INVESTMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING: Getting Results

More than half a million children are born every year in California. In each life is an unlimited amount of potential—to grow up healthy, to do well in school, and to succeed. First 5 California’s efforts provide children with a launch pad for success by supporting healthy bodies and active minds. First 5 California presents INVESTMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING: Getting Results for those committed to the professional and policy side of providing services to children ages 0 to 5. The conference will focus on the best ways to develop and implement science-based policies and programs that enhance young children’s healthy development and school readiness.

STRONGER TOGETHER: Working Smarter in Pre K-12

The Water Cooler is a collaborative effort by the Advancement Project, the California Community Foundation, Children Now, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, First 5 California, Preschool California, and many other organizations, including those shown in the Water Cooler portion of this program, to advance early care and learning for California’s children ages 0 to 5. Water Cooler efforts aim to bring the needs of California’s youngest children into the larger education conversation.

FUNDING FOR WATER COOLER CONFERENCE
GENEROSLY PROVIDED BY:
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
The Boeing Company
Buffett Early Childhood Fund
California Community Foundation
The Atlas Family Foundation
The California Endowment
Irvine Foundation
The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
The Orfalea Foundation
Sherry Lansing Foundation
Lakeshore Learning Materials
Day One – Tuesday, March 1, 2011
INVESTMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING: Getting Results

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ....................... Grand Nave Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS ......................... Grand Nave Ballroom
Kris Perry, Executive Director, First 5 California

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS
“Access and Quality: Ensuring Impacts of Investments in Early Education and Care”
Robert Pianta, Ph.D., Dean, Curry School of Education, Director, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, University of Virginia

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. SESSION ONE CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
See descriptions of workshop sessions below. Workshops are repeated in the afternoon.

12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. TRANSITION BETWEEN WORKSHOPS AND LUNCH

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS .................. Grand Nave Ballroom
“A Matter of Priorities: Early Childhood Education and American Competitiveness”
J. B. Pritzker, Founder, New World Ventures; Managing Partner, The Pritzker Group

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. SESSION TWO CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

2A. Dual Language Acquisition: Current Research and Models ......................... Beavis
Moderator: Ernesto Saldana, Statewide Field Director, Preschool California
Panelists: Kathryn Lindholm-Leary, Ph.D., Professor of Child and Adolescent Development, San Jose State University
Janet Lopez, Senior Policy Analyst, Preschool California
Carola Matera, Ph.D., Consultant, Early Childhood Programs

Dual language studies have shown that providing support in a child’s home language improves cognitive, linguistic, and social outcomes for that child. In this panel workshop, experts in the field of dual language acquisition discuss relevant research findings, child outcomes, and best practices including:
- Current research and related applications for policy makers and advocates;
- Closing the achievement gap for dual language learners and potential outcomes;
- Models grounded in research;
- Other state applications and how California can build on their successes.

2B. Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS):
Support for Exemplary Professional Development .................. 3rd Floor Meeting Room
Moderator: Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, Quality Improvement Office Administrator, Child Development Division, California Department of Education
Panelists: Frances Chasen, Consultant, Early Childhood Programs
Scott Moore, Executive Director, California Early Learning Advisory Council
Diana Schaack, Consultant, Build Initiative

This workshop will examine professional development programs in relationship to basic elements of a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS): (1) standards, (2) accountability, (3) parent outreach, (4) providers’ outreach support and (5) quality improvement.
Panelists will describe the process currently underway in California to develop a QRIS. The panel will also discuss how the State can learn from states with a successful piloted or implemented QRIS program.
2C. The Early Development Instrument (EDI):
Using School Readiness Data to Shift the Curve of Early Childhood ................. Bondi
Moderator: Armando Jimenez, MPH, Director, Research & Evaluation, First 5 Los Angeles
Panelists:
April Canetto, MSW, Vice President, Community Impact, North Texas Area United Way
Neal Halfon, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health and Public Policy, University of California, Los Angeles
Alex Morales, MSW, President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Bureau Headquarters
Investing in children's early outcomes has been well documented to have significant impacts on their school readiness skills. In 2009 the Early Development Instrument (EDI) was adopted as the kindergarten measure for a national collaborative of states and communities working on major early childhood systems change efforts. The EDI is a comprehensive measure of early development and school readiness for whole populations of young children in communities. EDI is now in use in Southern California and poised to be expanded throughout the state.

2D. Transitional Kindergarten: Changing the Kindergarten Age ................. Tofanelli
Moderator: Camille Maben, Director, Child Development Division, California Department of Education
Panelists:
Elita Amini Virmani, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Center for Child and Family Studies Evaluation Team, WestEd
Catherine Atkin, President, Preschool California, New America Foundations
Lisa Kaufman, Ph.D., Director, Early Learning Services Department, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Kerry Kriener-Althen, Ph.D., Director, Center for Child and Family Studies Evaluation Team, WestEd
Changing the age for beginning kindergarten offers an opportunity to create a seamless preKindergarten-3 early learning system in California. Experts in early education will examine related research, funding and implementation strategies, as well as pilot initiatives. The panel will address the following issues:
• Current research on the gaps for poor and minority students and how changing the age for kindergarten will improve results;
• How early education research and analysis influence best practices, improve early childhood access, and move to a seamless Pre K -3rd early learning system in California;
• Create incentives for school districts to use Title I funds to fund Pre-K;
• The use of the DRDP-SR in implementing Transitional Kindergarten.

2E. Building A Healthy Child Care Environment ................. Compagno
Moderator: Monet Parham-Lee, MPH, Regional Program Manager, California Department of Public Health, Network for a Healthy California
Panelists:
Carol Chase, MS, RD, Nutrition Education Administrator, California Department of Education, Education & Nutrition Policy
Carol Danaher, MPH, RD, Public Health Nutritionist, Santa Clara County Public Health
Kitty Lenhart, MEd, RD, Child Health and Nutrition Specialist, Contra Costa Child Care Council
Sarah Samuels, Ph.D., President, Samuels & Associates
This session will focus on the research, policy and practical investments necessary to reduce obesity and promote healthy lifestyles among California’s children in child care settings. Panelists will provide an overview of the obesity epidemic specific to children 0 to 5 and the importance of the early years in shaping the physical, emotional and social well-being of children. The following topics will be covered:
• Results from the “California Child Care Survey: Nutrition & Physical Activity for 2-5 year olds”.
• Promotion of healthy eating habits and physical activity in child care settings.
  • Identification of the Goals and Recommendations specific to State Policy, State Business Practices and Federal Policy identified in the 2009 CDE report on “Keeping Children Healthy in California’s Child Care Environments”.
• Supporting healthful eating and physical activity in child care through assessment of the environment.
  • Contra Costa Child Care Counsel Self Assessment Questionnaire.
• The importance of working collaboratively to teach parents best practice early child feeding methods and improve the environments in which children are fed.
  • Results from the Childhood Feeding Collaborative of Santa Clara County.
Decades of research (Hart & Risely; National Early Literacy Panel, 2008) point to the importance of language and literacy achievements in preschool as critical to later reading and school success. Panelists will discuss high quality teaching practices and how these support young children’s language and literacy development. High quality teaching practices are examined from various perspectives, including the importance of supporting children through rich and warm teacher-child interactions, the importance of providing children systematic instruction in key content areas, and the importance of understanding and supporting the particular needs of special groups of children within the classroom, including English language learners.

Wednesday, March 2, 2011
STRONGER TOGETHER: Working Smarter in Pre K-12

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  REGISTRATION .................................................. Grand Nave Foyer

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS ....................................... Grand Nave Ballroom

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST WITH CHAMPIONS
“Engaging Business and Philanthropy in Support of Early Learning”
Moderator: Ted Lempert, President, Children Now
Champions:
Richard C. Alexander, Founder, Viking Industries; Chair, Ready for School Campaign
Richard S. Atlas, Founder and Trustee, The Atlas Family Foundation
Dan Pedersen, President, Buffett Early Childhood Fund
Susan Sifuentes Trigueros, Regional Public Affairs Manager, The Gas Company

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
MORNING KEYNOTE CONVERSATION
Moderator: Catherine Atkin, President, Preschool California
Panelists:
Jacqueline Jones, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the United States Secretary for Early Learning
Harriet Meyer, MA, Strategic Initiatives, The Ounce of Prevention Fund
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  EARLY LEARNING INNOVATIONS WITHIN THE K-12 SYSTEM  
*Moderator:*  Adonai Mack, Legislative Advocate, Association of California School Administrators  
*Panelists:*  
Charlene Clemens, Consultant, Teen and Family Services;  
Cal-SAFE Advisory Workgroup member  
Michele Copher, Ed.D., Administrator, Educational Services,  
Fresno County Office of Education  
Whit Hayslip, former Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood Education,  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Debra Weller, President, California Kindergarten Teachers Association

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.  BREAK

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  LUNCH AND AFTERNOON KEYNOTE CONVERSATION  
*David Brooks,*  New York Times Columnist  
*Lois Salisbury,*  Director, Children, Families and Communities Program,  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  THE POLITICS OF ECE FINANCE REFORM AND REVENUE GENERATION  
*Moderator:*  Molly Munger, Co-Director, Advancement Project  
*Panelists:*  
David Crippens, Vice Chair Education & Workforce Development,  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Chair, UNITE-LA;  
Chair, Los Angeles Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee  
The Honorable Noreen Evans, California State Senate;  
Chair, California Legislative Women’s Caucus  
Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director, California Tax Reform Association  
Fernando Guerra, Director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles;  
Professor of Political Science and Chicana Studies, Loyola Marymount University  
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee on  
Health and Human Services, California State Assembly  
Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker, California State Assembly

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  WORKSHOPS  
1. Building California’s Early Learning System:  
Looking Forward with the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) . . . . . . . . . . .  Compango  
*Moderator:*  Janet Lopez, Senior Policy Analyst, Preschool California  
*Presenters:*  
Meera Mani, Program Officer, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Scott Moore, Executive Director, California Early Learning Advisory Council  
Jennifer Stedron, Ph.D., Policy Director, Early Childhood Education, Health and Human Services;  
Executive Director, Early Childhood Leadership Commission, Colorado

As the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee has concluded its report and recommendations, California’s Early Learning Advisory Council is now poised to move forward with building California’s early learning system for children from birth to five. Having received $10.8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to support the work of the Council, the next phase of its work will focus on QIS piloting and agenda-setting for the future. Panelists will discuss ELAC’s plans for the next year and lessons learned from other states as to how these pilots can influence state policymaking on early care and education. Audience members are invited to participate and provide ELAC with informal feedback throughout the workshop.
2. Working with Media and Lawmakers to Support ECE Advocacy

Moderator: Ted Lempert, President, Children Now
Presenters:
Dan Cohen, Principal, Full Court Press Communications
Brian Lee, Deputy Director, Fight Crime Invest in Kids California
Terri Rosales, Vice President of Communications, Los Angeles Universal Preschool

In order to be truly effective, early learning advocates must be able to engage powerful external partners to bring attention to the issues facing early childhood education in California. This workshop will consist of a hands-on discussion of different ways in which early learning advocates can engage both the media and lawmakers to support and defend early childhood education programs. Panelists will discuss strategies for media engagement to gain positive sustained coverage and build public support for early learning programs and proposals. They will also discuss ways in which lawmakers and law enforcement can be cultivated as early learning champions, and will focus especially on the engagement and importance of unlikely allies for this movement.

3. Finding the Money for Infants and Toddlers

Moderator: Nancy Strohl, Office of Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell, California State Assembly
Presenters:
Swati Adarkar, Executive Director, Children's Institute, Oregon
Margie Wallen, National Policy Consultation, The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Illinois

Securing sustained and comprehensive funding for infant and toddler programs is a high priority when considering the needs of California's youngest learners. The panelists in this session will discuss the various political strategies that can be employed to create the will necessary for new or enhanced funding for infants and toddlers. The panelists will draw from the examples of other states as they discuss coalition building, political strategy, and potential challenges within the context of creating new infant toddler funding streams. The workshop will explore in detail the process of creating the Illinois infant toddler set-aside and its relationship to the preschool advocacy movement within a birth to five frame, and Oregon's recent victory in securing additional state funding for Early Head Start expansion.

4. Pathways to the Future: Road to a Professional Workforce

Moderator: Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Executive Director, Early Learning Advisory Council
Presenters:
Jan DeLapp, Professor of Early Childhood Education, American River College; Director, California Curriculum Alignment Project
Marianne Jones, Chair, Department of Child, Family and Consumer Sciences, California State University, Fresno

Improvements in the education, training, and retention of the early childhood workforce result in improved child outcomes. Panelists will discuss emerging policies and practices that support the importance of a diverse and qualified early learning workforce to serve the developmental needs of young children and their families. Panelists will discuss innovative models to support increasing early educators’ education levels and competencies, and explore the implications of recently enacted legislation on articulation between the community colleges and four-year institutions.

5. The Politics of Family Engagement

Moderator: Sandy Escobedo, Deputy Field Director, Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative, California Community Foundation
Presenters:
Bryn Fortune, Director for Parenting Leadership, Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Lucy L. Okumu, Senior Strategist, Strategic Counsel
Patty Siegel, Executive Director, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network; Founder, Parent Voices

Effective family engagement emphasizes shared responsibility and opportunities to support children’s learning from birth onward. This workshop will inform new directions for policies and identify national, state, and local strategies that can drive these opportunities. Panelists will share promising examples of family engagement, assess opportunities to integrate family engagement by leveraging existing and emerging reform programs, and consider which strategies will help to build momentum for sustained family engagement.
The Boeing Company is proud to sponsor the Water Cooler Conference.

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