



**FIRST 5 MARIN**

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## Spotlight: Climate Solutions Forum

UNICEF says, "The impacts of climate change put almost every child at risk." The American Academy of Pediatrics says, "Climate change not only affects the lives of children now, it has everything to do with their future."



*That makes climate change a **climate crisis** for children. And that is why First 5 Marin is involved in a Climate Solutions forum.*

We are proud to be partnering with **Drawdown Bay Area** to produce a **free Climate Solutions event** this Friday, March 18th from 8 am to noon. (A breakfast buffet will be served.) This is part of our ongoing **Marin Communications Forums**--and the first in-person event in two years. (A *livestream option will also be available.*)

Please join us to hear:

- a **welcome** from **Congressman Jared Huffman**
- a **keynote address** from **Rhea Suh**, CEO of the Marin Community Foundation and former President of the Natural Resources Defense Council
- the **youth perspective** on climate actions from Marin County student organizers; moderated by **Trevor Cohen**, author of

"Bright Green Future"

-**climate solutions** from **Leslie Alden**, executive director of Drawdown Bay Area, with comments from **David Moller** (Climate Reality, Building Electrification) + **Dr. Itoco Garcia** (Superintendent of the Sausalito-Marín City School District) + **Carleen Cullen** (Ride and Drive Clean/Cool the Earth) + **Leanne Hoadley** (Marín Clean Energy)

**RSVP!** If you would like to join us for the Climate Solutions Forum this Friday, RSVP too [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org) today.

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## FORUM:

### Transitional Kindergarten

Friday, April 1st - 10 am to 3 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael

*Lunch included*

**OPENING REMARKS** by **Mary Jane Burke**, Marín County Superintendent of Schools, and **Dr. Bruce Fuller** from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** by region-- to discuss **workforce issues, funding, logistics, quality programs and equity concerns**.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**Tony Thurmond**

*"Launching Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK):  
Transforming California Schools"*

**REGISTRATION** - Please email [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org) to RSVP for the TK forum on Friday, April 1st at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** in San Rafael. *This is a free event, and lunch will be provided.* If you have any questions, call First 5 Marín at 415-257-8555.

**JOIN US for First 5 Marín's March**

**commission meeting-- this Wednesday,  
March 16th from 5:15 to 7:15 pm. On  
the agenda: strategic planning update  
+ Q1 and Q2 financials + annual report  
+ summer backpack giveaways.**

## **DESKTOP: What We're Reading**

Take a look at some of the recent articles about important issues related to children and families:



### **[The Atlantic: How the Pandemic Has Shaped Babies' Development](#)**

The first two years of life are a time of astonishing brain growth. What has that meant for the toddlers who have only known a world with COVID? Two years is a long time in any child's life. It's time enough for toddlers to leap from first words to conversations. For the babies born in March 2020, just as the pandemic was declared, two years make up their whole lives. (Denworth, 3/11/22)

### **[HHS.gov: New HHS Study in JAMA Pediatrics Shows Significant Increases in Children Diagnosed with Mental Health Conditions from 2016 to 2020](#)**

A new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study published in the American Medical Association's journal [JAMA Pediatrics](#) exit disclaimer icon reports significant increases in the number of children diagnosed with mental health conditions. The study finds that between 2016 and 2020, the number of children ages 3-17 years diagnosed with anxiety grew by 29 percent and those with depression by 27 percent. (3/14/22)

### **[New York Times: Which Coronavirus Vaccine Will Work In The Youngest Children?](#)**

Over the past 10 months, as tens of millions of

children and teenagers received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the companies' main rival, Moderna, sat on the sidelines, its shot limited to adults. But Moderna may now be poised for a comeback at a critical juncture in the nation's vaccination campaign. The company is expected to send federal officials initial data this week on how well its coronavirus vaccine works for the nation's youngest children. (LaFraniere and Weiland, 3/14/22)

### **The Hechinger Report: OPINION: What might the future of universal pre-K look like? As researchers, we have some concerns**

As researchers involved with early care and education, we should be pleased that President Biden's first State of the Union address underscored his administration's commitment to public universal preschool. His plan could provide access for millions of children and families. Yet, our excitement is tempered by concerns that children will not thrive if we put more "school" into preschool. We urge policymakers to move away from the belief that young children need two more years of "school" before kindergarten. (Dearing and Farran, 3/15/22)

### **New York Times: Parents, What Would Make Your Lives Better?**

Even though Covid case levels are at a low right now, things aren't back to normal for most American parents. Child care availability is still laughable, and it's affecting parents' ability to do their jobs. A new report from Pew Research Center shows that 48 percent of people who left jobs in 2021 said they did so in part because of child care issues. I don't know about you, but my brain still feels pretty broken. (Grose, 3/12/22)

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# Join us!

**First 5 Marin's  
Policy Breakfast**

**Friday, May 6, 2022  
8:30 am  
Embassy Suites Hotel**

**Child Care Keeps Marin  
Working!**

*Keynote speaker will be announced soon!*