



A Bit Better

News From First 5 Santa Cruz County

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Children's Network of Santa Cruz County is collaborating with other private and public non-profit agencies to increase awareness of the importance of families and communities working together to ensure that all children grow and thrive.



Pinwheels for Prevention is a national campaign to draw positive attention to the topic of keeping children safe. Pinwheels represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness and our vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

In honor of **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, we invite teachers, providers and parents to pick up an activity kit for making their own pinwheel(s). The kit includes simple instructions and all necessary materials for children to use their creativity to make a pinwheel(s) and display in the front yard or at home to share with family members. Please email ifreiberg@first5scc.org to make arrangements to pick up a kit.

To learn more about child abuse prevention strategies you can read [**A Framework for Prevention of Child Maltreatment**](#) from the California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse

Envision our community where the focus is on positive ways for families to build upon their strengths to promote a feeling of well-being for their children!

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



211 CONNECTS PEOPLE TO LOCAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND PROVIDES INFORMATION BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER. 211 IS FAST, FREE, AND CONFIDENTIAL AND AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY IN MORE THAN 150 LANGUAGES.

- RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INCLUDING TUTORING, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, AND MENTORSHIPS
- FOOD AND HOUSING RESOURCES INCLUDING FOOD BANKS, CLOTHING, HOUSING AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- RESOURCES TO HELP FAMILIES AND THEIR KIDS GAIN ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOME INTERNET
- HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR UNINSURED OR UNDER-INSURED FAMILIES AND PARENTAL CARE

To Get Connected

Dial 211 or call 800-273-6222/ Text your zip code to 898-211
Visit: www.211santacruzcounty.org/children-and-family/



Please join us for a Día de los Libros

STORYTIME

to celebrate early literacy for children of all backgrounds!

With
Special
Guests:



Jennifer Siebel Newsom
First Partner of California



Hudson Yang & Jeff Yang
ABC's Fresh Off the Boat Journalist



Nadine Burke Harris
California Surgeon General

Activities, stories & more on Facebook Live at bit.ly/Dia-Storytime



Please join us for a special Día de los Libros story time event on Facebook live on Friday, April 30, at 10 a.m. PT!

Click here to join the event: <http://bit.ly/Dia-Storytime>

This online event will feature a live story time, activities for kids, and special guests, including First Partner of California Jennifer Siebel Newsom, California Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris, and celebrity guests Hudson Yang (ABC's Fresh Off the Boat) and his father, journalist Jeff Yang. This special story time event is in celebration of Día de los Libros, a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for children from all backgrounds. Please help spread the word using this [flyer!](#)

Help Working Families Put Money Back in their Pockets

We need your help to let working families know about the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and Young Child Tax Credit. These credits put thousands of dollars in the pockets of families, helping them move out of poverty and up the economic ladder.

Who qualifies for the CalEITC?

- Any worker with an income of \$30,000 or less.
- Any worker who files taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) or Social Security Number (SSN).

- Self-employed (form 1099) and cash earners.
- Workers with children under age six who qualify for the CalEITC may also file for the Young Child Tax Credit—and receive up to an additional \$1,000.

The CalEITC and Young Child Tax Credits exist in addition to the federal EITC. The average combined tax refund is \$3,000, but some families could receive up to \$8,053.

Workers can file online for free, or schedule an appointment for help with filing, at <http://www.myfreetaxes.org/>

The **new tax deadline is May 17, 2021**. This is the first year ITIN filers can access the credit, so we are especially trying to spread the word to immigrant families. For more materials to help get the word out, please visit www.first5association.org/CalEITC

Thank you for your help!



Community Announcements

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Protect Yourself and Your Family Protege a su Familia

sccoe.link/COEvax
(831) 466-5906

Vaccines for
Educators,
Childcare
Workers,
Farmworkers
in Watsonville



Vacunas en
Watsonville
para
Educadores,
Cuidadores
de Infantes,
Trabajadores
del Campo



The COVID-19 Vaccine is Here. La Vacuna COVID-19 esta Aqui

Nearly 95% Effective | FDA Authorized | Available At No Cost
Casi 95% Eficaz Autorizada por la FDA Sin Costo Alguno

Call or Click to Get Vaccinated Llame o Haga Clic para Vacunarse



sccoe.link/COEvax



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DE FARI SABARI - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



(831) 466-5906

Go directly to sccoe.link/COEvax for more information or click [here](#) for to download the flyer about these vaccine clinics in Watsonville and please help spread the word!

Local Pediatric Dental Appointments Available

There are openings at local clinics for pediatric dental appointments for children 0 to 3. Please check out this [flyer](#) for more information about the importance of bringing young children in to have regular

dental checkups.

Local Assistance Available to Help with Health Insurance and CalFresh Applications

Having access to health insurance and food for our families is of vital importance. If you, a family member, friend or neighbor need help completing or renewing an application to county or state health insurance programs, Certified Application Assistors can answer your questions and offer free application assistance. Call an Application Assistor directly at any of the agencies listed on this [flyer](#) for more information.

Community Resources

Parenting and Caregiver Resources

- First 5 Santa Cruz County- [Triple P parenting support](#)
- Watsonville Public Library - [Storytime Kits](#)
- Community Foundation Santa Cruz County: [April Family Resource Calender](#)
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education website focused on [Distance Learning](#)
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- First 5 Association - [Resources for Families, Children and Communities](#)
- First 5 California's [Parenting Website](#)
- Resources from [Sesame Street in Communities](#)
- California Surgeon General's Playbook: [Stress Relief for Caregivers and Kids during COVID-19](#)
- From the National Institute of Mental Health - Flyers on Stress and Anxiety in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

If you are in need of child care,
please call the Child Development Resource Center



Child Development Resource Center

Serving those who care for and educate young children.

(831) 466-5820

cdrc@santacruzcoe.org

COVID-19 Related Community Resources

- County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency:
 - [Vaccination Information](#)
 - [COVID -19 Resources and Information Website](#)
 - [Testing Sites](#)
- Abriendo Puertas Shares Multi-Lingual COVID-19 Resources for Families: [Website](#)
- Mental Health Tips & Local Resources for COVID-19 – [ENGLISH](#) & [SPANISH](#)
- California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response:
 - [COVID -19 Resources and Information Website](#)



CALL

TEXT

VISIT

2-1-1
OR (800-273-6222)

Send your zip-code
to 898-211

211santacruzcounty.org



MARQUE

ENVÍE

VISITE

2-1-1
O (800-273-6222)

Su código postal
por texto a 898-211

211santacruzcounty.org

This newsletter is a collaborative effort of First 5 Santa Cruz County staff.



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