



FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

Spotlight: Summer Learning Tote Bags

Well, that was fun!

What a great way to spend the summer--handing out 1800 **"Summer Learning Tote Bags"** to young children all over Marin County!

The bags were 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. We partnered with the **Marin County Free Library**, which provided a canvas tote bag and a beautiful new book chosen by each child.

[For the infants and toddlers too young for school supplies, we provided age-appropriate "learning toys" to promote color and number recognition, development matching and stacking skills, and engage learning.]

Tote bags were distributed at fun community events in Bolinas, Point Reyes, Corte Madera, Novato, San Rafael, South Novato, Fairfax and at the Civic Center Lagoon. Our friends at **The Learning Bus** provided interactive storytime, singalong and games for the kids, their families and caregivers.

Thanks to our commissioners who were able to join us: **David Bonfilio** (pictured above), **Kari Beuerman** (Director of Social Services for the County of Marin) and **Dr. Jessica Hollman** (a pediatrician with Marin Community Clinics).

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

JOIN US ONLINE for the next meeting of the First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission: Wednesday, September 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. (For the Zoom link, please email Michelle@First5Marin.org.)



Marin Communications Forum: Fighting Hunger and Food Insecurity

The next meeting of the **Marin Communications Forum** is scheduled for Friday, September 23rd: "**Fighting Hunger and Food Insecurity in Marin.**" Join us at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. We will be offering a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 9 a.m.

Working with Marin County Health and Human Services, we have planned a robust program about public benefits, food assistance programs, food systems, partnerships and collaborations, and new policy proposals to combat hunger and food insecurity. *(And thanks to the County for co-sponsoring this event!)*

Hope you can join us! We'd like your **RSVP** by Monday the 19th.

To register, click [HERE](#).

First 5 Things to Read in

the News Today!

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

1. The Economist:

America-wide universal pre-school is dead, but California forges ahead

California's governor, Gavin Newsom, signed a bill last year to introduce free schooling for all four-year-olds by 2025. The first phase, for those who turn five between September 2nd and February 2nd, began this year. In each of the next three school years, extra months of age will be added, until all four-year-olds are eligible.

2. The Wall Street Journal:

California Gov. Gavin Newsom Signs Law Requiring Social Media Companies to Consider Children's Health

Social-media companies that operate in California will have to consider the health and well-being of children under a first-of-its-kind bill signed into law Thursday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

3. The New York Times

Opinion | How to Address the Child Therapist Shortage

Ways to make the work more sustainable for new and experienced therapists.

4. The Los Angeles Times

Will kindergarten be mandatory in California?

A bill approved by the state Senate would require children to complete kindergarten before entering first grade, beginning in the 2024-25...

5. EdSource

Opportunity begins in kindergarten

Kindergarten is more than just play. It is one of the most formative periods for learning and development in a child's life. At 5 to 6 years old...

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