



Childhood Advisory Council Committee & Program Reports Thursday, February 13, 2025

Subsidized Programs Consortium Committee:

The SPC subcommittee addressed concerns from parents about the availability of Transitional Kindergarten programs and the capacity to serve four-year-olds in the CSPP programs. TK will enroll younger children. Discussion about UPK outreach materials contents to reflect current regulations. Members highlighted the necessity of maintaining a focus on play within educational programs. Concerns about the timing of program shifts for children turning three, stressing the need for community education.

Childhood Advisory Council – Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee supports the CAC Community Organizer edit and review of the *Santa Cruz County Child Care Workforce Study Executive Summary*. Executive summary is ready to present to the full council.

A few Childhood Advisory Council members attended the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors CORE Investment funding and noted the dismissal of the Optimal Solutions at the November 26, 2025 meeting. Members developed a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting that they recognize the value that Optimal Solutions brought to the multi-year CORE Conditions Model process. The Childhood Advisory Council, like many other organizations, embraced the CORE Conditions and aligned our strategic plan with them. The abrupt decision to end the Optimal Solutions contract also neglected to provide any indication of a thoughtful plan for future implementation of the CORE model and movement, putting into question the many years of huge financial investment in the process.

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Leadership Team (IEEEP):

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education received IEEEP Round 2 grant in October 2024. This grant will continue to provide needed support to eight state funded early care programs in the county. With the sole purpose of expanding inclusive early care programs to provide instruction in the least restrictive learning environments to children with disabilities. In order to achieve this, IEEEP Round 2 will provide professional learning opportunities, a mental health coach and resources for eight early care programs. IEEEP professional development will educate and build confidence in early care teachers who care for our most vulnerable children in the county.

UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup:

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Childhood Advisory Council received state funding to coordinate the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup program. The purpose of the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup grant is to improve access universally to children ages three- and four-year-old across the state through local mixed-delivery systems. The mixed delivery plan is part of the overall COE UPK plan for the county. The community organizer and educational consultant are collaborating with Miller Maxfield to develop UPK PreK TK mixed delivery outreach materials to inform families about their early care learning options. Also Applied Survey Research will host family focus groups to gather family preference data that will inform school districts, extended learning programs and early care partners.

Join us at the next **UPK Mixed Delivery meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.**

Join us at the: PreK & TK Community Forum, Thursday, February 27th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm at the Seascap Golf Course, Aptos.

Guest speaker: Deborah Stipek, Stanford University will provide the keynote "Playful Instruction". This forum is intended for school districts and early education partners. Dinner will be provided.

Please use the link below to learn more about the event and to register. Santa Cruz County PreK TK Community Forum:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17d6hKc3aC4gHTa7k2Rso1qeBt2EOp3Dk/view>