵ from participation in high quality early care and education programs in their academic performance in school and their decreased involvement in special education and juvenile crime.

Recommendation

Increase opportunities for all children, but particularly those from low income families, to participate in high quality early care and education programs prior to kindergarten to promote successful school outcomes.

Critical Finding: Cost of Care

Regardless of setting, age of child or region, the cost of child care in Santa Barbara County consumes a considerable portion of a family's income.

Recommendation

Secure more public and private resources for subsidies and scholarships to help make child care more affordable, thus helping parents to work and live in the high cost communities throughout the county.

Critical Finding: Program Accreditation

Research demonstrates the positive effects of high quality early care and education programs for children's future outcomes⁶. In 2004, of the 190 licensed early care and education centers in Santa Barbara County, only five were accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and, of the 523 licensed family child care homes, seven were accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care.

Recommendation

Continue and expand efforts to improve program quality through adherence to quality standards, such as national accreditation. In addition, ensure that programs receive adequate income or funding to support high quality.

Critical Finding: Workforce Education

An important indicator of early care and education program quality is the educational and professional development level of the program staff. Of the applicants to the STAR⁷ Project, 14% of center-based applicants held an associate's degree and almost 16% held a bachelor's degree. Of the total family child care applicants almost 15% held an associate's degree and just over 9% held a bachelor's degree.

Recommendation

Continue and expand efforts to support the increased education and professional development of the early care and education workforce, with a focus on increasing the number of teachers and family child care providers with a bachelor's degree.

⁵ Karoly, L.A., & Bigelow, J.H. (2005). The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California, research brief for RAND Labor and Population.

⁶ Peisner-Feinberg, E.S., & Burchinal, M.R. (1997). Relations between preschool children's child care experiences and concurrent development: The cost, quality and outcomes study. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, 43, 451-477. Burchinal, M.R. (1999). Child care experiences and developmental outcomes. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 563, 73-97.

⁷ Stipends for Training and Retention

Critical Finding: Staff Salaries

The retention of consistent staff is an important measure of program quality and compensation is a critical factor in the retention of center staff and family child care providers. The high cost of living in Santa Barbara County, where the living wage in 2005 was estimated to be \$12.25 per hour or \$25,480 per year, makes it extremely difficult for many employed in early care and education to stay in the field.

Recommendation

Increase efforts to ensure that compensation for the early care and education workforce is commensurate with other professional educators with equivalent education and training.

Critical Finding: Bilingual Staff

English is the predominant language spoken at home in Santa Barbara County, with Spanish the second most commonly spoken language in all four regions of the county. In North County, one-third of households speak mostly Spanish and 9% of those speak only Spanish. There is an increasing need for early care and education teachers and family child care home providers who are bilingual Spanish-English and who are culturally sensitive to the needs of Hispanic families.

Recommendation

Institute programs to support the recruitment and training of increased numbers of bilingual (Spanish-English) teachers/providers.

Critical Finding: Children with Disabilities

Almost 6,500 children and youths (0-22 years) have been identified by Tri-Counties Regional Center or Santa Barbara County Education Office as having disabilities, i.e. have an Individualized Family Support Plan or an Individualized Education Plan. The lack of consistent, high quality, non-discriminatory care for children with disabilities is a constant concern of the parents of these children.

Recommendation

Establish funding and programs to train and support increased numbers of teacher/providers willing to include children of all ages with disabilities in early care and education programs.

Critical Finding: Children Abused or Neglected

In 2003, 4,572 children in Santa Barbara County were referred to Child Welfare Services because of concerns about their possible abuse or neglect. In spite of children who are abused, neglected or at-risk having priority for child care services in subsidized programs, only 24 were reported enrolled in the 2004 Survey of Subsidized Programs.

Recommendation

Expand outreach to families of, or caring for, abused, neglected or at-risk children to encourage and support the enrollment of children in appropriate early care and education programs.

Critical Finding: Homeless Children

In 2004, 1,157 children 0-18 years old were reported to be from homeless families countywide, an increase of 38% (318 children) since 1999.

Recommendation

Increase resources to provide access to early care and education programs or spaces for children of homeless families, particularly in Santa Maria and Lompoc.

Critical Finding: Children of Migrant Families

Over 10,000 children ages 2-17 in Santa Barbara County were identified as members of migrant families in 2004, 6,600 of whom were between the ages of 2 and 12. North County has by far the largest percentage of children of migrant families, with 16% of all children ages 2-5 and 25% of all children ages 6-12 being members of migrant families.

Recommendation

Increase the capacity to serve children of migrant families in North County in early care and education programs offering hours suited to the needs of those families.

Critical Finding: Children of School-Age Parents

Overall, 2-3% of county births were to teen mothers (defined as under 18 years of age) between 1999 and 2002. For a variety of social and practical reasons, CalSAFE⁸ serves only a small proportion of the school-age parents countywide but has the potential to serve all teen parents who need or want services.

Recommendation

Increase outreach efforts to school-age parents countywide, but with special attention to North County, to encourage and support the enrollment of their children in appropriate early care and education programs.

Critical Finding: Infrastructure

The positive impact of the county early care and education infrastructure is reflected in the growing coordination of planning efforts and advocacy, increased opportunities for early care and education workforce training and education, and improving program collaboration. However, diminishing resources, including both funding and personnel, limit the potential effectiveness of the infrastructure.

Recommendation

Increase coordination within the early care and education infrastructure and its component agencies and secure adequate resources to ensure the effectiveness of the countywide early care and education infrastructure.

Critical Finding: Data

Data to support efforts to improve early care and education services in Santa Barbara County are sometimes inconsistent and difficult to obtain expeditiously.

Recommendation

Create a system of data collection to ensure accuracy and consistency. Recruit relevant agencies to collaborate and support a standardized system of data collection.

The Desired Outcomes

Using information gathered through the needs assessment, community input and their knowledge of the county, Council members identified two overarching desired outcomes for early care and education in Santa Barbara County in 2015 and six major goals that would lead to the desired outcomes, thus addressing the identified needs and recommendations described above.

⁸ California School-Age Families Education Program

Desired Outcome I: Caring Communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 1: The public will be informed about the importance of early care and education.

Goal 2: All entities participating in the early care and education of children will be part of a coordinated, integrated countywide system.

Goal 3: The community will support access to high quality affordable early care and education for all families.

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 1: High quality early care and education will support the development of the whole child⁹ and strong nurturing families.

Goal 2: High quality early care and education will be staffed by a stable, well-qualified and well-compensated workforce.

Goal 3: High quality early care and education programs will utilize research-based practices.

An Implementation Guide

To ensure that the Plan affords guidance for the community to accomplish the goals and desired outcomes set for 2015, measurable objectives with associated strategies to achieve the objective are detailed in the next section of this document. Each strategy identifies groups or individuals responsible for implementing the strategy, evidence that will demonstrate the completion of the activities and a timeline. See page 25 for definitions of acronyms, identified in the following pages by an asterisk. See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives, identified in the following pages by a double asterisk.

The Council will take responsibility for reaching out to the community to inform key players about the Plan and to engage them in the activities that will accomplish the goals of the Plan. The economic, political and social climate over the next ten years, as well as the activities described in the Plan, will impact progress made towards the accomplishment of the objectives. A critical role of the Council will be to monitor progress on the identified objectives and strategies and to revise or update activities and timelines, as indicated by the progress reported and changing environmental forces.

⁹ The whole child: concerned with all aspects of the child's development - physical, social, emotional, cognitive and creative

**The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan
for
Early Care and Education, 2006-2015**

An Implementation Guide

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 1: The public will be informed about the importance of early care and education.

Objective 1: By June 2008, develop and implement a public awareness campaign to inform the community about the importance of high quality early care and education.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Develop a public awareness/media action plan	Council PAAT*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2007
2. Identify and recruit key stakeholders to implement the public awareness plan	Council Strategic Plan Committee ECE Infrastructure Initiative** KIDs Network CalSAFE* Coordinating Committee**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current list of stakeholders ▪ Calendar of meetings with stakeholders ▪ MOU with stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December 2007
3. Create materials to support implementation of the plan	Stakeholders: Council OECE* R&R* Media KIDs Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brochure ▪ Talking points ▪ Press releases ▪ Public service announcements (radio, television, newspaper articles) ▪ Scorecard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ March 2008
4. Implement awareness strategies identified in the public awareness/media action plan	Council Speakers Bureau Council: PAAT* OECE* R&R* Other recruited stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2008 to June 2015

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: All entities participating in the early care and education of children will be part of a coordinated, integrated countywide system.

Objective 1: By December 2006, a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) for subsidized care will be fully operational.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Convene CDE-CDD* funded programs to plan development of CEL	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2005
2. Plan and prepare for the implementation of the CEL	SBFCC* with CDE-CDD* funded programs and Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written policies and procedures ▪ Adopted software ▪ Trained staff ▪ Data entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2006 ▪ November 2005 ▪ March 2006 ▪ June 2006
3. Implement the CEL	SBFCC* with CDE-CDD* funded programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CDE programs use the waitlist to enroll children ▪ Families enrolled through CEL ▪ CWS* staff trained on use of CEL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2006 ongoing ▪ July 2006 ongoing ▪ December 2006
4. Monitor and evaluate functioning of the CEL and address issues as necessary	Advisory Group: SBFCC* with CDE-CDD* funded programs and Council CDE-CDD*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes from CEL Advisory Group ▪ Findings of CDE-CDD* Reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly 2006-2008 ▪ Semi-annual 2008-2015

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: All entities participating in the early care and education of children will be part of a coordinated, integrated countywide system.

Objective 2: By 2008, there will be an ongoing countywide communication system to promote coordination among organizations, agencies and individuals serving the early care and education population.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1 Determine and maintain list of agencies and organizations that need to be linked	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The list of agencies and organizations to be linked ▪ Annual update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2007 ▪ Annual review (March)
2. Survey listed organizations and agencies to determine services provided and other information needed	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey tool ▪ Survey findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2007
3. Establish page on Council website with links to information available from identified agencies and organizations	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Web page with links ▪ Update annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2008 ▪ Annual (July)
4. Inform the EC&E community about the web page and its purpose and foster sharing of information amongst the community	ECE Infrastructure Initiative** Linked community (see Strategy 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution of an informational brochure ▪ Number of informational presentations ▪ Hits on web page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2008 ▪ Annual review (December)
5. Develop and maintain a coordinated system for gathering current, standardized, EC&E data	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-line site for EC&E* data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2007

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: All entities participating in the early care and education of children will be part of a coordinated, integrated countywide system.

Objective 3: By 2015, there will be increased articulation between the organizations, agencies and individuals serving the early care and education population and elementary schools.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Reach out to other school districts and early care and education programs throughout the county, to increase adoption of the strategies utilized by the School Readiness Initiative** for the promotion of articulation between EC&E programs and elementary schools	First 5 School Readiness Coordinator First 5 School Readiness Initiative** School Districts EC&E programs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings between EC&E* and elementary teachers ▪ Transfer of children’s records from EC&E programs* to elementary schools ▪ Kindergarten teachers reports of outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2007 ongoing
2. Promote parent participation in transition and school activities	Program administrators EC&E* and elementary teachers Family Resource Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information distributed through multiple avenues ▪ Information available in the home language ▪ Number of families participating in articulation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2007 ongoing ▪ Annual review of activities (July)
3. Promote sustainability of articulation policies and procedures	School Districts EC&E programs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written policies and procedures supporting ongoing articulation ▪ Best practices document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2008
4. Evaluate degree and success of articulation and identify gaps	First 5 School Readiness Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports on the effectiveness of articulation efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2009 ▪ Biannually (August)

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 3: The community will support access to high quality affordable early care and education for all families.

Objective 1: By 2015, 35% of children 0-12 years old estimated to need care will have access to high quality, licensed early care and education services, an estimated increase of 20% licensed spaces from 2005.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	Timeline
1. Accomplish established goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify resources to support facility development • increase knowledge of, and public will for facility development • provide guidance for agencies on facilities development • develop system for child care facility development • institutionalize proposed policy models and implementation strategies 	Constructing Connections**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential funding and resources ▪ Reports of training and outreach activities ▪ Adoption of “best practices” policies and strategies for facilitating facility development ▪ A guide for child care developers ▪ Increased use of empty classrooms and other usable space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2010 completion ▪ Annual reports (October)
2. Provide guidance for program expansion and development, with initial focus on Santa Maria, Lompoc and Buellton	Constructing Connections Intermediaries** R&R* Local EC&E* Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number and location of programs receiving guidance ▪ Number of programs seeking guidance to provide spaces for infants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 06 ▪ Annual reports (October)
3. Develop strategies and incentives to retain existing high quality FCC* providers (Also, see Desired Outcome II, Goal 2, Objective 4)	R&R* CCIP* PQI, OECE* FCC* Associations CAC-Head Start*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documentation of retention strategies and incentives ▪ Evaluation by R&R* showing decreasing number of FCC* providers terminating operation ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2008 ▪ Annual reports (December)
4. Implement strategies for securing business support to establish child care spaces	Work-Life Team** OECE*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings with businesses (2 meetings per year per team member) ▪ Number of spaces supported by businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2006 – ongoing ▪ July 2007 - ongoing

<p>5. Support efforts of EC&E programs* to modify program operation to accommodate populations with special needs</p>	<p>EC&E Programs* OECE* R&R* CAC-Head Start* EOC-Head Start* CalSAFE* Coordinating Committee**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased number of spaces for infants ▪ Increased number of spaces for children of migrant families ▪ Increased number of spaces for children of homeless families ▪ Increased number of spaces for children with identified disabilities ▪ CalSAFE* expanded to High School Districts without EC&E programs* for the children of school-age parents¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2008 - biannual reports ▪ October 2008 - biannual reports ▪ October 2008, biannual reports ▪ October 2008 - biannual reports ▪ September 2010
<p>6. Mentor and provide technical assistance for EC&E Providers trained to provide inclusive child care for children with identified disabilities</p>	<p>R&R* Inclusive Child Care Specialist Council ICCAT*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of providers supported by Inclusive Child Care Specialist ▪ Reports of ICCAT* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2007 – annual reports ▪ 2006-2006 ongoing

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

¹⁰ CalSAFE is a license-exempt program

Desired Outcome I: Caring communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 3: The community will support access to high quality affordable early care and education for all families.

Objective 2: By 2015, increase the number of child care subsidies for low and middle income families by 20%.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Implement strategies for securing business support to subsidize child care for employees	Work-Life Team**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings with businesses (two meetings per year per Team member) ▪ Sliding scale for child care supported by businesses ▪ Quarterly reports from Work – Life Team** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing ▪ July 2010 ▪ July, October, January, April, ongoing
2. Advocate for State and Federal subsidies to support low-income families and the working poor	Council AAT*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communications with State and Federal leaders ▪ Report of efforts in meeting minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing
3. Advocate for a consistent, transparent policy for distribution of funds for CDE-CDD* subsidized programs	Council NAPAT* SBCEO* CCCCA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letters to CDE-CDD* ▪ Agenda of CCCC* meetings ▪ Reports of Council NAPAT* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing
4. Provide scholarships for low and middle-income families through Foundation grants to EC&E programs*	Foundations EC&E programs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of scholarships secured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2006 baseline ▪ August 2010 ▪ August 2014
5. Plan countywide universal preschool	PfA* Coordinator PfA* Taskforce**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PfA* countywide plan ▪ Updates of plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 07 ▪ Ongoing through August 2010

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 1: High quality early care and education programs will support the development of the whole child¹¹ and strong nurturing families.

Objective 1: By 2010, a system for referring children and families to comprehensive support services will be developed.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1.a. Survey EC&E programs* to determine current access channels to comprehensive services 1.b. Map findings and resources available	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed survey (results) ▪ Map with programs and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2007 ▪ December 2007
2.a. Define ideal comprehensive services 2.b. Identify best models for programs to access services e.g. Family Resource Center model, Head Start model, CRIS Directory/211*	Family Support Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition adopted by ECE Infrastructure Initiative** ▪ Models adopted by ECE Infrastructure Initiative** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2008 ▪ December 2008
3. Identify and formalize referral contacts and relationship	Family Support Initiative** ECE Infrastructure Initiative** CRIS/211*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CRIS Directory/211* ▪ Written protocol for EC&E programs* to access services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 2009
4. Publicize adopted System models	Family Support Initiative* ECE Infrastructure Initiative* CRIS/211*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website links ▪ Informational brochures ▪ Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 2010 - ongoing

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

¹¹ The whole child: concerned with all aspects of the child’s development - physical, social, emotional, cognitive and creative

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 1: High quality early care and education programs will support the development of the whole child and strong nurturing families.

Objective 2: By 2015, all early care and education programs and family child care providers will be informed about how to link to comprehensive family support services.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Train EC&E programs* and FCC* providers to use the system for accessing comprehensive services	R&R* (CCIP* and Inclusive Child Care Specialist) Local community colleges Conference organizers Director's Institute Health Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ System models are publicized ▪ Numbers of trainings in English ▪ Numbers of trainings in Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 2010 ▪ Annual report (January)
2. Trained ECE program* representatives and FCC* providers mentor colleagues in the use of the system	R&R* Health Linkages Trained program representatives and FCC* providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of programs/providers mentored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 2011 - ongoing
3. Providers implement the system	Providers with support from R&R*, Health Linkages, CRIS* staff and Family Support Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Results of survey to track use and effectiveness of system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 2011 ▪ Annual (January)
4. Evaluate and implement system improvements as needed	ECE Infrastructure Initiative** Health Linkages CRIS* staff Family Support Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of deficits from survey results ▪ Updates and system improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ February 2011 (annual) ▪ Ongoing following surveys

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: High quality early care and education programs will be staffed by a stable, well qualified and well compensated workforce.

Objective 1: By 2010, the higher education system will increase support for improved workforce training.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Develop a workgroup with representatives from EC&E* and higher education	Higher Education Liaison, First 5 Local community colleges Public and private universities of the Central Coast ECE Infrastructure Initiative** CPIN*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher Education Liaison hired ▪ Reports of meetings with individual institutions ▪ Group meetings of key players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2006 ▪ September 2006 – ongoing ▪ April 2007 - ongoing
2. Develop an articulation agreement between community colleges and four-year institutions for a BA in ECE*	The Workgroup (see above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statement of agreement among institutions of higher education ▪ Course requirements adjusted to facilitate articulation ▪ Faculty hired to provide required courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2008 ▪ September 2010 ▪ September 2010
3. Address the needs of the Spanish-English bilingual EC&E* community and the non-English speaking monolingual EC&E* community	The Workgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional courses adopted at community colleges to support education of non-English speaking and bilingual EC&E* workforce ▪ Increasing numbers of Monolingual non-English speaking EC&E* providers participate in ESL* and ECE* classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2008 ▪ July 2006 - ongoing

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: High quality early care and education programs will be staffed by a stable, well qualified and well compensated workforce.

Objective 2: By 2015, there will be an 80% increase of teachers and family child care providers with a B.A. and ECE units.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Establish a baseline of data regarding provider education level and monitor progress	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Santa Barbara County EC&E* Workforce Survey, 2006 ▪ Survey of staff and providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June, 2006 and biannually (June)
2. Provide resources to support continuing education of EC&E* workforce	OECE* Institutions of higher education CDE-CDD* EC&E programs* Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing numbers of EC&E* staff and providers receiving support ▪ Total funds committed to support continuing education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing
3. Improve counseling to advise students working towards a BA with an ECE* emphasis	Higher Education Workgroup Local community colleges BA granting colleges and universities Professional Growth Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing numbers of well-informed counselors ▪ Student reports of satisfactory counseling support ▪ Increasing numbers of Professional Growth Advisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2010
4. Recruit high school and college students to train for future entry into the field of EC&E*	Council Speakers Bureau OECE* R&R* EC&E programs* High school and college counselors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing numbers of students taking coursework leading to AA or BA with an ECE* emphasis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2007 - ongoing

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: High quality early care and education programs will be staffed by a stable, well qualified and well compensated workforce.

Objective 3: By 2015, there will be a 10% decrease in the turnover rate of the center-based early care and education workforce.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Develop new funding sources for training and retention stipends	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing funds available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 and ongoing
2. Increase number of recognition activities for staff retention	ECE Infrastructure Initiative** AEYC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providers and staff recognized at public events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annually
3. Explore the feasibility of developing a benefit pool	ECE Infrastructure Initiative** EC&E Programs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examples of benefit pools gathered ▪ Potential models reviewed by programs ▪ Benefit pool adopted if feasible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2007 ▪ July 2008 ▪ December 2008
4. Advocate for higher daily reimbursement rates from the state for children enrolled in state subsidized programs, thus enabling increased compensation for staff in subsidized programs	Council AAT*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letters to state government officials ▪ Reports of Council Advocacy Action Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing
5. Establish a substitute registry	ECE Infrastructure Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A plan for a substitute registry ▪ Supporting legislation passed ▪ Funding secured ▪ Substitute registry implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2008 ▪ 2010 ▪ 2011 ▪ 2012

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 2: High quality early care and education programs will be staffed by a stable, well qualified and well compensated workforce.

Objective 4: By 2015, there will be a 10% decrease in the turnover rate of Family Child Care Providers.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. See Desired Outcome I, Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategy 3: Develop strategies and incentives to retain high quality FCC* providers	R&R-CCIP* PQI, OECE* FCC* Associations CAC-Head Start*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documentation of retention strategies and incentives ▪ Evaluation by R&R showing decreasing number of FCC providers terminating operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2008 ▪ Annual reports (December)
2. Explore the feasibility of a benefit network for FCC* Providers.	R&R* CAC-Head Start* FCC Associations*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examples of benefit networks gathered ▪ Potential models reviewed ▪ Provider information distributed ▪ Benefit networks adopted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December 2007 ▪ August 2008 ▪ December 2008 ▪ December 2009
3. Include FCC* providers in community-based training and initiatives by offering activities in evenings or on weekends	OECE* R&R* CPIN* Local community colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information distributed to FCC* ▪ Training and activity schedules ▪ Increased numbers of FCC* participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing
4. Provide recognition activities for FCC* providers	ECE Infrastructure Initiative** AEYC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FCC* providers recognized at public events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annually
5. Advocate for equivalent reimbursement for subsidized children in FCC* homes and centers, based on equivalent quality measures of both	Council AAT R&R* FCC* Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letters to state government officials ▪ Reports of Council AAT* ▪ Minutes of FCC* Association meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006-2007 ongoing

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 3: High quality early care and education programs will utilize research-based practices.

Objective 1: By 2010, a plan to inform early care and education programs about research-based practices that support high quality early care and education services will be underway.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Work collaboratively with existing groups to disseminate information to EC&E programs* about research-based practices through training and other activities	Family Child Care Networks R&R* CPIN* OECE* AEYC* Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listserve ▪ Mailers with resources ▪ Resource tables at events with materials. 	▪ 2007 - ongoing
2. Collaborate with local institutions of higher education to ensure that research-based practices are integrated into the teaching curricula	Higher Education Liaison Council: PIAT* CPIN*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course syllabus reflects research in ECE* ▪ Increasing numbers of courses offered incorporating research-based practices 	▪ 2007-2010
3. Inform early childhood educators about access to trainings that include research-based practices.	Council R&R* PQI, OECE* CPIN* AEYC* Family Resource Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing attendance at workshops ▪ Increasing communication in variety of media 	▪ 2007-2008 ongoing
4. Create a list of examples of what constitutes research-based practices. (See NAEYC definition)	R&R* Gevirtz Research Center, UCSB Council: PIAT* CPIN*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List of models, practices 	▪ June 2007

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 3: High quality early care and education programs will utilize research-based practices.

Objective 2: By 2015, 80% of early care and education center-based programs and 50% of family child care providers will use research-based practices.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Create and conduct a survey to establish baseline information on current level of use of research-based practices	Council PIAT* R&R* FCC* Associations OECE* Gevirtz Research Center, UCSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey instrument ▪ Baseline information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2007-2008
2. Incorporate research-based practices and language into workshops, conferences, presentations, panels and forums	Council CPIN* R&R* OECE* Gevirtz Research Center, UCSB AEYC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop Programs ▪ Self-Reports ▪ Lists of workshops, conferences, forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 2007 - ongoing
3. Create a centralized website for trainings incorporating research-based practices	OECE* R&R*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listserve with links ▪ Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2008
4. Evaluate increase in use of research-based practices by programs	Council PIAT* R&R* FCC* Associations OECE* Gevirtz Research Center, UCSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2012 ▪ October 2015

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Desired Outcome II: A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

Goal 3: High quality early care and education programs will utilize research-based practices.

Objective 3: By 2015, there will be a 100% increase in the numbers of programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Family Child Care Association or the National Association for School-Age Care.

Strategy	Who?	Expectation/Evidence	By when?
1. Create a public awareness campaign regarding what constitutes a quality early care and education program.	Council PAAT* Council Speaker’s Bureau Media County Board of Supervisors School Districts School Readiness Initiative**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Service Announcements ▪ List of speaking engagements ▪ Information to be distributed 	▪ 2006
2. Seek state, federal and private funding to support costs of fees and materials for continuing and new programs going through accreditation	Council OECE* R&R* AEYC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing funding ▪ Increasing numbers of programs in accreditation process 	▪ 2007 - ongoing
3. Seek funding to make facility improvements in the pursuit of accreditation	Council OECE* R&R* AEYC*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing funding ▪ Increasing numbers of programs in accreditation process 	▪ 2007 - ongoing
4. Develop a high quality mentoring program to support programs maintaining accreditation status or undertaking the accreditation process	Council PIAT* AEYC* OECE* R&R*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More programs working toward accreditation ▪ Mentoring Support Group 	▪ 2007

* See page 25 for definitions of acronyms

** See page 27 for names and membership of collaboratives

Conclusion

The desired outcomes of this plan are a vision of early care and education in Santa Barbara County in 2015. The vision is that caring communities will support a high quality early care and education system that is available throughout Santa Barbara County. The collaboration of all sectors of the community, guided by the detailed implementation plan, will move our county towards the accomplishment of this vision.

The Child Care Planning Council will be responsible for engaging stakeholders, coordinating efforts, monitoring progress and modifying strategies and objectives as we move forward in an uncertain social, economic and political climate. Individuals, agencies, organizations and community leaders should be prepared to remain flexible to adjust strategies and timelines as conditions change. Together, we can overcome unexpected challenges, take advantage of new opportunities and accomplish the vision of this Plan.

A Call to Action

The community and the Council must work together to attain the two desired outcomes described. There are numerous opportunities for everyone in our community to become involved in achieving the vision of caring communities supporting a high quality early care and education system that is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

We ask your help in making the Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015, a reality. We believe that the fulfillment of the Desired Outcomes described in this Plan will create an environment that benefits children, their families and the community of early care and education providers, and promotes the economic and social vitality of Santa Barbara County. Your support will help to ensure that children and families needing or wanting early care and education services will receive the best possible quality care of their choice.

Please join us by committing your time and energy to the implementation of this plan.

Acronyms

AEYC: Association for the Education of Young Children

CAC-Head Start: Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, Head Start

CalSAFE: California School-Age Families Education Program

CCCCA: California Child Care Coordinators Association

CCIP: the Child Care Initiative Project of the Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program

CDE-CDD: California Department of Education, Child Development Division

CPIN: California Preschool Instructional Network

Council AAT: Council Advocacy Action Team

Council ICCAT: Council Inclusive Child Care Action Team

Council NAPAT: Council Needs Assessment-Priorities Action Team

Council PAAT: Council Public Awareness Action Team

Council PIAT: Council Program Improvement Action Team

CRIS Directory/211: Community Resource Information System, also accessed by dialing 211

CWS: Child Welfare Services

ECE: Early Childhood Education

EC&E: early care and education

EC&E programs: early care and education programs (center based and family child care homes)

EOC Head Start: Economic Opportunity Commission Head Start of San Luis Obispo County

ESL: English as a second language

FCC Associations: Family Child Care Associations

OECE: Office of Early Care and Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County

PfA: Preschool for All

PQI, OECE: the Program Quality Improvement Project of the Office of Early Care and Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County

R&R: Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program

SBCEO: Santa Barbara County Education Office

SBFCC: Santa Barbara Family Care Center

Collaboratives

Early Care and Education (ECE) Infrastructure Initiative¹²:

Office of Early Care and Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County
Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Santa Barbara County Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program

School Readiness Initiative¹²:

Community Action Commission
Guadalupe Union School District
Isla Vista Youth Projects
Santa Barbara County Education Office
Santa Barbara Elementary School District
Santa Maria Bonita School District

Constructing Connections:

A collaborative made up of representatives from the economic development, housing, child care, business, finance and local government sectors

Constructing Connections Intermediaries:

City of Lompoc
City of Santa Maria
Office of Early Care and Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County
Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program

Work-Life Team:

A team of individuals trained, under the auspices of the Office of Early Care and Education, to help businesses implement family-friendly business practices. (Contact (805) 560-1038 for information)

Preschool for All Taskforce:

Office of Early Care and Education, First 5 Santa Barbara County
Santa Barbara County Education Office
Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County
Santa Maria Bonita School District
Santa Barbara Elementary School District
Santa Barbara Family Child Care Association
Santa Maria Family Child Care Association
Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program

Family Support Initiative¹²:

¹² Initiatives originally convened by First 5 Santa Barbara County

Family Resource Centers
Health Linkages, SBCEO
Family Service Agency, CRIS Directory/211

Glossary and Definition of Terms¹³

Capacity: the maximum number of children authorized to be provided care and supervision at any one time in any licensed child care facility.

CCIP (California Childcare Initiative Project): created in 1985 by Bank of America and the Resource and Referral Network to address the shortage of child care in California. Conducted by non-profit community based resource and referral agencies, the project assesses local child care supply and demand; recruits individuals who have the potential to become licensed family child care providers; and provides small business management training, technical assistance for program start-up and ongoing support to promote retention. In Santa Barbara County, the CCIP program is conducted by Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children’s Resource and Referral Program. ((805) 963-6631)

CDE (California Department of Education): administers the state's public educational system, and is responsible for the administration of all educational legislation, the apportionment of state funds, and the distribution of federal grants. CDE’s Child Development Division (CDD) has developed and funded resources throughout the state that offer a safe and healthy environment and a staff of competent, caring adults. Children receive these services in licensed center-based programs and family child care homes, as well as in license-exempt settings such as their own home or the home of a relative or neighbor. There are currently fifteen CDE administered program types designed to meet the varied needs of California's families. The eligibility for federal and state subsidized services is based primarily on income and need, with additional criteria depending on program type and fund source.

CEL (Centralized Eligibility List): a comprehensive list of all children waiting for space in a state or federally subsidized early care and education program. Information about the child and his/her family determines the eligibility rank of the child for subsidized programs.

Child Care: See Early Care and Education.

Child Care Center: any licensed child care facility of any capacity, other than a family child care home, in which less than 24-hour per day non-medical care and supervision are provided to children in a group setting. Child care centers can include private for-profit and nonprofit centers, parent cooperatives, employer-sponsored and faith-based centers. The numbers of children can range from small programs with under 20 children to larger programs with over 100 children. The California Department of Social Services regulates the ratio of caregivers to children, square footage, staff qualifications, and health and safety standards. (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 12)

Child Care Facility (or “facility”): any group program in a center, school, or home that serves children from birth through age 18. (See Licensed Child Care, License-Exempt Care)

¹³ Definitions pertain to this document only. A more complete list of early care and education terms may be found at www.sbceo.org/ccpc/

Child Care Planning Council: every county in California has a local planning council, funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division (CDE-CDD) and operating under the authority of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The overarching responsibility of these state-mandated councils is to plan and coordinate early care and education services in their county. Specific responsibilities include establishing local priorities for state-funded early care and education expansion, completing a needs assessment of early care and education every five years, and developing a countywide strategic plan for early care and education. The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council has 25 members representing a broad spectrum of individuals from all over the county with an interest in early care and education. The committees and Action Teams of the Council undertake the work necessary to fulfill and enhance the responsibilities of the Council. (www.sbceo.org/ccpc/)

Child(hood) Development: a large body of research and knowledge spanning more than a hundred years acquired from research around the world that focuses on how children develop mentally, emotionally, morally, culturally and physically from birth to eighteen years of age. Child Development is the core body of knowledge used to educate Early Care and Education professionals.

Community Agencies: local agencies who provide early care and education or support services for the children and families of Santa Barbara County. Some examples are health, mental health, special education, parent education, housing and employment.

Community Care Licensing Division: the division of the California Department of Social Services responsible for licensing and overseeing both day care and residential facilities for children and adults in the State of California. (www.dss.cahwnet.gov)

CPIN (California Preschool Instructional Network): funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division and Special Education Division to provide high quality professional development for preschool administrators and teachers and early care and education leaders. CPIN focuses on the educational component of school readiness for all children ages three to five, including English learners and children with special needs, and on current research, resources and best practices (<http://kcsos.kern.org/cpin/>)

Directors' Institute: a professional development support program for directors and other leaders of early care and education programs

Early Care and Education (also Child Care): the term “early care and education” is used synonymously with “child care”. This terminology has been adopted in recent years to ensure that it is well understood that any program caring for children plays a critical role in the children’s education. The term encompasses all children from 0-12 years and children with special needs to 18 years.

Early Care and Education Program: any licensed program providing care for children 0-12 years or children with special needs to 18 years. Includes child care centers and family child care homes

Early Care and Education Providers: qualified individuals working in programs that meet the needs of children birth to kindergarten and before/ after school, as well as their parents

Early Childhood Education: the course of study dealing with the application of child development principles. In Santa Barbara County, courses are available at Santa Barbara City College ((805) 965-0581 x2554) and Allan Hancock College ((805) 922-6966 x3547)

Family Child Care (Homes): care provided in a provider's own residence. The California Department of Social Services regulates minimum health and safety standards.

Family Child Care Associations: typically composed of family child care providers and advocates for family child care, these associations gather to share information, support and training, to network, and to be voices for the profession of family child care. The national association is NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care).

Family Resource Centers: provide information, education and support for families to help them raise healthy children. Centers are located at schools and non-profit agencies accessible to needy families.

Health Linkages: a program under the umbrella of the Santa Barbara County Education Office, Child Development Programs that provides health and safety training for State Preschool Staff and family child care providers, and health screening and referrals for children enrolled in those programs.

Infant: a child from birth to 2 years. (California Code of Regulations)

KIDs Network: a planning and program development body created by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in 1991 to advise them on children, youth and family issues. KIDs Network operates as a countywide network of agencies and individuals dedicated to implementing comprehensive, collaborative and integrated services for children, youth and families. A key project of the Network, in partnership with UCSB and other agencies, is publication of an annual Scorecard for Children. (www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet/)

License-Exempt Care: child care in either a home or a child care setting that is exempt from licensing requirements. Exempt center care is child care in a center setting that is exempt from licensing requirements. It can include a cooperative arrangement between a group of parents, sponsored by a school district care or in a recreational setting that operates hours other than school hours, for under 16 hours per week, for 12 weeks or less during a 12-month period. Exempt Family Care can include the caregiver's own children and the children of one other family or can be a cooperative arrangement between a number of families. There can be no more than 12 children in this type of arrangement. This designation also includes: public recreation programs, public and private schools that operate before and/or after school care for school age children.

Licensed Child Care: child care programs that have applied for and received a license to care for children. In California, most group care of children outside their own home requires a license or

permit. Licensing requires meeting minimum health, safety and personnel standards. The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division is responsible for licensing child care centers and family child care homes in California. ((805) 682-7647)

NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children): the nation's largest organization of early childhood professionals and others dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education programs for children birth through age eight. Founded in 1926, NAEYC membership is nearly 102,000 and includes a national network of more than 400 local, state, and regional early childhood organizations affiliated with NAEYC. NAEYC Affiliate Groups share and help to implement NAEYC's primary goals of improving professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education and building public understanding and support for high quality early childhood programs. Membership is open to all those who share a desire to serve and act on behalf of the needs and rights of young children. (www.naeyc.org)

NAFCC (National Association for Family Child Care): an organization focused on providing technical assistance to family child care associations. This assistance is provided through developing leadership and professionalism, addressing issues of diversity, and by promoting quality and professionalism through NAFCC's Family Child Care Accreditation. (www.nafcc.org/include/default.asp, 1-800-359-3817)

OECE (Office of Early Care and Education): established in July 2000 by the Council in collaboration with Santa Barbara County, the Santa Barbara County Office of Education and the Santa Barbara County Program Improvement Consortium, with the support of other cooperative partners. In 2004 the OECE became a program of First 5 Santa Barbara County. The goal of the OECE is to coordinate and support efforts to increase the quality, quantity and affordability of child care services in Santa Barbara County. The Early Care and Education Coordinator works to integrate and augment services, coordinate data collection, and establish a clearinghouse for early care and education in Santa Barbara County. The Program Quality Improvement Coordinator oversees the countywide program quality improvement project, including Stipends for Training and Retention (STAR)

Preschool: children between the ages of two and kindergarten

Preschool for All: the name used for Universal Preschool in California

Professional Growth: participation in activities that contribute to a Child Development Permit holder's competence, performance or effectiveness in the profession of education.

Provider: any adult, other than parents, providing early care and education for one or more children for less than 24 hours per day.

Quality: a qualifying term used to describe early care and education programs possessing a set of factors which, when in place, ensure that children fare better emotionally, socially, and cognitively (see [Criteria for High Quality Early Childhood Programs](http://www.sbceo.org/ccpc/childcare.shtml), www.sbceo.org/ccpc/childcare.shtml). Recent studies show that high quality child care experiences positively influence a children's

educational ability and behavior, while substandard quality child care negatively impacts children's development.

R&R (Resource & Referral): a statewide organization funded by the CA Department of Education, made up of 61 member agencies with offices in each county. An integral part of the child development services in California since 1976, R&R's serve as a clearinghouse for child care referrals and community resources for families. In Santa Barbara County, the member agency is the Santa Barbara Family Care Center, Children's Resource and Referral Program (north county: 925-7071; south county: 963-6631; Lompoc: 737-0073).

SBAEYC (Santa Barbara Association for the Education of Young Children): one of the 400 affiliates of NAEYC, representing members in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. (See NAEYC)

School Age: generally refers to children in grades K-12.

School Readiness: in Santa Barbara County School Readiness projects, funded through First 5, address five elements considered critical for helping children to be ready to enter kindergarten as effective learners. These elements are early care and education services with kindergarten transition programs; parenting/family support services; health and social services; schools' capacity to prepare children and families for school success; and program infrastructure, administration and evaluation (first5santabarbaracounty.org/partner.asp).

Subsidy: a reduction in the amount a parent pays for child care, from a small percentage to 100%. Subsidy funds can come from many sources, including federal, state or local government, employers and private foundations.

Tri-Counties Regional Center: provides supports and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities living in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. (www.tri-counties.org)

Universal Preschool: a national initiative to provide publicly funded voluntary preschool for all 3- and 4- year-old children for at least one-half day during the regular school year. In California universal preschool is known as Preschool for All.