



Our Children • Our Future • Our Business

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How Will \$13k Elevate Quality Child Care and Early Learning?

16 Grantees Reach Higher with First 5 Shasta Funding

When your child can't always be at home with you, choosing a high-quality child care provider or preschool will help contribute to their healthy development and learning. That's why First 5 Shasta has awarded grants to sixteen Shasta County preschool and child care providers to help them buy play equipment, classroom materials, and items to support active learning. High-Quality Child Care and Education Equipment Mini-Grants totaling just over \$13,000 demonstrate an investment in local child care providers and preschools reaching higher to offer quality experiences and environments that help young children learn and grow.

The sixteen grant recipients are as follows: Farah Baker, Karen Bobier Family Childcare, Bright Futures Children Center, Castle Rock Community Preschool, Caterpillar Campus Preschool, Amelia Griffiths Family Child Care Home, Home Away From Home Childcare, Teresa Hunt, Intermountain Community Center Children's Program, Marsha Reynolds Family Childcare, Kristina Serna, Sycamore Elementary School Inclusion and Special Day Preschool Classrooms, Tiffanie's Daycare, Tots and Toddlers Child Care, and West Redding Preschool. **A complete roster of grant recipients and award details is attached (page 2).**

Carol von Brandt, owner of Cozy Kids Childcare, took to Facebook to share her excitement when she learned she'd received one of the mini-grants. Von Brandt posted, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! First 5 Shasta for another generous grant. This year.....a Waldorf play stand. Made in America too! This is awesome! As we were unwrapping it, watching the tutorial to construct it, and finally finishing the build, we had so many great suggestions of what it could become; house, store, manger, fort, plane, restaurant, train, tent...."

These mini-grant recipients were required to meet a pre-requisite before they were eligible to apply for funding. They were required to attend a workshop to learn all about the value and implementation of the Quality Rating Improvement System being developed by North State QRIS, a regional consortium comprised of First 5 organizations and early care and education partners, including First 5 Shasta as the lead agency.

Hilary Bingham, QRIS Manager for North State QRIS, says "These mini-grants provide an opportunity for early educators to purchase materials and equipment potentially beyond their budgets. The North State Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) identifies the care or learning environment as a 'second teacher,' so it's important to have developmentally appropriate and stimulating materials that foster a child's growth. It is encouraging to see providers get excited about improving their program quality. These grant awards are so much more than just the materials to be purchased. The enhancing effect they will have on children's development will factor well into their futures.

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Shasta Children and Families Commission

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First 5 Shasta Grantees: High-Quality Child Care and Education Equipment Mini-Grant					
Farah Baker (family child care)	Sand and Water Sensory Play Equipment	\$ 661	Terresa Hunt (family child care)	Outdoor Play Equipment Including Trikes, Scooter, and Safety Helmets	\$ 955
Karen Bobier Family Childcare	Children's Books & Small Sensory and Experiential Play Equipment	\$1,000	Intermountain Community Center Children's Program	Listening Center with Audio Book Sets and Child Safe Furnishings	\$ 996
Bright Futures Children Center	Second Step Conflict Resolution Curriculum and Literacy Materials	\$ 979	Marsha Reynolds Family Childcare	Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skill Building Small Equipment	\$ 911
Castle Rock Community Preschool	Classroom Cubbies, Books & Sand and Water Sensory Play Equipment	\$1,000	Kristina Serna (family child care)	Social and Cognitive Skill Building Light Table with Shapes and Accessories	\$ 413
Caterpillar Campus Preschool	Doll House and Multi-cultural Dolls for Social-Emotional Play, Motor Skills Boat/ Bridge and Educational Observation Equipment	\$ 529	Sycamore Elementary School Inclusion and Special Day Preschool Classrooms	Playground Small Equipment to Enhance Safe, Cooperative Play	\$ 951
Cozy Kids Childcare	Waldorf Play Stand and Dramatic Play Kitchen	\$ 654	Tiffanie's Daycare	Cognitive and Social-Emotional Skill Building Activity Supplies, Manipulative Library, and Dolls	\$1,000
Amelia Griffiths Family Child Care Home	Safe and Sanitary Toy and Materials Organizers	\$ 295	Tots and Toddlers Child Care	Sensory Play Materials	\$ 750
Home Away From Home Childcare	Child Resting Cots (meeting quality standards)	\$ 929	West Redding Preschool	Child-accessible Supply Storage, Small Sensory Materials, and Listening Center to Enhance Language Development	\$1,000

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When it comes to making a difference for Shasta County, First 5 Shasta remains at the forefront of investors dedicating money, energy, and expertise where it can do the most good - early childhood. This investment benefits the entire community for generations to come as children grow into successful students and productive adults. First 5 Shasta was established after California voters approved Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50-cent tax on tobacco to fund programs and activities that support early childhood development and school readiness. To date, First 5 Shasta has invested over \$25 million in local programs, services, and activities that benefit children ages 0-to-5.

Learn more: first5shasta.org