

First 5 San Diego is dedicated to ensuring that all children in the San Diego region enter kindergarten ready to succeed. To achieve this goal, First 5 San Diego's learning programs help children prepare to be successful in school.



For more information about First 5 San Diego learning programs, call 1-888-5 FIRST 5 (1-888-534-7785) or visit our website at [www.first5sandiego.org](http://www.first5sandiego.org)



Improving the lives of children ages 0 through 5.

The first five years of life are critical to a child's development. These years shape a child's success in school and in life. First 5 San Diego helps parents and others to help children during these critical years.

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# Learning



head·hand·heart  
call First 5 San Diego for a good start.



## Preschool for All

Preschool is an important part of a child's development. Studies have shown that children who go to preschool do very well in kindergarten. Generally, kids who go to preschool learn better and are better able to behave in a classroom when they get to kindergarten.

In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, the First 5 San Diego Preschool for All program provides free, quality half-day preschool programs to families in Escondido, Valley Center/Pauma, Lemon Grove, National City, South Bay, San Ysidro and Vista. The Preschool for All program is designed to give children access to a quality preschool education to help ensure that they are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

## School Readiness

Success in school begins even before a child goes to kindergarten. That's why First 5 San Diego launched its School Readiness Initiative in 2002. The School Readiness program helps young children get ready for kindergarten by helping them improve their physical, social, emotional and thinking skills.

The School Readiness program encourages parents to become involved early on in their children's education, provides additional training for teachers, and builds partnerships for transitions between preschools and elementary schools.

Eight school districts participate in the School Readiness program. Cajon Valley, National City, San Diego, San Ysidro and Vista offer preschool. Escondido and Oceanside have parent/child centers. Chula Vista has programs for children with special needs.

## CARES

**(Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards)**

High quality childcare and preschool play an important role in preparing children for kindergarten. To help ensure that children in San Diego County have the best early learning experience possible, First 5 San Diego provides funding to preschool teachers, teaching assistants and family childcare providers who attend college to further their education.

The goal of CARES is to raise the quality of early childhood education for all children. By supporting teachers in their effort to enhance knowledge and skills, First 5 is helping to improve the quality of early learning in local communities.

## Special Needs Demonstration Project

The Chula Vista Elementary School District is one of 10 test sites across California that identifies children ages 5 and under with developmental delays and provides services for them and their families. The goal of this project is to identify and support children with delays early on so that they have the best chance to succeed in school and become more confident members of the community.