



Workforce
Development Board
Contra Costa County

Community Fact Sheet



First 5 ECE Children with Disabilities Initiative

This project assesses, plans and identifies services and resources that most comprehensively address the needs of young children with disabilities and expand access to inclusive care and learning settings.

What are the specifics of the program?

This early childhood education (ECE) initiative evaluates and enhances services that support young children with disabilities, ensuring they receive the resources and care needed for optimal development. By identifying gaps and expanding access to inclusive early learning environments, the program strengthens pathways for equitable, high-quality education and care, allowing all children to thrive.

The Contra Costa County Office of Education in collaboration with other child-serving agencies created what was called the Early Learning and Care Inclusion Hub which led to the development of the Inclusion Blueprint in June 2020. The blueprint includes data about services and resources for children ages 0-5 with disabilities and exceptional needs in Contra Costa County, as well as a set of recommendations that support increased inclusivity for young children served through early care and learning programs.

The First Five (F5) Children with Disabilities program continues this work with guidance and capacity-building services to childcare providers in support of services and program modifications to enhance inclusivity of children with disabilities.

Why is the program important?

Nationwide, approximately **12-16%** of infants and toddlers experience some form of developmental delay. An estimated **4.4%** of children aged 0-17 in Contra Costa County have significant difficulties in hearing, vision, cognitive ability, ambulatory ability, self-care, or independent living. In April 2022, **4,153 Medi-Cal children** in Contra Costa County were followed by California Children’s Services, with developmental delays and hearing loss being the most common diagnoses. Only **23.7% of children** enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care received a developmental screening in their first three years of life. An estimated **7,900 to 10,900 children** under age 6 in Contra Costa County need early childhood mental health intervention. This program uplifts children with disabilities to ensure they have the resources and services needed to learn and grow.

[Source](#)

Who are the community partners for the program?

The California Department of Education’s Early Learning and Care Coordination Program, CocoKids, First 5 Contra Costa, Families Commission, the Early Childhood Prevention & Intervention Coalition, along with a multitude of local child care providers are part of this program.

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