



- Research shows that 90% of a child's brain develops before age five, laying the foundation for the rest of their life
- Only one in four children in Monterey County is ready for kindergarten because too many families lack access to early childhood education
- These services are especially important for children who are experiencing trauma, such as homelessness, abuse or neglect, and family stress.

Unreliable State Funding

- State funding early childhood education and services consistently falls short of the needs of Monterey County children and their families
- As we want our local economy to rebound, many workers can't access the safe, affordable, quality child care and preschool needed for their children while they return to their jobs
- Now, more than ever, we need a dedicated source of local funding for these critical services

Addressing the Needs of Monterey County Children and Families

The Safe, Affordable, Quality Child Care Act would raise \$5.5 million annually to:

- Prepare children for school with literacy, math and social skills
- Increase access to affordable child care and early education for working families, single parents and others
- Prevent long lasting effects of trauma on children such as housing instability, parent unemployment, or child abuse and neglect
- Attract and retain qualified child care providers and preschool teachers
- Help business rebound by attracting and retaining working parents

Strict Fiscal Accountability

- All funds would be locally controlled and spent only in Monterey County. No funds could be taken by the State
- Requires continuous community oversight and public spending disclosure. The early childhood expert, First 5 Monterey County will be managing the funds, and it is required to perform annual audits. These funds will be included in those audits.

Investing in Our Region's Long-Term Health and Prosperity

Every dollar invested in early childhood programs benefits the community through:

- Higher graduation rates
- Lower incarceration rates
- Lower healthcare costs

For questions, email info@Yes4MontereyCountyKids.org or call (831)760-8278

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