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**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

MARCH 24, 2015  
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Joy Garcia

**CELEBRATING YOUNG CHILDREN: APRIL 11-18, 2015**

**First 5 Shasta Supports WOYC Projects for Families**

Many hands, big and little, have busily prepared for the Week of the Young Child (WOYC), an annual nationwide celebration that has become a tradition for Shasta County families with young children. WOYC will take place April 11-18, 2015 and families are encouraged to use the WOYC Calendar at [first5shasta.org](http://first5shasta.org) to plan a week of memorable outings with their children. Behind the scenes, many big hands from a diverse group of agencies, organizations, and family-focused groups have come together to create over 40 fun, education-rich events that also help families connect with vital services and resources. In the friendly WOYC environment, children enjoy activities and parents may learn about supports they didn't realize were available to them.

In addition to publishing and distributing the WOYC Calendar, First 5 Shasta has awarded a total of **\$5,195** in **WOYC 2015 Mini-Grants** to support WOYC events and is providing over **1,000 children's books** that will be handed out during the week. Congratulations to the following WOYC 2015 mini-grant recipients!

Active 20-30 Club of Redding	The Big Race	\$500	Early Childhood Services, SCOE	Showcase of Storytelling	\$100
Early Foundations Children's Academy	Blast Off to Learning	\$500	Shasta County YMCA	It's Better When We Work Together	\$235
Gateway Unified School District	Healthy Family Fun Night	\$500	Shasta Head Start - Burney	Where the Wild Things Are	\$280
One Safe Place	Tugboats and Toolboxes	\$500	Shasta Head Start – Happy Valley	Happy Valley Big Car Race	\$500
Redding Cooperative Preschool	Fantastic 5 Senses Fun	\$400	Shasta Head Start - McArthur	Down on the Farm	\$280
Shasta County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council	Welcome to the Jungle – A Family Adventure	\$500	Shasta Head Start – Oak View Center	An Evening at the Children's Museum	\$500
			Turtle Bay Exploration Park	It's a Big, Big World, So Let's Take Care of It	\$400

Little hands also have been hard at work as young children from Shasta County preschools, child cares, and other children's groups handcrafted WOYC paper dolls for display in shop windows. Whether decorated with colorful scribbles or wildly adorned with google eyes, yarn hair and sequins, the paper dolls announce the Week of the Young Child. Most importantly, they remind us to support quality early childhood development and learning that helps children succeed in school, grow into productive adults, and ultimately contribute to a thriving community.

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**Shasta Children and Families Commission**

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[www.first5shasta.org](http://www.first5shasta.org)