

# *A Bit Better*

## *News From First 5 of Santa Cruz County*

A Message from Executive Director, David Brody

These are unprecedented times and we are all pulling together to do everything possible, both personally and professionally, to limit the spread of COVID-19 while supporting our youngest children and their caregivers. First 5 Santa Cruz County is incredibly grateful to all of our partners, to the health care providers and first responders, to the K-12 and early care and education teachers and staff, to the post office and delivery workers, to the grocery clerks and hardware store employees, and to everyone who is helping maintain essential services for all of us.



At First 5 Santa Cruz County, we are deeply committed to the organizations we work with and the children and families they serve. We have closed our physical office with our United Way partners, but we are all working remotely from home and available via email or phone. We are committed to maintaining critical business operations including processing invoices in a timely manner. We are equally committed to working closely with our contracted partners and exercising maximum flexibility as we navigate the next few months together. In addition, we are working closely with the First 5 Association of California and other state

partners to organize and advocate for what our children, families and caregivers need to navigate this incredibly challenging time.

In this newsletter we have highlighted resources for children and families to help support their social and emotional well-being and cognitive development while sheltering in place. We have also included information about the 2020 Census. We strongly encourage everyone living in Santa Cruz County to complete the Census. Now more than ever we need a complete and accurate count of our residents in order to steer federal resources toward our community over the next 10 years.

These are incredibly difficult and challenging times, but I am confident we will emerge from this crisis a stronger and more interconnected community.

In Partnership,  
David Brody

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## Family Support and Resources Websites and Blog posts:

- First 5 Association - **Resources for Families, Children and Communities**
- First 5 California - **Parent Guide**
  - Talk Read Sing - **Parent Resources**
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education: **Community Resources During School Closures**
- Common Sense Media - **Help Your Family De-Stress During Coronavirus Uncertainty**



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 3PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING

JOIN US FOR TIPS AND SUPPORT FOR  
PARENTING DURING COVID-19

Friday, March 27  
3:00 - 4:00 pm  
via [Zoom](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/411198140>

Never used Zoom before? See this [quick tutorial](#) to get started!



## 2020 Census

Now more than ever we need a complete Census count to help our county navigate these next ten years after the COVID-19 impact on families, businesses and the community.

**For families who ask why does the Census matter to my children and to me?**

- The 2020 Census helps decide how much money your community will get for schools, child care and early learning, health insurance and medical care, early intervention and home visiting programs, food assistance,

- foster care, housing assistance, and public transport.
- Your community uses it for planning how many schools and classrooms it needs, and where health care services should be.
  - The Census also decides the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and how many representatives your community will have in your state legislature, county council, and even your local school board.
  - Count all kids and babies at your address on the Census. Then, your local programs will get more funding to serve our children today and over the next decade.
  - The Census happens once every 10 years. So, if all the children living at your address aren't counted in 2020, they will have fewer services for the next decade. Don't let this happen. Count all kids on your 2020 Census form.

***For local information and support regarding the 2020 Census please visit:***

**<http://www.santacruzcountycounts.us/>**

**Census form can be completed online, over the phone, or in paper form:**

**Online:** <https://2020census.gov>

**Phone:** 1-844-330-2020 (English)

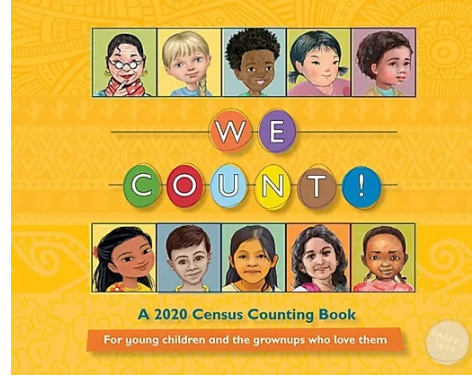
or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish)

**Mail:** Between March 12-20, homes will begin receiving their invitation in the mail to respond to the 2020 Census. All homes will receive a paper questionnaire if they do not first respond online or by phone. To see an image of the paper questionnaire, and for more information on answering each question, please visit **Questions Asked**.

**We Count! Book is available in Ebook format**

Created by a team of experts in early childhood education, diversity

and children's publishing, this colorful and interactive counting book is a great resource for families to read aloud with their children. As children learn to count adults learn why and how to ensure each one of us is counted in the 2020 Census.



With illustrations of diverse American families, this book also offers a clear explanation of how Census data is used, and how families benefit from being counted.

Click here for the link: <https://www.wecountkids.org/ebooks>



## CORONAVIRUS

Get current information  
related to the Coronavirus  
(COVID-19).

**TEXT COVID19 TO 211-211**

**VISIT 211SANTACRUZCOUNTY.ORG**

**CALL 211 OR (800-273-6222)**



**Learn more about  
Triple P**

If you missed our last newsletter you can find it here:



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