

2024-2025

Impact Snapshot



Prepared by



Table of Contents

Letter From the Director.....	1
About First 5 Siskiyou.....	2
Our Reach	7
Our Families.....	9
Goal Area 1: Resilient Families.....	10
What Are the Needs in Our Community?	11
How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?.....	12
ParentPowered Text Messaging Program.....	13
Family Fun Events.....	14
Parenting Workshops and Series	16
Kit for New Parents	18
Happy Camp Community Center.....	18
Welcome Home, Baby!	19
Goal Area 2: Quality Early Learning.....	20
What Are the Needs in Our Community?	21
How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?.....	22
Quality Counts Siskiyou.....	23
Playgroups.....	25
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	30
Family Literacy Promotion: Book Distribution.....	31
Kindergarten Readiness Assessments	32
Goal Area 3: Child Health and Development.....	34
What Are the Needs in Our Community?	35
How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?.....	36
Nutrition Education and Health Access.....	37
Help Me Grow.....	39
Goal Area 4: Strong Systems.....	40
How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?	41
Siskiyou Home Visitation Systems Coordination	42
Advancing CalAim: Systems Planning and Partnerships.....	44
Siskiyou Professional Development Partnership.....	45
Child Abuse Prevention Council	46
Annual Partner Survey.....	47

Letter From the Director

Dear Community Members and Partners,

It is an honor to share the 2024–25 Impact Snapshot for First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission and the Child Abuse Prevention Council. Each year, this Snapshot reflects something I witness daily across our county: **when people choose connection over isolation and collaboration over silos, children and families flourish.**



Raising young children in a rural county is both beautiful and at times demanding. Families navigate long distances, limited services, economic pressures, and the everyday stresses of parenting and yet, what stands out is not the challenge, but the response. Our community shows up. Early childhood educators, Community Based Organizations, schools, tribal partners, local agencies, child welfare and court partners, health and behavioral health providers, service clubs, including Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Nu Chapter, Siskiyou County Libraries, Ford Family Foundation and families themselves work side by side to create a safety net woven with care, safety, respect, and hope.

First 5 Siskiyou's role is to invest and partner intentionally reducing barriers, strengthening protective factors, nurturing resilience, and ensuring every child is safe, healthy, and ready to learn. This year, more than **5,585 young children, 4,900 caregivers, and 560 providers** were supported through programs, coaching, resources, and community partnerships. Behind each number is a story: a parent discovering confidence, a child making their first friend at playgroup, a provider gaining new tools, or partners aligning efforts to better serve families. These stories are the heartbeat of our work.

Partnerships remain our greatest strength. Progress in early childhood is never the result of one program or one organization, it is the cumulative impact of many hands, many voices, and many years of trust. **The dedication of our partners is what transforms good ideas into real change for families.**

This year's kindergarten readiness findings echo what we see every day. Children whose families engaged in multiple First 5 Siskiyou programs were more likely to enter school fully ready to learn. When families are connected, supported, and empowered, children thrive and our community grows stronger.

I am deeply grateful to the families who welcome us into their lives, to the providers who bring skill and heart to their work, and to the partners who collaborate with integrity, creativity, and unwavering commitment. Together, we are building a Siskiyou County where every child is valued, and every family has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for being part of this shared journey.

With gratitude,

Karen Pautz

Executive Director

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission

About

F5 Siskiyou

*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Dunsmuir Library.*



What We Do

First 5 Siskiyou promotes the well-being of children ages 0-5 through targeted investments across four goal areas: Resilient Families, Quality Early Learning, Child Health and Development, and Strong Systems. These goals support the overarching desired impact of Kindergarten Readiness. Building on First 5 Siskiyou's trusted role in early childhood prevention, First 5 Siskiyou was invited by Siskiyou County to be the county's Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), expanding funded services to school-age children and their families and ensuring continuity of care. This expansion reflects First 5 Siskiyou's commitment to whole-family support by strengthening protective factors and fostering resilience across developmental stages through trauma-informed programming, collaborative partnerships, outreach, and education.

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission nurtures resilience, and empowers community through investments and innovative partnerships and programs.

Vision

Siskiyou County's children are safe, healthy, and prepared to succeed in school and life as a result of the support and nurturing they receive from their families, caregivers, educators, and communities.

Mission

Increase positive outcomes for Siskiyou children and families through strong partnerships, a common agenda, and collective impact.

Goal Areas



Resilient Families

Promote parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete support in times of crisis.



Quality Early Learning

Ensure children are healthy and have the socio-emotional and cognitive skills to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.



Child Health and Development

Promote each child's physical, social, and emotional development.



Strong Systems

Coordinate and collaborate with other willing organizations to build new systems, strengthen the capacity of existing ones, and provide comprehensive and coordinated services for young children and their families.

Our Values

Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.



Collaboration

First 5 Siskiyou works cooperatively with communities and within established systems to develop common goals, leverage resources, and maximize efficacy of services for children and families.



Innovation

First 5 Siskiyou works with partners to identify and apply fresh solutions based on evidence and best practices to meet the specific needs of the diverse communities within our County.



Excellence

First 5 Siskiyou seeks to attain the highest quality outcomes, measured against established best practices and the most credible current research.



Accountability

First 5 Siskiyou is driven by results and is responsible for the resources the public entrusts in fulfilling its fiduciary, programmatic, and legal requirements.



Respect

Centering in equity and unity, First 5 Siskiyou welcomes and embraces input and assistance from families, partners, and communities to offer every child and family support and access to resources.



Invest Locally

First 5 Siskiyou understands the importance of community-based investments and is committed to funding Family Resource Centers as well as other services in our communities.

Our Principles

Summertime
Playgroup
and Storytime.

Build



Build long-term partnerships by fostering relationships beyond current contracts and programs. Focus on contributions of others rather than our own.

Sustain



Sustain constructive relationships based upon mutual respect, candor, and confidentiality. Always promote a tone of care, joy, passion, compassion, positive attitude, and professionalism.

Lead



Lead with care, foster unity, share knowledge, work as a team, be nimble and flexible. Act with honesty, integrity, and kindness.

Include



Include the perspectives, opinions, and experiences of the broadest possible sector of the community.

Be Accessible



Be accessible and welcoming. Listen, communicate clearly and respectfully.

Be Ethical



Follow ethical practices and ensure transparency in all aspects of the work.

How We Work

Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.

First 5 Siskiyou uses a tiered prevention approach to make the most of limited resources. Investments are organized along a continuum to support children and families early, address emerging needs, and provide more intensive services when additional support is needed. Together these tiered investments lay the foundation for children's long-term success, beginning with kindergarten readiness.

Universal Prevention

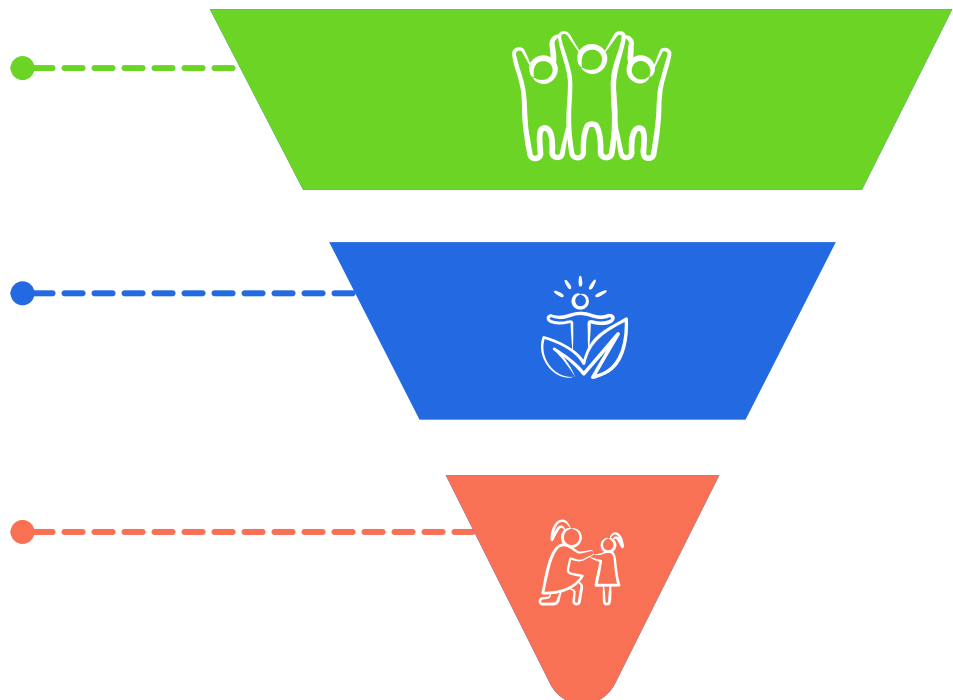
First 5 Siskiyou provides "light touch" universal primary prevention services to the entire population.

Early Intervention

First 5 Siskiyou provides early intervention support to prevent emerging needs from worsening, whether these be developmental needs of children or stabilization support for families.

Intervention

First 5 Siskiyou provides intervention services to address needs such as strengthening parent-child relationships amongst families in the child welfare system.



Summertime
Playgroup
and Storytime.



Why Our Work Starts with Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness reflects not just academic skills, but also children's social-emotional development, physical health, early learning experiences, and family support that shape the early years. Through a tiered prevention approach, First 5 Siskiyou invests early, responds to emerging needs, and provides more intensive support when needed. This helps children arrive at kindergarten healthy, supported, and ready to learn.

Our Reach

2024-25



Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.



5,585

Children ages
0-5 served*



4,847

Caregivers
supported*



560

Providers
engaged*

*Reflects duplicated counts.

A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a black and white striped dress and white socks, is standing on a bed of wood chips and painting on a large outdoor easel. The easel has a pink and blue abstract painting on it. In the background, there is a green building with a sign that says 'ACORN HOUSE' and a sign that says 'READ CAMP'. There are also red trash cans and a colorful blanket on the ground.

Summertime
Playgroup
and Storytime.

“

**“The world
needs more
programs like
First 5 Siskiyou.”**

-First 5 Siskiyou partner

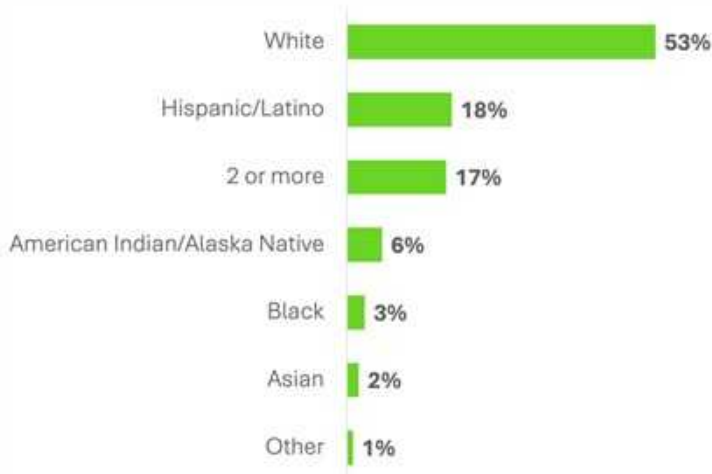
**“We're very lucky
to have [First 5
Siskiyou] in our
rural community.
They provide high-
quality trainings,
classes, and
activities that
ripple out and
benefit our entire
County.”**

-First 5 Siskiyou partner

Our Families

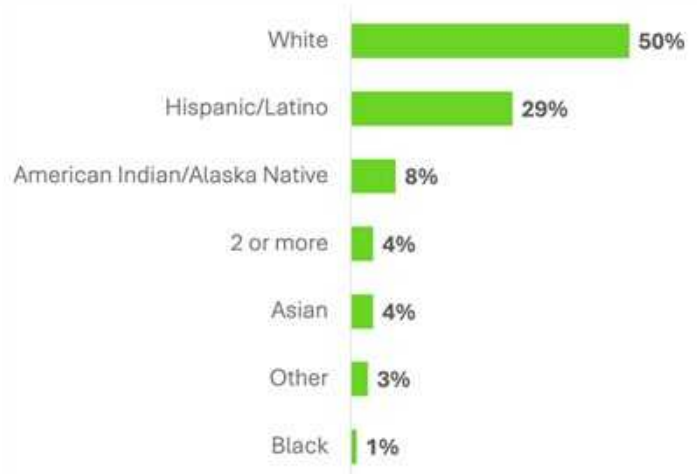
Child Ethnicity

More than half of children served by First 5 Siskiyou identify as White, with Hispanic/Latino and multiracial children representing the next largest groups.



Caregiver Ethnicity

Half of caregivers identify as White, and nearly three in 10 identify as Hispanic/Latino.

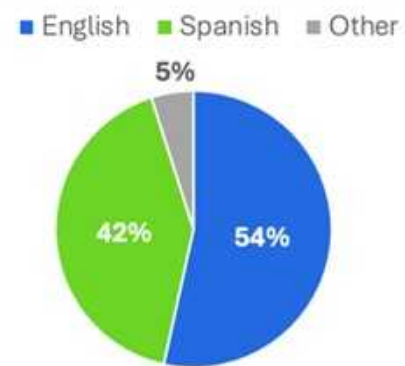


Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.



Caregiver Language

Most caregivers speak English, but nearly one in 10 speak Spanish.





*Holiday Family
Fun Event.*

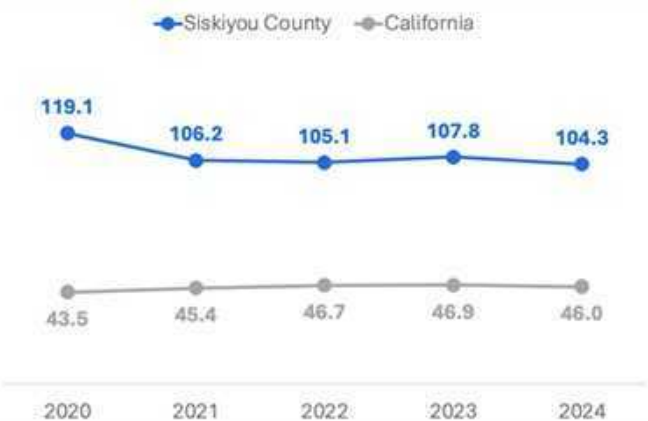
Goal Area 1:

Resilient Families

What Are the Needs in Our Community?

Maltreatment

RATE OF CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATIONS AMONG YOUTH 0-5 (RATE PER 1,000)



Source: UC Berkeley CCWIP.

Rates of child abuse allegations among young children in Siskiyou County remained substantially higher than statewide levels.

- The rate of child abuse allegations among children ages 0–5 in Siskiyou County declined modestly from 119.1 per 1,000 in 2020 to 104.3 per 1,000 in 2024, with rates remaining above 100 per 1,000 throughout the period.
- Siskiyou County's allegation rates consistently exceeded statewide levels by a wide margin, as California's rates remained relatively stable at approximately 46 per 1,000 over the same timeframe.

Poverty

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 0-5 LIVING IN POVERTY



Source: US Census ACS - 5-year estimates.

Child poverty in Siskiyou County remained high and exceeded statewide levels.

- The share of children under age six living below the poverty line in Siskiyou County remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2023, ranging from 23.1% to 24.6%.
- Throughout this time, Siskiyou County's child poverty rates consistently exceeded statewide levels, with the gap widening as California's rates declined to 15.1% in 2023.

How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?

Our Goal

Resilient Families

Promote parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete support in times of crisis

Our Outcomes

- 1** Families have access to resources and support in time of need to support self-sufficiency
- 2** Parents provide nurturing and positive emotional support to their children
- 3** Families increase social connections through locally-based, family-friendly activities

Our Investment

\$526K

Our Reach

2,555
Children

2,288
Caregivers

How We Strengthen Resilient Families



**Caregiver
Education and
Skill Building**



**Social
Connection**



**Family
Engagement**



**Basic Needs
and Resource
Navigation**

6
Programs

- ParentPowered Text Messaging Program
- Family Fun Events
- Parenting Workshops and Series
- Kit for New Parents
- Happy Camp Community Center
- Welcome Home, Baby!

PARENT POWERED TEXT MESSAGING PROGRAM

803

caregivers
enrolled

ParentPowered provides families with weekly age-aligned text messages to help strengthen child learning and development at home.

ParentPowered (formerly Ready4K) is an evidence-based, trauma-informed text messaging program. Families receive three weekly messages tailored for their child's age with fun facts and tips on how to promote children's development, resiliency, and learning at home. Families also receive Community Support Stream messages that connect them to resources such as healthcare, food access, and housing support.

Families reported strong engagement with ParentPowered: All caregivers read the messages as they arrived, felt supported by the guidances, and saw growth in their children's learning.

100%

of families said the texts help them feel supported as a parent.

100%

of families said ParentPowered has helped their child grow and learn.

100%

of families said they read the texts when they receive them.

TOPICS COVERED IN WEEKLY TEXT MESSAGES



**Language and
Literacy**



**Math and
Science**



**Problem-Solving
and Executive
Functioning**



**Social-
Emotional
Skills**



**Positive Self-
Development**

“

“[I liked] learning new information about how to parent at a specific age.”

-Siskiyou County Parent

“

“[I liked] reminders of things to do with my grandchild, like count by 10s!”

-Siskiyou County Grandparent

“

“[These texts have helped my child] with play and patience.”

-Siskiyou County Parent

FAMILY FUN EVENTS

1,186

children attended

610

caregivers attended

45

First 5 Siskiyou
funded/co-funded
family friend events
held

Family Fun Events offer opportunities for families to gather, celebrate, and connect locally.

First 5 Siskiyou hosted and/or co-funded 45 Family Fun Events this year, providing opportunities for families to spend quality time together and connect with other families in the community. Family Fun Events featured hands-on activities, games, crafts and seasonal celebrations, as well as opportunities to connect with local organizations and learn about available resources.

TYPES OF FAMILY FUN EVENTS



Community Festivals



School-Based Celebrations



Wellness and Resource Fairs



Seasonal Gatherings



Family Activity Events

Intentional investment in connection

This year First 5 Siskiyou expanded Family Fun Events in response to consistent feedback from families requesting more of these events. Through program restructuring, and increased funding for direct programming, First 5 Siskiyou hosted or co-funded 45 events this year, an increase from 28 events last year.

“

"Families have really consistently over the years have asked us for more Family Fun Events...I think those Family Fun Events are such a great way for them to make even more connections...families can come together, break bread, and just be exposed to culture as well as social connections." - First 5 Siskiyou Executive Director, Karen Pautz



*Earth Day
Celebration in
Mt. Shasta.*

Family Fun Events support positive experiences for children and families

In rural Siskiyou County, many families with young children face economic stress, isolation and limited access to services. Family Fun Events offer welcoming spaces where families can spend time together, explore hands-on activities, and connect with other families.

Research shows that strong community ties and opportunities for quality family time and bonding build resilience and promote healthy development.

“

“It can be isolating living in these towns where we are smaller, there's less of us. And so I think having a space where you can connect is super huge for parents and children.” - First 5 Siskiyou Staff Member



*Family Fun Event
at Jackson Street
School in Yreka.*

PARENTING WORKSHOPS AND SERIES

348

children
participated

653

caregivers
participated

9

evidence-based
parenting series
offered

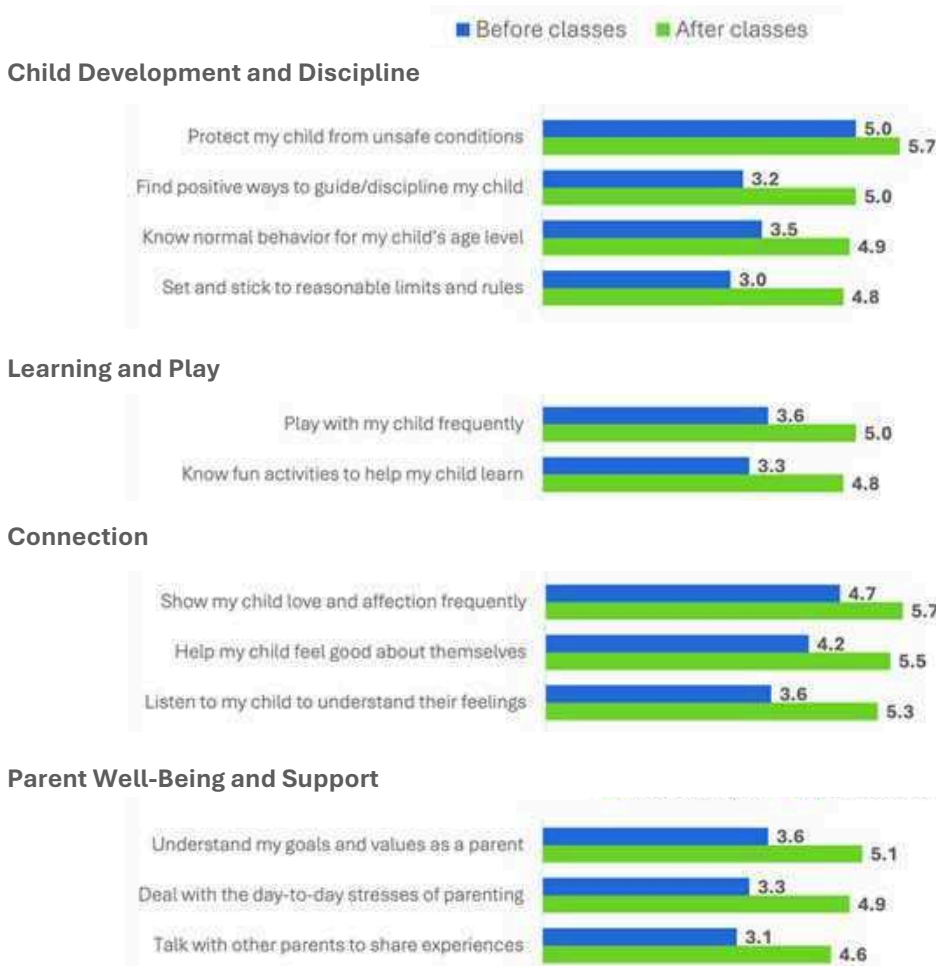
68

classes held
across series

Evidence-based parenting education helped families build skills and strengthen connections.

First 5 Siskiyou continued to lead the Strengthening Families Collaborative (SFC), delivering evidence-based parent education series and workshops across the County. The program supports Siskiyou County families in building parenting skills and nurturing strong relationships, including parents referred through child welfare and as part of court-diversion pathways. In addition to learning new parenting skills, families also learn about developmental milestones, age-appropriate behaviors, how to better manage day-to-day parenting stressors, and how to identify and use community resources. Some of the classes include hands-on activities for parents to practice new skills with their children in group settings, and all classes offer child care and family-style meals to reduce barriers to participation.

IMPROVEMENT IN PARENTING SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND WELL-BEING FOLLOWING PARENTING CLASSES



PARENTING PROGRAM TOPICS



Nurturing Parenting Programs
(for prevention of child maltreatment)



Strengthening Caregiving Environment



Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships



Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma



Special Populations
(e.g., kinship caregivers, families with neurodivergent children)



School Readiness

Following parenting classes, parents reported significant improvements in: positive discipline strategies, supporting learning through play, stronger parent-child relationships, and managing daily parenting stress.



Nurturing Parenting Program graduates.

“

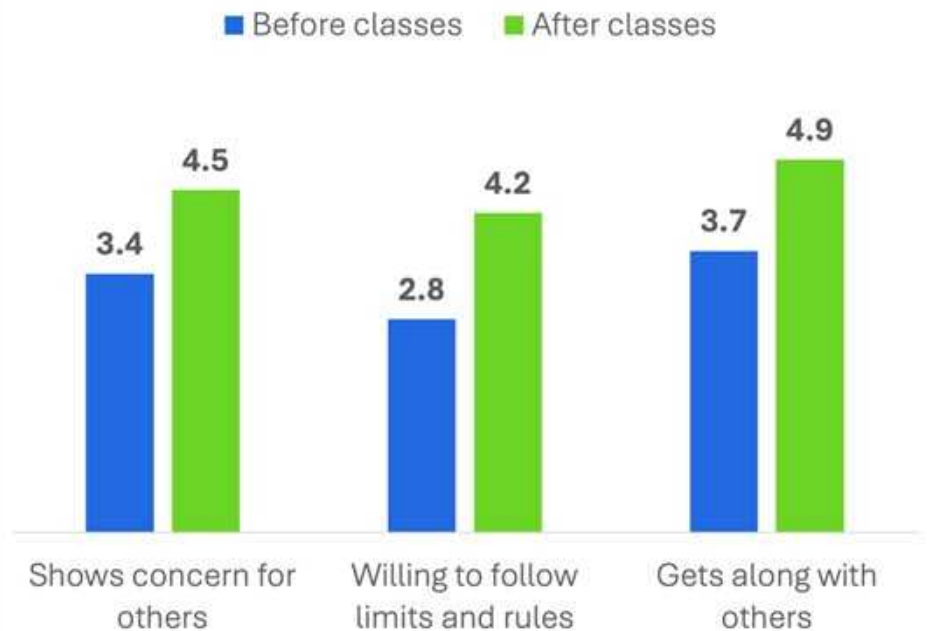
“I have more patience in dealing with my son.”

-Parenting class participant

“I am more self-aware of my actions and reactions to challenging moments in parenting.”

-Parenting class participant

IMPROVEMENT IN CHILD BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING PARENTING CLASSES



Parents noticed improvements in children’s behaviors following participation in parenting classes, including more empathy, cooperation and getting along with others.

Source: Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative Report – Siskiyou Site report, 2024-25. Parenting Ladder Retrospective Pre-Post Assessment. N = 50. The chart displays average mean scores for parents’ reported skills and perceptions before and after classes, on a scale of 1 (low) to 6 (high). All changes were statistically significant at *p < 0.05.

KIT FOR NEW PARENTS

197

families
received a Kit
for New Parents

Through a collaboration with First 5 California, First 5 Siskiyou distributed 197 Kits for New Parents. These comprehensive resource packages, which offer guidance on child development and parenting, were made available in hospitals, clinics, home visitation programs, and Family Resource Centers across the County to support both new and expectant parents.

First 5 Siskiyou helped deliver free Kits for New Parents in Spanish and English, expanding access to parenting resources.

144

Kits for New Parents delivered to parents at Fairchild Medical Center



HAPPY CAMP COMMUNITY CENTER

8

children
served

First 5 Siskiyou partnered with Happy Camp Community Center to provide First 5 Siskiyou services to the community.

Happy Camp Community Center provides place-based prevention and early intervention supports that help strengthen families, promote protective factors, and reduce the risk of child maltreatment. This year, First 5 Siskiyou contracted with Happy Camp Community Center to connect children, caregivers, and families to resources, referrals, and supports that promote child and family well-being.

12

caregivers
served



NUMBER OF RESOURCES AND REFERRALS PROVIDED



10

**Nutrition, Health,
and Development**



8

**Basic Needs,
Parenting, and
Family Supports**



8

**Quality Early
Learning**



1

**Community
Supports**

WELCOME HOME, BABY!

13

mothers
participated

18

referrals
provided

9

mothers
screened for
postpartum
depression

17

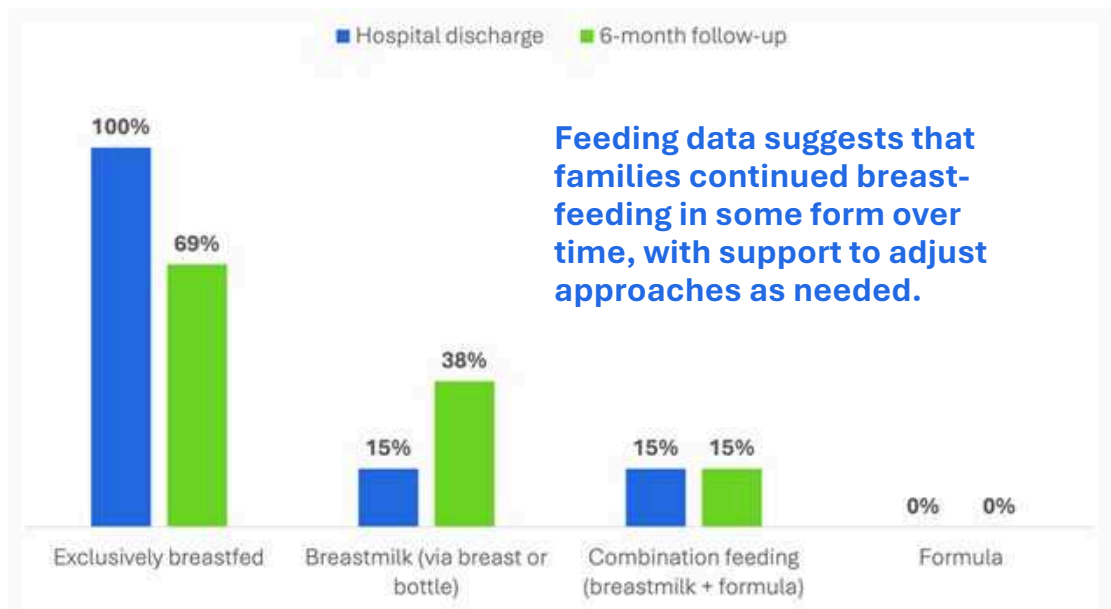
children's books
and New Parent
Kits distributed

Welcome Home, Baby! is a home visitation program staffed by a public health nurse that offers new parents information and support to help them through the journey of early parenthood.

A core focus of Welcome, Home, Baby! is lactation and infant feeding support. Families also receive information about newborn care, infant sleep, crying and soothing, and immunizations. In addition, families are provided with a Kit for New Parents, mental health screening and information on postpartum blues and recovery, and linkages to community resources and services.

Welcome Home, Baby! provides home-based nurse visits to support families with lactation and newborn care.

INFANT FEEDING METHODS AMONG PARTICIPATING MOTHERS OVER TIME



Source: Welcome Home, Baby! Performance Dashboard, 2024-25. N = 13.

A Family's Breastfeeding Experience

“

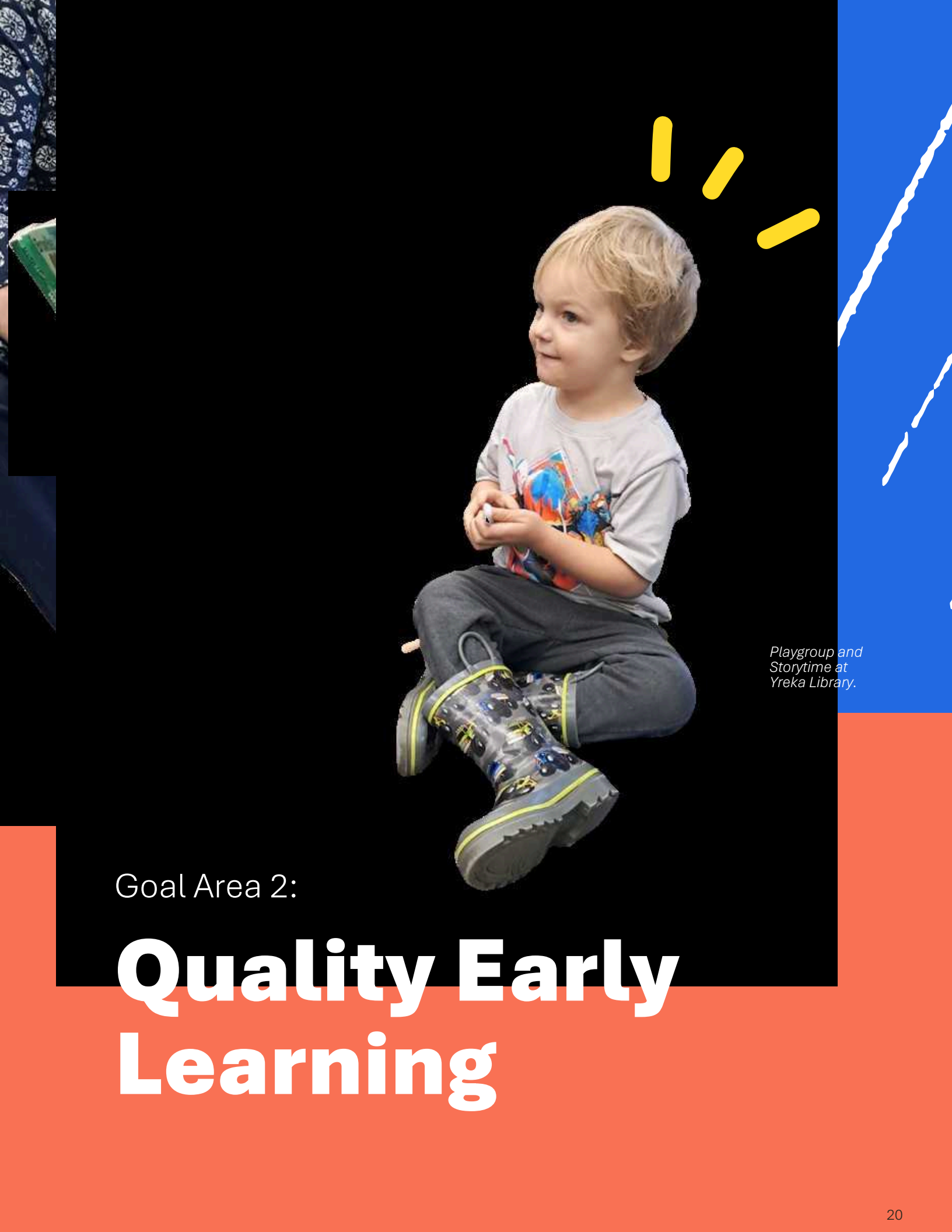
“She was able to get through the difficult times and successfully feed her baby.”

-Welcome Home, Baby! staff member

A mother enrolled in Welcome Home, Baby! for lactation support. She was concerned about having low milk supply because of challenges with breastfeeding her first child, which led to failure to thrive.

After returning home from the hospital with her baby, program staff provided lactation support, a hospital-grade breast pump, and guidance on improving latch and supplementing with expressed breastmilk when needed.

It was a long and laborious journey for the mother and her partner. She was unsure of her ability at times, but was dedicated to providing for her baby's nutritional needs. With support from staff and her partner, and lots of hard work she was able to find a feeding routine that worked, and eventually transitioned from using the hospital-grade breast pump to her own pump. Staff noted, “[her] dedication to providing all the nutritional needs for her baby was inspirational...she was able to get through the difficult times and successfully feed her baby.”



*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.*

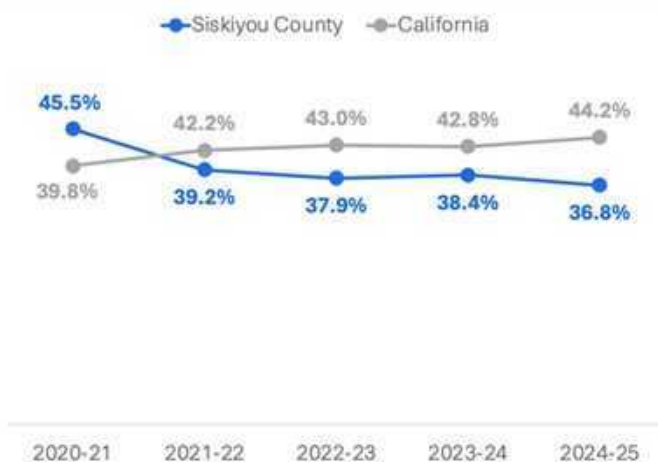
Goal Area 2:

Quality Early Learning

What Are the Needs in Our Community?

Reading Proficiency

PERCENTAGE OF 3RD GRADERS READING AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL



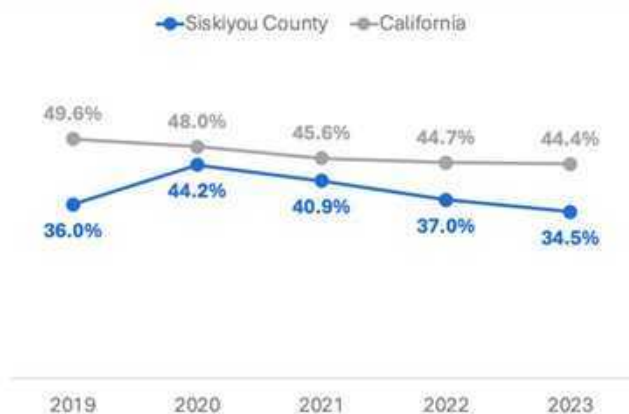
Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest.

Siskiyou County's 3rd grade reading proficiency has declined over the past five years, while statewide performance has improved.

- Siskiyou County's 3rd grade reading proficiency declined from 45.5% in 2020–21 to 36.8% in 2024–25, reflecting an overall downward trend despite a slight uptick in 2023–24.
- While Siskiyou County's rates were higher than the statewide average early in the period, California's reading proficiency steadily improved, widening the gap as statewide rates rose to 44.2% in 2024–25.

Preschool Enrollment

PERCENTAGE OF 3-4 YEAR OLDS ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table ID: S1401.

Preschool enrollment in Siskiyou County has declined steadily in recent years, widening the gap with statewide rates.

- Preschool enrollment in Siskiyou County has declined for three consecutive years, falling from 44.2% in 2020 to 34.5% in 2023.
- Siskiyou County's enrollment rates have remained lower than statewide levels throughout the period.

How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?

Our Goal

Quality Early Learning

Ensure children are healthy and have the socio-emotional and cognitive skills to enter kindergarten ready to succeed

Our Outcomes

- 1** Parents and caregivers read aloud with their children
- 2** Children have access to high-quality early care and education
- 3** Children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed

Our Investment

\$373K

Our Reach

2,504
Children

1,999
Caregivers

48
Providers

How We Support Quality Early Learning



**Professional
Development and
Capacity Building**



**Play-Based
Learning and
Engagement**



**Access to
Books**



**Educational
Assessments**

5

Programs

- Quality Counts Siskiyou (IMPACT)
- Playgroups
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Family Literacy Promotion: Book Distribution
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessments

QUALITY COUNTS SISKIYOU

Quality Counts Siskiyou is the County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) designed to support early childhood providers and strengthen program quality.

Professional development remained a central pillar of the QRIS work. Early learning professionals were supported by master coaches and mentors who guided them through assessments and quality improvement plans.

8

**participating sites
received a QRIS
quality rating**

99%

**of rated sites met
high-quality
standards (Tier 4 or 5)**

**Quality Counts Siskiyou helps
early childhood providers
meet high-quality standards
through assessments,
coaching, and continuous
improvement planning.**

PARTICIPATING SITES



10 Licensed centers



8 Licensed family
child care homes



4 Alternative sites
(e.g., playgroups,
home visiting
programs)

Quality early care sets the stage for school readiness

Research shows that high-quality early care and education supports children's social, emotional, and early learning skills that are foundational to kindergarten readiness.

*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.*



“

“Being part of this program has been truly transformational”

“I am a childcare provider in Greenview, California and have proudly participated in the Siskiyou First 5 Quality Counts program for the past four years. Being part of this program has been truly transformational for both my professional growth and the quality of care I provide.

Through professional development opportunities, coaching support, and valuable incentives, the Quality Counts program has strengthened my skills and helped me continuously improve my program. My coach has offered encouragement, guidance, and practical strategies that have elevated the learning environment I offer to the children and families I serve.

While participation in the Quality Counts program is voluntary, I truly believe no provider should pass up this opportunity. Quality Counts equips child care providers with the tools, training, and confidence needed to deliver high-quality early learning experiences – which are critical for children’s lifelong success.

High-quality care lays the foundation for strong, resilient, and capable future leaders. Thanks to First 5 Siskiyou Quality Counts, I am proud to say my program not only meets but exceeds the standards for nurturing children’s emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

If you are a provider considering joining, know this: participating in Quality Counts isn’t just about meeting standards – it’s about making a lasting impact in the lives of children and families in our community.”

-Pamela Rocha, First 5 Siskiyou Quality Counts participant



Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.

PLAYGROUPS

269

children
attended
playgroups

191

caregivers
attended
playgroups

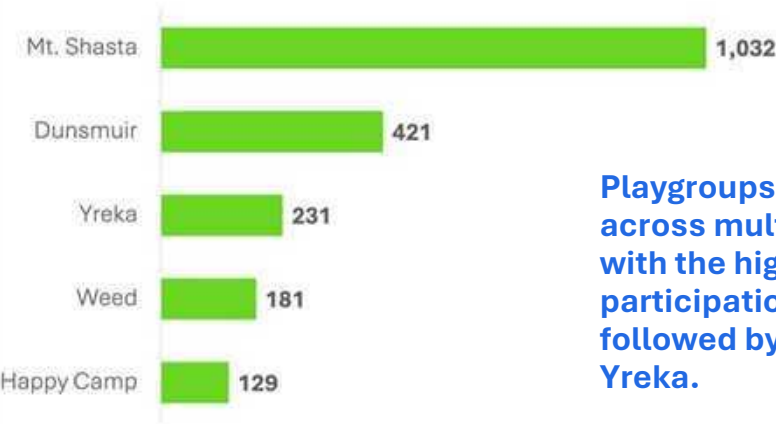
158

playgroup
sessions
held

Playgroups continued to be a powerful mechanism for supporting early learning, school readiness, and social-emotional development across Siskiyou County. During weekly play sessions families had opportunities for socialization with peers and positive parent-child interactions through play, developmentally appropriate activities, and story time held in inviting spaces. Children received free books, while parents were provided with tips to increase school readiness and examples of activities to do at home to support early learning.

Playgroups reached hundreds of children across Siskiyou County, providing opportunities for early learning, connection, and school readiness.

PLAYGROUP PARTICIPATION BY SITE (DUPLICATED ATTENDANCE)



Playgroups were offered across multiple locations, with the highest levels of participation in Mt. Shasta, followed by Dunsmuir and Yreka.

Source: Playgroups Services and Events Apricot Report (2024-25). Note: Counts reflect total attendance and may include the same child or parent attending multiple sessions.



Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.

Playgroups inspire learning and interaction at home

Playgroups provide families with simple and creative ideas they can continue at home with their children. First 5 Siskiyou playgroup facilitators intentionally use recycled and everyday materials families already have, helping them see that play doesn't need to be expensive. As one playgroup facilitator shared, "It's fun to be able to show parents just how to inspire creativity in their kids....I think parents are always thankful that we use materials that they can just find in their kitchen or somewhere in their house and create a quality activity at home."

Facilitators also noted that when parents see activities modeled in playgroups, and realize they are manageable, it can encourage more dedicated playtime at home. A facilitator shared, "Sometimes it's really important for a parent to be reminded, 'Oh I can do this and it's not going to take too long...I can bring this home, and it's not scary.'"



*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Dunsmuir Library.*

Playgroups support social skills

Playgroups offer opportunities for children to interact with other children, practice social and communication skills, and become comfortable in group settings, all of which help prepare them for school.

First 5 Siskiyou playgroup facilitators shared that many children grow more confident with regular playgroup attendance: "The biggest impact I see is just their social skills grow...There's one girl I think of in particular that was pretty shy and she did not say a lot. And now after coming to playgroups regularly for a year and a half, if we ask a question during story time, she will raise her hand and she'll share out...[it] was incredible to see that difference, that confidence, and also her ability to connect with her peers and talk with them."



*Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime.*

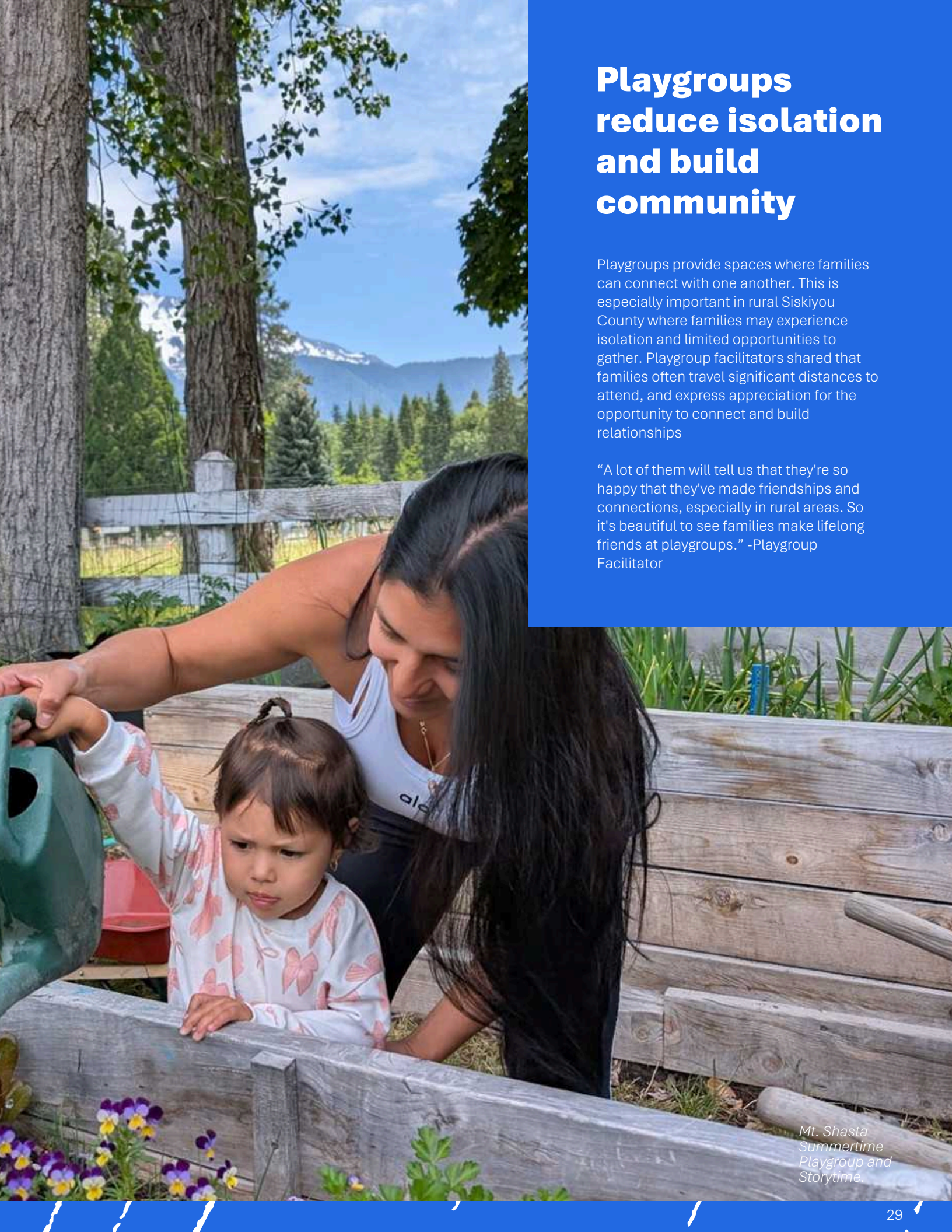
Playgroups help build early literacy from the start

This year, First 5 Siskiyou partnered with Yreka and Dunsmuir libraries to host playgroups. Based on family feedback, some caregivers were less comfortable attending playgroups in previous locations. Libraries provided a welcoming space for playgroups, and once the switch was made, playgroup participation began to increase.

This partnership also created opportunities for children to engage more with books. As one playgroup facilitator shared, "I love having the kids surrounded by books. So many of the families didn't have library cards and a lot of them hadn't been to the library. So seeing the kids so excited about checking out their own books and being in the library and having never seen that many books in one place has been really fun."



Playgroup and Storytime at Dunsmuir Library.



Playgroups reduce isolation and build community

Playgroups provide spaces where families can connect with one another. This is especially important in rural Siskiyou County where families may experience isolation and limited opportunities to gather. Playgroup facilitators shared that families often travel significant distances to attend, and express appreciation for the opportunity to connect and build relationships

“A lot of them will tell us that they're so happy that they've made friendships and connections, especially in rural areas. So it's beautiful to see families make lifelong friends at playgroups.” -Playgroup Facilitator

*Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime*

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

DPIL provides young children with free, monthly books to build early literacy skills and support parent-child reading routines.

1,452

children enrolled

13,809

books distributed

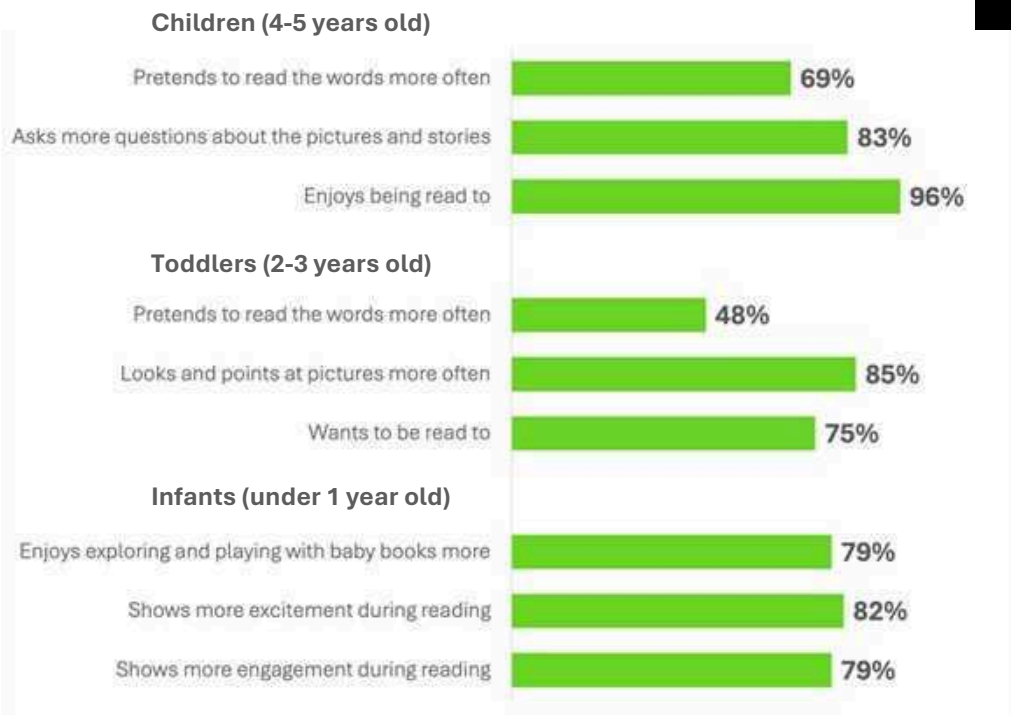
First 5 Siskiyou is grateful to Delta Kappa Gamma Nu members who continued to spearhead fundraising for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) and support outreach efforts. DPIL is a nationwide book distribution and literacy promotion program that mails free, monthly books to children under five. Findings from DPIL's national research found numerous benefits extending across participants' demographic characteristics. Specifically, the program promotes changes in home literacy environments, children's attitudes toward reading, and early literacy skills. This year, outreach was conducted at WIC clinics, healthcare settings, playgroups, parenting classes, county agencies, early childhood settings, and community-based programs.

79%

of Siskiyou County children ages 0-5 enrolled

Caregivers reported strong engagement with books across all age groups, with especially high enjoyment of shared reading and independent reading behaviors among older children.

FAMILY-REPORTED READING ENGAGEMENT AMONG CHILDREN, BY AGE GROUP



Source: DPIL Survey, 2024-25. N = 141.



“

“My daughter is always excited to go to the mail because she’s eager to receive another book. I love that my daughter has been able to be exposed to literature since birth. It’s so nice to have a variety of books to read with her. I am glad this program has helped foster her love for reading.”

-DPIL participant

FAMILY LITERACY PROMOTION: BOOK DISTRIBUTION

198

children
received free
books

First 5 Siskiyou expanded book access for young children through partnerships with libraries, agencies, and community organizations.

18

early literacy
events hosted
or supported

First 5 Siskiyou leverages funding from Siskiyou County Library and generous local donors, partnering with local agencies and community-based organizations to promote daily reading and put more books in the hands of young children. This year, book distributions were held across Siskiyou County, at Health Clinics, Human Services Agency literacy centers, hospitals, WIC offices, fairs, early childhood education and care programs, home visiting programs, schools, and other public places.

2,430

total books distributed

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1,830

Read Across
Siskiyou, Health and
Human Services,
schools, etc.

500

Reach Out and
Read

100

Read Scarf Society

Read Across Siskiyou event at Rocha Family Daycare with Special Guest Reader Sgt. Rocha.



KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENTS

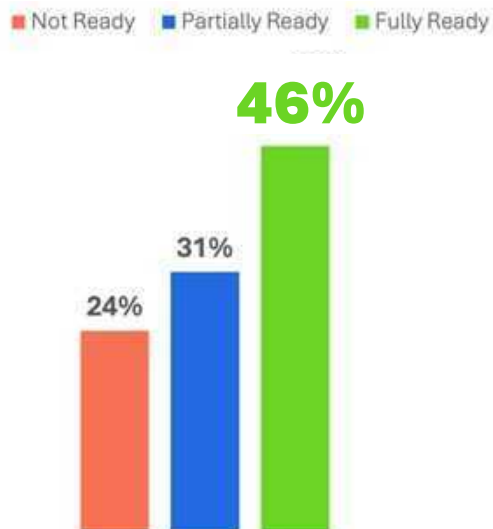
First 5 Siskiyou's school readiness assessment provides a snapshot of how prepared children are for school across key developmental skills that support learning and school adjustment.

First 5 Siskiyou in partnership with local school districts, and with support from Siskiyou County Office of Education, conducted a kindergarten readiness assessment to evaluate children's preparedness for school, based on teacher observations of key skills in *Self-Regulation*, *Social Expression*, and *Early Academics*. The 2024 assessment has built on First 5 Siskiyou's periodic readiness studies conducted since 2017, and included 223 children, approximately 59% of the total kindergarten population in Siskiyou County.

223

kindergarten
children
assessed

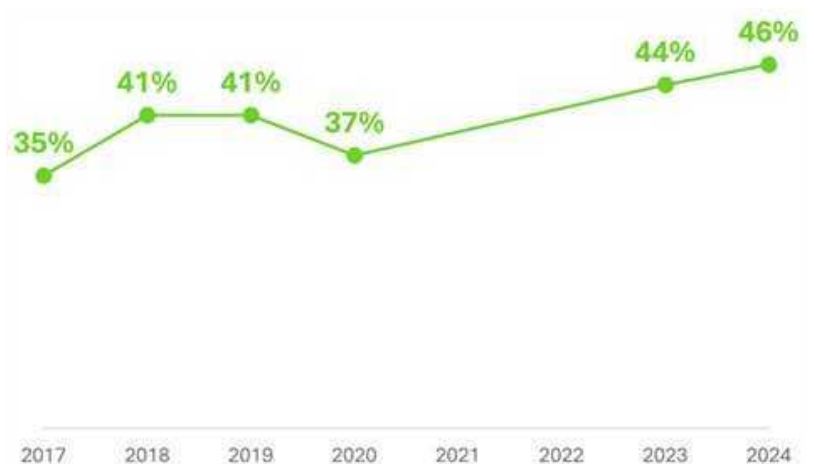
KINDERGARTEN READINESS STATUS OF SISKIYOU COUNTY CHILDREN (2024)



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form (2024). N = 223.
Does not include transitional kindergarten students.

Nearly half of Siskiyou County kindergartners are **Fully Ready** for school.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS OVER TIME IN SISKIYOU COUNTY (2017–2024)



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form (2017-2024). N = 170-339.

Kindergarten readiness has improved over time in Siskiyou County, reaching its highest level in 2024.

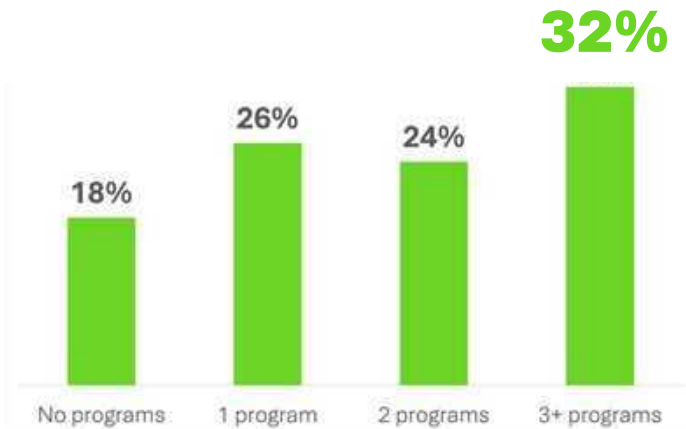
First 5 Siskiyou participation matters for kindergarten readiness

As shown in the chart below, children whose families participated in 3+ First 5 Siskiyou programs were more likely to be *Fully Ready* for kindergarten than those with no First 5 participation.



Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.

PERCENTAGE FULLY READY FOR KINDERGARTEN, BY NUMBER OF FIRST 5 SISKIYOU PROGRAMS



Number of First 5 Siskiyou Programs Participated In

Source: Parent Information Form (2024), N = 124. Transitional kindergarten students were not included in this analysis.



*Family Dinner,
Dance, and
Fun Event.*

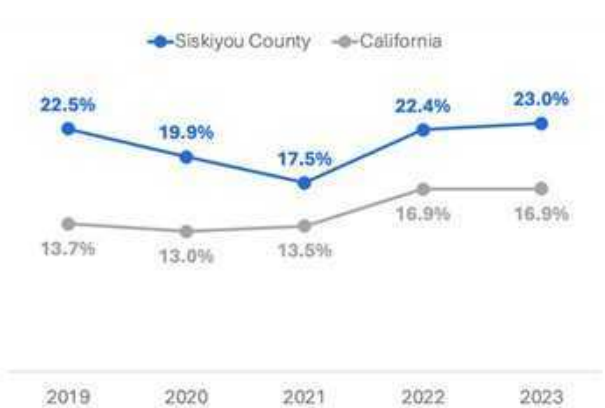
Goal Area 3:

Child Health and Development

What Are the Needs in Our Community?

Food Insecurity

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (0-18) EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY



Source: Feeding America.

Child food insecurity in Siskiyou County remains elevated and has increased in recent years, exceeding statewide levels.

- The share of children under 18 experiencing food insecurity in Siskiyou County rose from 17.5% in 2021 to 23.0% in 2023, following a temporary decline earlier in the period.
- Siskiyou County food insecurity rates consistently exceed statewide levels, with the gap widening in recent years as local rates increased more sharply than California overall.

Developmental Screenings

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN SCREENED BY AGE THREE



Source: Medi-Cal Managed Care Quality Improvement Reports.

Developmental screening rates in Siskiyou County have increased steadily but remain far below statewide levels.

- The share of children receiving a developmental screening in their first three years of life in Siskiyou County rose from 2.0% in 2020 to 17.2% in 2024, reflecting consistent growth over the years.
- Despite these gains, Siskiyou County's screening rates remain substantially lower than statewide levels, as California's rates increased more rapidly, reaching 40.3% in 2024.

How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?

Our Goal

Child Health and Development

Promote each child's healthy physical, dental, social, and emotional development

Our Outcomes

1 Children are healthy and well nourished

2 Children meet developmental milestones

Our Investment

\$140K

Our Reach

526

Children

560

Caregivers

How We Improve Child Health and Development



Nutrition Education



Health Access and Resource Navigation



Developmental Screenings

2

Programs

- Nutrition Education and Health Access
- Help Me Grow

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND HEALTH ACCESS

First 5 Siskiyou maintained its strong partnership with Chico State Enterprises and Siskiyou County Health and Human Services to promote nutrition education and food access across program sites. Nutrition education was embedded in playgroups, family events, health fairs, and parenting classes, creating frequent and accessible touchpoints for families to learn about healthy eating. First 5 Siskiyou also facilitated CalFresh and Medi-Cal applications, helping connect families to food resources and health insurance.

Families accessed nutrition education and health supports through First 5 Siskiyou's programs, events, and one-on-one assistance.

6

nutrition education classes held (In addition, nutrition education and resources are embedded in community events, trainings, and educational opportunities)

558

caregivers and children attended nutrition education events

33

applications submitted for CalFresh nutrition assistance program

33

applications submitted for Medi-Cal health insurance program

Playgroups support healthy eating through play and exploration

Through hands-on activities and nutrition education embedded in playgroups, children are encouraged to explore and try healthy foods. These experiences can help build early healthy eating habits and comfort with fruits and vegetables.

"The kids grow their own vegetables. So they'll pick up a bell pepper and eat it like it's just an apple...The kids are eating vegetables that their parents said they would never eat." - Playgroup Facilitator

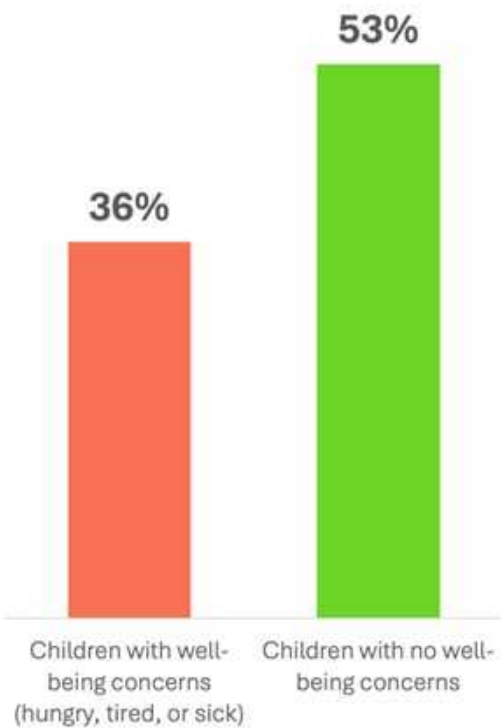


*Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime.*

Children’s nutrition and health are tied to school readiness

Early access to food and health supports helps set the foundation for learning. Kindergarten readiness data shows that Siskiyou County children who are fed, rested, and healthy are more likely to be fully ready for school.

PERCENTAGE FULLY READY FOR KINDERGARTEN, BY CHILD WELL-BEING STATUS



Source: Kindergarten Observation Form (2024), Parent Information Form (2024). N = 223. Statistically significant, $p < .05$.

Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime.

HELP ME GROW

231

children
screened with
ASQ-3

34

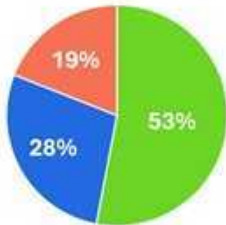
children
screened with
ASQ-SE:2

HMG offers free health and developmental screenings to help families understand their child’s needs and connect to support.

First 5 Siskiyou is a Help Me Grow (HMG) affiliate with funding support from the Ford Family Foundation and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). HMG provides free health and developmental screenings for children birth through age five. At community events, parenting classes, playgroups, and virtual settings, families can receive screenings, access information, and talk with professionals about parenting and child development questions. When more support is needed, HMG’s coordinators help families navigate referrals and link them to services.

■ Normal ■ Monitoring ■ Flagged

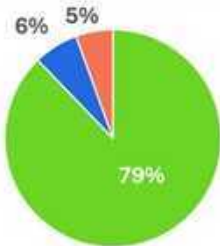
ASQ-3



Just over half of children screened were on track developmentally, and a substantial share were flagged for potential developmental delays.

- 53% of children screened were on track with developmental milestones.
- 28% fell into the monitoring zone, suggesting they may need follow-up.
- 19% were flagged for potential developmental delays and referrals.

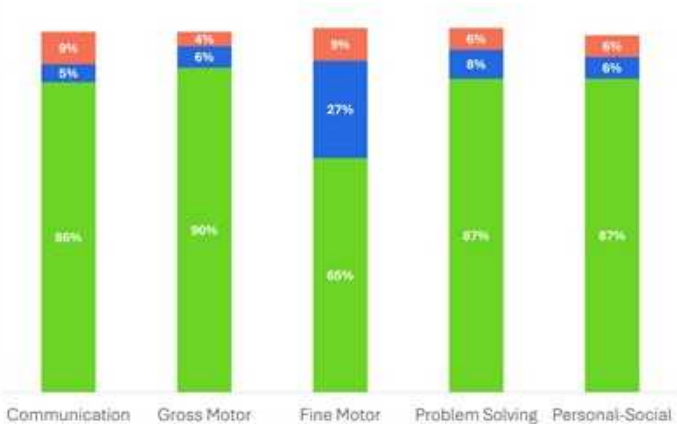
ASQ-SE:2



Most children showed typical social-emotional development.

- 79% of children screened were on track with social and emotional developmental milestones.
- 6% fell into the monitoring zone, and 5% were flagged for potential concern.

ASQ-3, BY DOMAIN



While most children were on track developmentally across several domains, *Fine Motor Skills* showed the highest level of concern.

- *Gross Motor Skills* had the highest rate of children meeting developmental milestones (90%), with 6% needing monitoring and 4% flagged for possible concerns.
- *Fine Motor Skills* had the highest proportion of children needing support, with more than one-third of children either in the monitoring zone (27%) or flagged (9%).
- *Communication*, *Problem-Solving*, and *Personal-Social Skills* showed a similar pattern with 86-87% of children on track, and 12-14% identified as needing monitoring or support.



*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.*

Goal Area 4:

Strong Systems

How is First 5 Siskiyou Responding?

Our Goal

Strong Systems

Coordinate and collaborate with other willing organizations to build new systems, strengthen the capacity of existing ones, and provide comprehensive and coordinated services for young children and their families

Our Outcomes

- 1** System partners have increased capacity to promote child and family outcomes
- 2** System partners are efficient and effective collaborators (leverage, cross-referrals, etc.)
- 3** Help prevent child abuse
- 4** Engage parents as advisors of service delivery
- 5** First 5 Siskiyou increases financial and leveraged resources in the County

Our Investment

\$27K

Our Reach

512

Providers

How We Build Strong Systems



**Systems
Coordination
and Alignment**



**Workforce
Development
and Learning**



**Cross-System
Planning and
Sustainability**



**Prevention and
Community
Awareness**

4

Initiatives

- Siskiyou Home Visitation Systems Coordination
- CalAIM Community Health Worker Services
- Siskiyou Professional Development Partnership
- Strengthening Families: Siskiyou County Child Abuse Prevention Council and Parent Education Collaborative

SISKIYOU HOME VISITATION SYSTEMS COORDINATION

5
home visiting
partner
programs
participated

The Siskiyou Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) initiative, led by First 5 Siskiyou, supports coordination among home visiting programs serving families with young children across Siskiyou County. The work started in 2016 with support from the Ford Family Foundation, and brings local programs together to strengthen communication, reduce duplication, and improve how families connect to services.

HVSC strengthens how home visiting programs work together, supporting shared leadership, coordinated referrals and ongoing learning across Siskiyou County.

26
home visiting
partners
engaged

HVSC focuses on shared referral processes, cross-program collaboration, professional development, and community awareness of home visiting services. Program leaders and community partners, including Shasta Head Start, Siskiyou Early Head Start, Siskiyou County Public Health, and Modoc Early Head Start, guide this work through regular coordination and planning, helping maintain a more connected home visiting system in a large, rural county.

HOME VISITING SYSTEMS COORDINATION: 2024 SURVEY SNAPSHOT

Continuous Program Improvement and Sustainability



Professional Development and Community Awareness



Coordinated Referral



Governance and Planning



Communication and Collaboration



Source: Regional Home Visiting Systems Coordination Project Systems Survey Highlights Year 8: Siskiyou, CA Region, 2024. N = 6..

“

“Getting so many community organizations involved in the efforts is a big accomplishment. The collaboration between program and community partners is amazing and HV System Coordination Coordinators are doing an excellent job in working to increase engagement efforts.”

-Home Visiting Partner

Home Visitation Systems Coordination partners.



ADVANCING CaAIM: SYSTEMS PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

4

Community
Health
Workers
(CHWs)
certified

First 5 Siskiyou is laying the groundwork for sustainable, coordinated Community Health Worker (CHW) services by addressing Medi-Cal billing barriers and building innovative, cross-system partnerships.

This year, First 5 Siskiyou focused on planning and partnership-building to prepare for future CaAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) implementation, with an emphasis on identifying innovative and sustainable approaches to Community Health Worker (CHW) services. To address barriers posed by traditional Medi-Cal billing structures, First 5 Siskiyou explored alternative pathways and partnership models to reduce administrative burden and improve feasibility. Specifically, First 5 Siskiyou built a partnership with Siskiyou County Office of Education (SCOE), and laid the groundwork to deliver CHW services through a multi-payer model that leverages existing systems and supports a more coordinated continuum of care for families.

Michelle Line, Director of Siskiyou County Community Schools Initiative, which also oversees CaAIM implementation, presenting to local partners at Strengthening Families Collaborative: Siskiyou County Child Abuse Prevention Council gathering.



SISKIYOU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

14

countywide
training sessions
held, co-funded
by First 5 Siskiyou

384

providers
attended
(duplicated)

The Siskiyou Professional Development Partnership brings together professionals across systems to strengthen services for children and families.

First 5 Siskiyou promotes the well-being of children by building the capacity of service providers through high-quality professional development training. First 5 Siskiyou, as the backbone agency for Siskiyou Professional Development Partnership (SPDP), supports this work by bringing together child- and family-centered institutions, including Siskiyou Behavioral Health, Siskiyou County Office of Education, Ford Family Foundation, and Siskiyou County Probation to co-fund these efforts. Trainings were attended by professionals from Behavioral and Mental Health Services, Child Protective Services, ECE settings, community-based organizations, foster family agencies, tribes, as well as community members and caregivers.

“

“This was very helpful information. I’m very grateful for the up-to-date research and reflection and application of it.”

—Attendee

TRAINING TOPICS

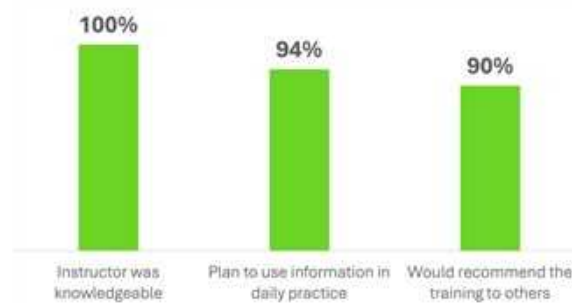
- Dopamine Nation: Finding Balance in the Age of Indulgence
- Vaping and Young People: What’s the Big Deal?
- Karuk Tribe and California Indians: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
- Understanding the Culture of Domestic Violence
- From Cuddles to Confidence: Supporting Mental Health in Early Childhood
- Little Steps to Big Smiles: A Caregiver’s Playbook for Nurturing Well-Being
- Our Children’s Dangerous New Normal: Prevention of Child Sexual Trafficking
- Cannabis: The State of the Evidence in 2025

INCREASES IN KNOWLEDGE BEFORE AND AFTER TRAININGS



After training, nearly nine in 10 participants felt highly knowledgeable about the topics.

PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION WITH TRAININGS



Participants consistently rated the trainings as quality and applicable to their daily practice.

Source: F5 Siskiyou Countywide Training Survey Report, 2024-25. N = 81.

Strengthening Families Collaborative

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL

With First 5 Siskiyou's designation as the County's Child Abuse Prevention Council, its long-standing commitment to families with children ages birth to five has expanded to support families with school-age children. First 5 Siskiyou in partnership with community schools has continued to strengthen the continuum of care families can rely on. The CAPC remained active throughout the year by holding educational meetings, hosting community events, supporting education efforts, and aligning strategies to promote protective factors and prevent maltreatment.

CAPC brings together partners and communities to strengthen prevention efforts and promote shared responsibility for child safety across Siskiyou County.

30

CAPC community events held

1,100

children and caregivers attended community events

CAP Month

During Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, CAPC supported and participated in a range of community-based activities designed to build protective factors, raise awareness, and promote shared responsibility for preventing child abuse. Efforts included:

- Community and family events held in partnership with local organizations and schools
- Distribution of 2,526 blue pinwheels, 245 yard signs, and 10 CAPC flags to promote prevention awareness
- *Darkness to Light* trainings in partnership with the YMCA for parents and community partners
- Outreach and activities with after-school programs, tribes, and ECE communities



Families participate in Family Dinner, Dance, and Fun Event, one of the CAPC community events held in April for CAP Month.

5

CAPC meetings held

19

organizations represented

102

individuals in attendance

CAPC Meetings

CAPC convened partners through five meetings during the year, bringing together representatives from local agencies, schools, tribal organizations, courts, CBOs, faith communities, and healthcare. Meetings focused on strengthening community partnerships, sharing resources, and coordinating countywide efforts to support families and prevent child abuse. Each meeting featured collaborative discussions, guest speakers, and opportunities for partners to share updates and build connections.

This year's presentations and discussions focused on topics such as community schools, domestic violence prevention, youth empowerment, food access, and evidence-informed child abuse prevention practices.



Community partners gather for a CAPC meeting.

ANNUAL PARTNER SURVEY

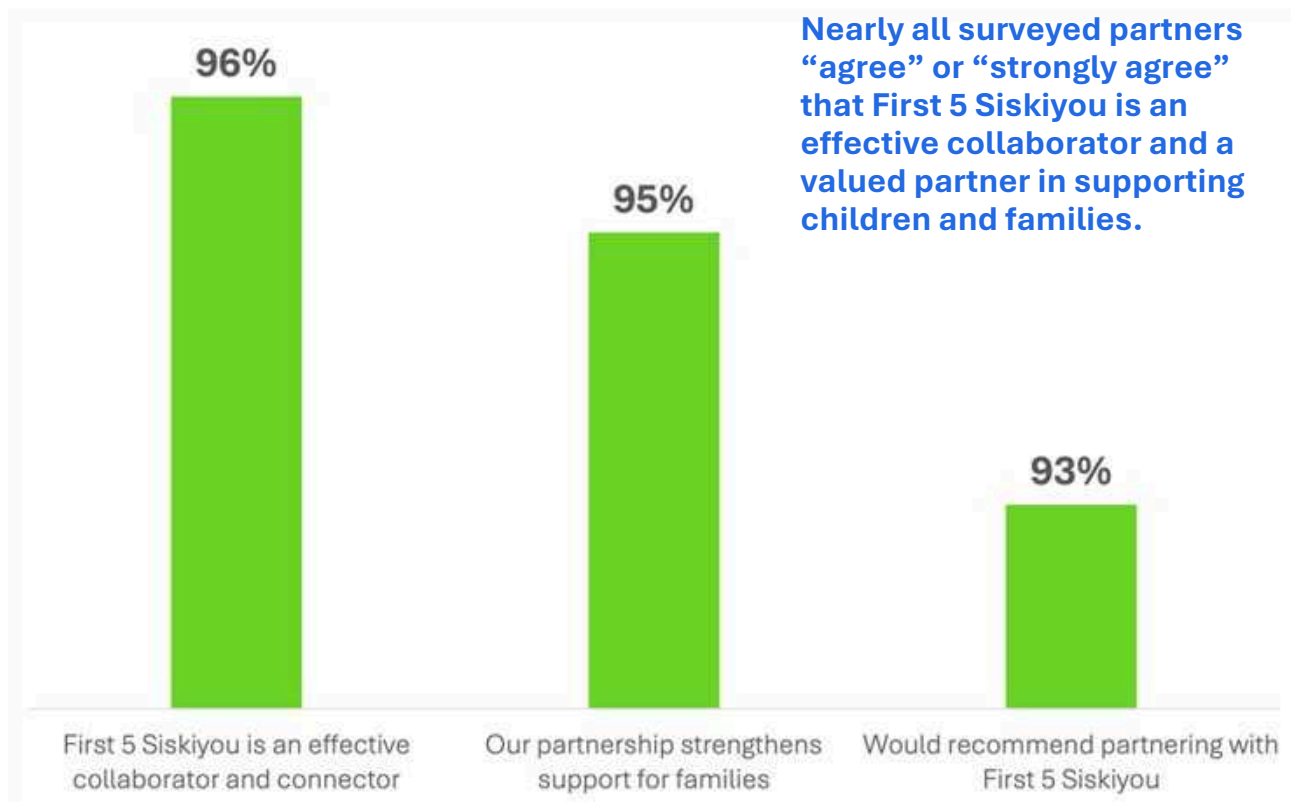
40

partners
completed the
Partner Survey

The annual Partner Survey captures partner perspectives on collaboration, partnership effectiveness, and support for children and families.

First 5 Siskiyou conducts an annual Partner Survey to better understand partner experiences. The chart below summarizes responses to statements about partnership and collaboration with First 5 Siskiyou. The following pages highlight themes drawn from partner comments about First 5 Siskiyou and what they most value.

ANNUAL PARTNER SURVEY SNAPSHOT: AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT FIRST 5 SISKIYOU



Source: Annual Partner Survey, 2024-25. N = 40. Percentages combine “strongly agree” and “agree” response options..

Partners value First 5 Siskiyou's strong collaboration

Partners consistently described First 5 Siskiyou as a dependable and flexible collaborator that shows up, follows through, and works alongside partners to move shared goals forward. Many noted First 5 Siskiyou's hands-on approach to working together, describing staff as responsive, attentive to partner needs, and supportive, rather than limiting collaboration to coordination alone.

“

"First 5 embodies a strong collaborative partner — they are always willing to think outside of the box to provide services, and they always ask 'how can we help'...every time they are in the room, they are looking for ways and offering support, increasing the visibility of their programs and ultimately impacting more kids and families."
-First 5 Siskiyou Partner



*Playgroup and
Storytime at
Yreka Library.*

Partners highlight funding and shared resources

Partners described the value of First 5 Siskiyou's role in sharing and coordinating resources to expand reach across the County. Responses referenced how shared staff time, materials, and logistical support helped move projects forward and strengthen capacity.

Several partners also noted First 5 Siskiyou's role in coordinating and braiding resources across organizations, and maintaining services even as funding sources shift.

“

“I work closely with First 5 Siskiyou; we are grant partners and long time collaborators. Partnering with them allows us to leverage funding and bring more support to the early childhood educators in our community.”

-First 5 Siskiyou Partner



Playgroup and Storytime at Yreka Library.



Partners emphasize high-quality work and implementation

Partners described the quality of First 5 Siskiyou's work as a defining strength. Partners pointed to thoughtful planning, professionalism, and attention to detail across programs, events, and trainings.

“

“When they are involved, they are very thorough with their participation, attention to detail in presentation, and more often than not they are providing services that are in necessity to the families they serve.”

-First 5 Siskiyou Partner

*Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime.*



Partners describe First 5 Siskiyou's consistent commitment and presence

Partners described First 5 Siskiyou's commitment as visible through consistent presence and strong dedication to community and mission. They noted First 5 Siskiyou's long-term engagement in early childhood efforts across the County through regular participation in meetings, systems-level work, and collaborative planning over time.

“

"First 5 leaders and staff are very knowledgeable and care deeply about our youngest residents and their families."
-First 5 Siskiyou Partner

*Mt. Shasta
Summertime
Playgroup and
Storytime.*

Thank you!



*Earth Day
Celebration
in Mt. Shasta.*

First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission extends our heartfelt gratitude to the funding and collaborating partners whose support makes this work possible. Your shared commitment, trust and belief in strengthening families and nurturing young children and youth truly make a positive difference.

First 5 Siskiyou Commission



David Marriott,
MD

Sarah
Collard

Michael
Kobseff

Judythe
Washington

Allan
Carver

Shelly
Davis

Chair

Vice-Chair

First 5 Siskiyou Funding Partners



Community Schools Program
After School Program



Individual and Service Club Donations



First 5 Siskiyou Collaborating Partners





www.first5siskiyou.org

310 N Mt. Shasta Blvd.
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
(530) 918-7222



www.facebook.com/first5siskiyou/
www.instagram.com/first5siskiyou/