

# Newsletter: August 2022



**FIRST 5 MARIN**

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## Spotlight: First 5 Marin's Strategic Plan 2022-2030

**First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission** is proud to present our new [Strategic Plan for 2022-2030!](#)

Our Strategic Plan is grounded in listening to and incorporating community voices, ensuring that our approach to developing programs is equitable, and utilizing policy and systems change investments to strengthen early childhood systems of care.

**Our Vision:** Every child in Marin County will thrive in supportive families and communities that nurture their greatest potential.

**Our Mission:** We work for and in support of children and families with the greatest need by strengthening systems, advocating at the regional and state levels, and providing services and supports.

**Commitment to Equity:** First 5 Marin is committed to serving children and families in Marin County through equitable and inclusive community engagement. Through our actions, we aim to combat the harm that historically racist practices have inflicted on communities of color in Marin County.

### **Investment Priorities:**

- Alignment with Our Goals and Objectives
- Equity
- Responsiveness to Community Voice
- Partnership
- Impact
- Sustainability

**Strategic Priorities:** Systems Strengthening, Policy & Advocacy, and Direct Services will be our primary strategies; Communications and Data & Information strategies will support and complement the primary strategies.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1. Families are connected to services and resources to optimize their

- child's development.
2. Children have high-quality early care and education experiences that promote early development.
  3. Children are physically and mentally healthy.

You may read the complete Strategic Plan [HERE](#). Meet our commissioners and staff, learn about upcoming events, get information for parents-- and more-- on our website: [www.First5Marin.org](http://www.First5Marin.org).

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## BIG NEWS! New Funding for Help Me Grow Marin

**Help Me Grow Marin**, a project of First 5 Marin, was selected to participate in a nationwide learning community, just one of two organizations working on "Family and Community Outreach." We are proud to announce that we will receive a \$60,000 stipend to support our work.

"Family and Community Outreach" builds on parent and provider understanding of healthy child development and supportive services available to families in their community-- and how both are important to improving children's well-being.

As part of this project, Help Me Grow Marin will partner with **Parent Services Project**, **Marin Promise Partnership** and **Shoreline Unified School District** to bring "parent cafes" throughout West Marin as part of the national "Be Strong Families Program."

Watch for more Help Me Grow news in the coming months!

*[Do you have questions about your child's learning, development or behavior? For more information about Help Me Grow Marin and how our bilingual staff can help your child and your family, please visit [www.HelpMeGrowMarin.org](http://www.HelpMeGrowMarin.org) or call 415-720-1283.]*

**SAVE-THE-DATE** for the next meeting of the First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission: Wednesday, September 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.(In-person or online meeting is still TBD; please call us in September to confirm final plans-- 415-257-8555.)

**Summer Learning Tote  
Bags from First 5 Marin!**

What better way to spend the summer than handing out tote bags filled with school and art supplies plus a free book!

This summer has been a lot of fun, as **First 5 Marin** followed The Learning Bus around the county to distribute "**Summer Learning Tote Bags**" filled with crayons and coloring books, markers and colored pencils, paper and scissors, plus a glue stick and play dough!



Earlier this year, our commission approved funding up to \$25,000 to pay for these school and art supplies for young children, which fill a canvas tote bag provided by the Marin County Free Library. And everyone gets to select a beautiful new book!

So far, we have visited children, families and caregivers at parks and libraries in Bolinas, Point Reyes, Corte Madera, Novato, San Rafael, South Novato and the Civic Center Lagoon.

\*\*\* And this Friday, August 12th, The Learning Bus will be at the Fairfax Library at 10 am. Come on out for interactive storytime, games, friendly faces and **FREE tote bags** and bilingual books!

**#TalkReadSing and play-- to learn and have fun!**

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## **UPDATE: Marin Communications Forum**

The next meeting of the **Marin Communications Forum** is scheduled for Friday, September 23rd, when our topic will be "**Fighting Hunger and Food Insecurity in Marin .**"

Working with Marin County Health and Human Services, we are putting together a robust program about public benefits, food assistance programs, food systems, partnerships and collaborations, and new policy proposals to combat hunger and food insecurity.

Mark your calendar for September 23rd and plan to join us for this important forum... and a healthy breakfast!

To register, click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

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## **First 5 Things to Read**

# Today!

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

**1. POLITICO: Child cares face a new threat: Public preschool**

Free universal preschool is finally arriving in states like California, thanks to ballooning budget surpluses. But for child cares already dealing with staffing shortages, the timing couldn't be worse.



**2. Washington Post: Covid vaccine uptake for the youngest children is shockingly low**

A month into the campaign to get the youngest children vaccinated against the coronavirus, it's clear that a lot of parents still have questions. Only 2.8 percent of children under age 5 have received their shots.

**3. New York Times: Would We Have Paid Parental Leave if More Moms Were in Congress?**

In "Electable: Why America Hasn't Put a Woman in the White House ... Yet," the NBC News Capitol Hill correspondent Ali Vitali describes Amy Klobuchar's well-honed political origin story.

**4. CBS: Baby formula shortage is easing for many, but it still isn't over**

About a month ago, Vicki Hankins and her husband were putting serious miles on their car while hunting for baby formula.

**5. Forbes: Breastfeeding Gives Every Baby The Best Start In Life**

UNICEF and the World Health Organization are calling on all governments to invest in resources to protect, promote and support breastfeeding policies and programs, particularly for the most vulnerable in emergency settings.

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