The Resource Connection *Child Care Resource & Referral Services*

Early Learning in the Know

November 2026 Edition

A Message From our Program Director



Dear Community,

November is shaping up to be a very busy month for our team. If you see us out and about at a community event, come say hi!

In October, our staff attended the Thriving Families and the California Resource & Referral Network Joint Annual Conference in Sacramento. We had a great time collaborating with other agencies and learning about better ways to serve families, providers, and children in Amador and Calaveras County.

PLEASE join us on Monday, November 12 at 1pm for a provider lunch & learn. This session will be a casual discussion about updates from our subsidy department. We hope you can make it! See the flyer below for more details.
With sincere appreciation,

Sheri Noble
Program Director
The Resource Connection Child Care Resource and Referral
209-754-1075 | snoble@trcac.org

Reminders:

Attendance confirmation emails:

The Resource Connection will no longer be sending attendance confirmation emails. All information is available in the parent and provider portals, including confirmation receipts, Notice of Actions, Child Care Certificates, and payment information. This has been in effect since July 1, 2026.

Submitting Attendance Forms by PDF:

Beginning October 1, 2026, if you choose to email your attendance forms, please submit them as a PDF or through an application that creates clear, complete copies. Attendance forms that are unclear, incomplete, or difficult to read will be returned.

CAI Hub

CAI Hub is the new provider and parent portal that's easy as 1-2-3 to set up! CAI Hub has proven to increase communication and transparency. It's not too late to get started! **Call The Resource Connection and ask for Jessica, she makes it SO easy to set up!**



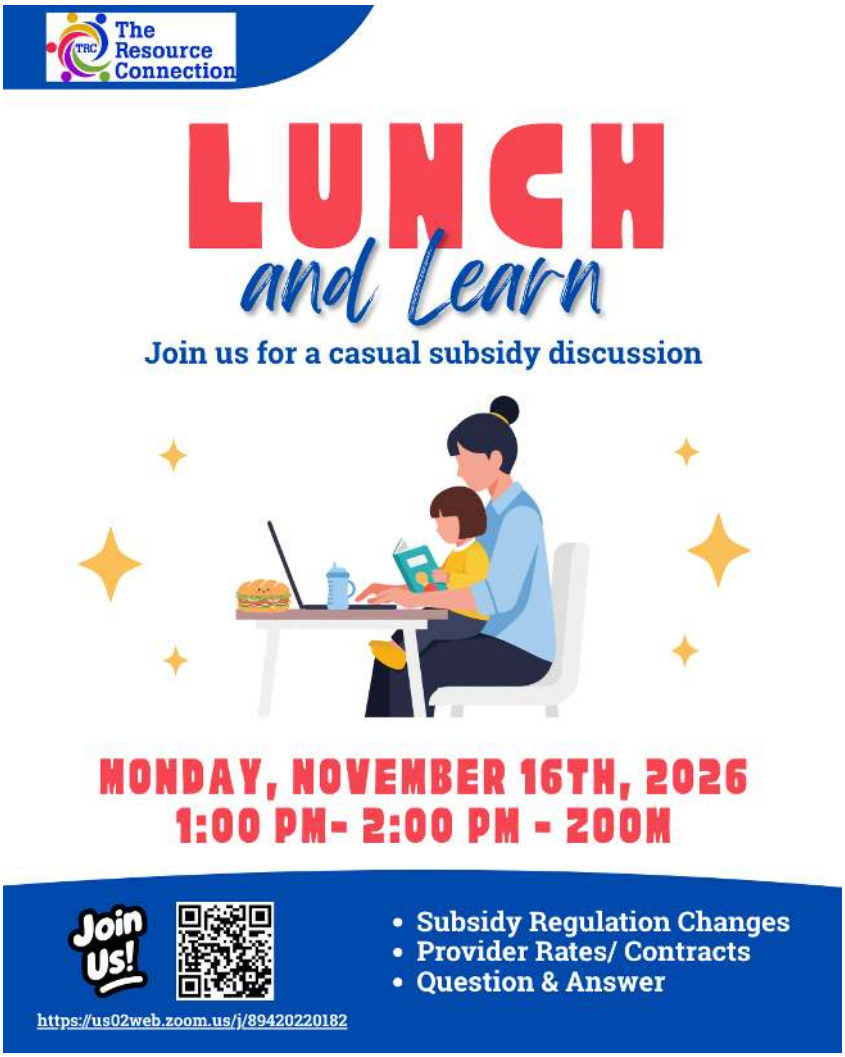
Get Started Now!

How Do I Access CAI Hub?

Providers and families can download the app by clicking the image above OR clicking the buttons below for the parent portal and provider portal. Still confused? Jessica is here to help, so what are you waiting for? Call us!

Parent Portal **Provider Portal**

Upcoming Professional Development & Trainings



Policy Updates:

Updates Regarding Legislation for Providers:

CDSS issued a PIN regarding changes for providers with SB 150. However, specific guidance on the emergency plan and 12 hours of continuing education are not released yet. We anticipate a PIN to be issued soon.



CDSS

JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • *www.cdss.ca.gov*

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

September 25, 2026 PIN 26-11-CCP

TO: ALL CHILD CARE CENTER AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME LICENSEES

FROM: ***Original signed by Kevin Gaines***
KEVIN GAINES, Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

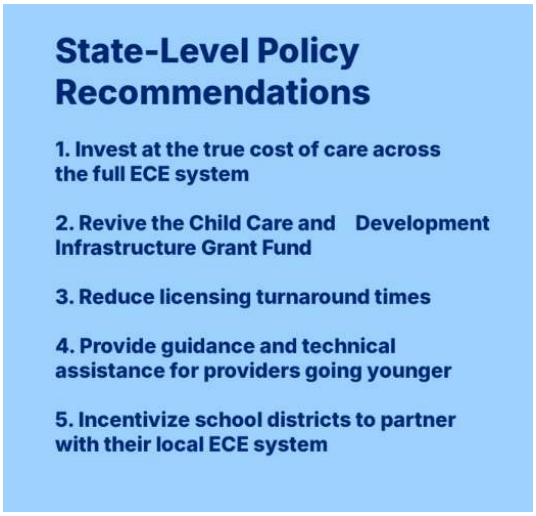
SUBJECT: **2026 BUDGET TRAILER BILLS AFFECTING CHILD CARE CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

View the September PIN here

Impacts of TK

UC Berkeley recently studied the impacts of TK on child care and providers across the state of California. They recently hosted a policy series called "How TK has Destabilized California's Child care Sector & What Can Be Done". Here are some highlights from the series:

- ECE programs "can't compete with free" despite marketing themselves for 4-year-olds
- TK-aged children are leaving FCCH programs
- FCCH are struggling to be a part of the UPK Mixed Delivery system
- Early educators struggle to meet demands of working with toddlers
- There is a lack of funding to update facilities and equipment for toddlers





Voters Put Child Care Front & Center in the Affordability Conversation

FIRST FIVE YEARS FUND

A poll conducted by First Five Years Fund shows that families are struggling. One of the critical issues at the top of their mind is child care costs on top of the cost of living. About 82% of voters say child care costs are part of the affordability crisis.

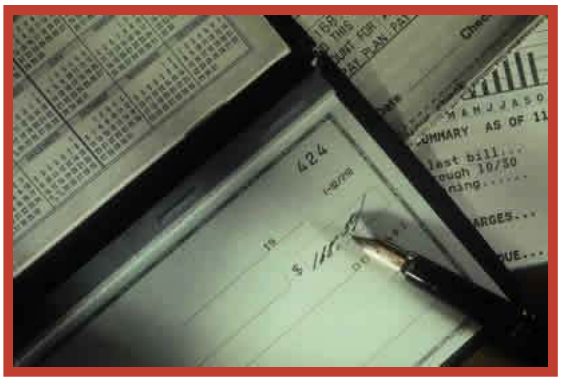
Read this article about child care costs across the nation to learn more.

Read the article!

From the Subsidy Department:

This is a friendly reminder to submit your updated program rates and contracts to **rrinfo@trcac.org**. The Resource Connection requires a 30-day written notice for a rate change. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important administrative task.





Payments:

As per The Resource Connection's parent provider handbook, **payments will be sent to providers no later than the 20th of the month if attendance forms were turned in on 5th.**

Contact the office if payment was not received by the 20th if you are signed up for direct deposit. **For providers receiving payment via mail, checks may be received after the 20th due to mail processing times.**

Emergency Bridge Program

Learn more about trauma informed care with November's edition of Supporting Little Hearts, courtesy of the Emergency Bridge Program.

SUPPORTING LITTLE HEARTS

Simple Strategies for Trauma Informed Care

The first step in understanding how to care with a trauma-responsive voice is to reframe your thinking. Instead of reacting to behaviors with the thought process of "what is wrong with you?", instead allow a moment of pause and try to identify "what is your behavior communicating to me?". The art of the pause is one of the strongest tools in your toolbox when utilized properly. Allowing a moment of reflection and introspection before handling a situation can help foster connection and compassion.



Reactionary behaviors like threatening, bribing, shaming or yelling are some that may happen if you do not allow yourself a moment to pause. Our main goal is to regulate, promote safety and resilience and help children gain the skills they need to identify emotions.

" The experiences in the first years of life are disproportionately powerful in shaping how your brain organizes" (Winfrey & Perry, 2021).

This information comes from Optimal Brain Integration Module 100. For more information on Trauma Informed Care practices, reach out to the Resource Connection Child Care Resource and Referral's Emergency Bridge Coordinator at sstackpole@tracac.org

Need Help Paying For Child Care?

Child Care Subsidy can help you pay for Child Care:

- Work or look for work
- Go to school or training
- Seek permanent housing
- Helps when you are medically incapacitated

1. Check to see if you are eligible. Check the chart to see if your before-tax income is within the limits.

2. To be placed on our Child Care Eligibility List (CEL), please use our online application below.
cel.trcac.org

3. As funds become available, and we are able to enroll families at your current income rank, a subsidy coordinator will reach out to you.

Family Size	Family Monthly Income	Family Annual Income
1-2	$7,119	$85,434
3	$8,054	$96,652
4	$9,636	$115,637
5	$11,178	$134,139
6	$12,720	$152,641
7	$13,009	$156,110
8	$13,298	$159,580
9	$13,587	$163,049

If you meet eligibility requirements, you have the option to choose from licensed family child care, licensed or exempt child care centers, or family, friend, or neighbor care (may require background clearance), and in-home care. Please update your application when changes occur in your family size or income.

The Resource Connection — Engaging Families, Empowering Communities, Enriching Lives

Amador and Calaveras County
(209) 754-1075 (877) 944-9911

BrightLife Kids — A CalHOPE program by Brightline

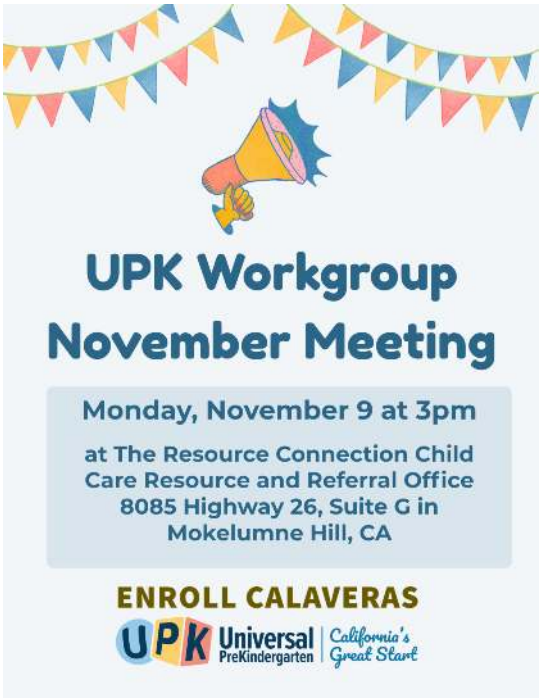
Brightlife Kids is a service provided in partnership with CalHOPE and Brightline. This is a personalized support for California families. Kids ages 0–12 get free, expert coaching for sleep issues, worry, social skills, and more. Live, 1:1 video sessions, secure chat, on-demand content, and more. Click on image to learn more.

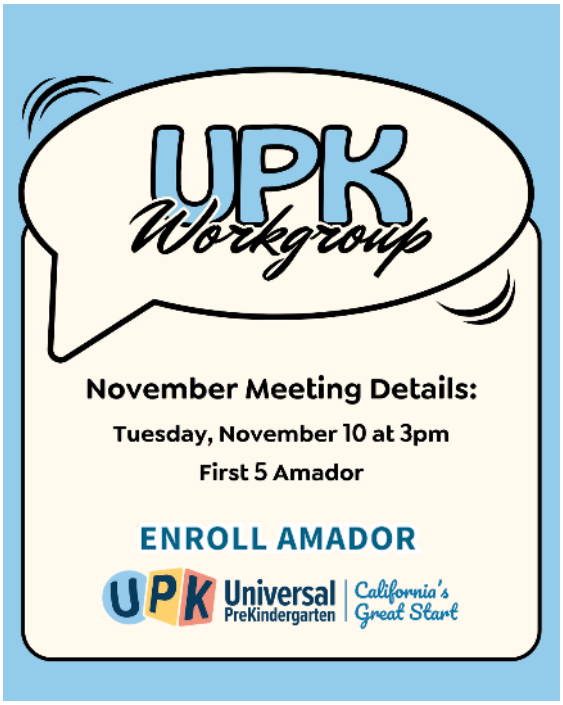
R&R (Resource & Referral)



UPK Mixed Delivery

Join us for our UPK Mixed Delivery meetings! This is a great way to collaborate with local early education providers and resources, talk about current issues, and find ways to support families with 4-year-olds in our two rural counties. See the flyers below for meeting information.





Apply for Workforce Pathways TODAY!



Grandparent Cafe Meetings

Are you a grandparent raising your grandchild? Or do you know a grandparent raising a grandchild? **Join us!** We meet virtually in November and in person for December with light refreshments. This is a great way to connect with other grandparents and share your experiences in a welcoming space.



Work with us Today!

Have any questions about providing child care? We have dedicated staff to assist you in obtaining your family child care license, building your business and professional development!

Let's Chat!



Follow the Lending Library on Facebook!

GOOD TOYS ARE HARD TO FIND



DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN BORROW OURS

Child Care Resource & Referral Lending Library

ALL FUN AND FREE

Our lending library provides a free play - literacy learning environment for providers and families to explore and borrow really fun toys and educational materials. The collection is designed for infants- toddlers, preschool and school age children. The library also includes a wide selection of picture, chapter, parenting and Early Learning provider books.

LOTS OF WAYS TO PLAY

Building blocks, and musical instruments for creative play. Toys for dramatic play such as cars, trucks, & farm animals. Marble runs and sequence beads for sensory play. Sports equipment for large muscle physical play. Books for all stages of reading, including child care provider business support.

LOTS OF TOYS LEND

The Lending library offers a community resource that allows families, providers, teachers and agencies to meet the specific and growing needs of children in a cost effective way. Items may be borrowed free of charge for up to 3 weeks with a valid TRC lending library account.



SCAN ME

trcacrr.myturn.com



Check us out!

Over 5,000 educational items are available for **FREE** for **YOU**! We add new items monthly. Visit us at 8085 Hwy 26, Suite G, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

View the Library Online!

Check Out These Items!

Each month, we will highlight 6 items from the Lending Library. Some are thematic to the season while others are just plain old fashioned fun!
Consider checking out some of these items below...



Wind Play Lab

Perfect for:
- STEM education
- Preschool and school aged
- Exciting group and solo activity



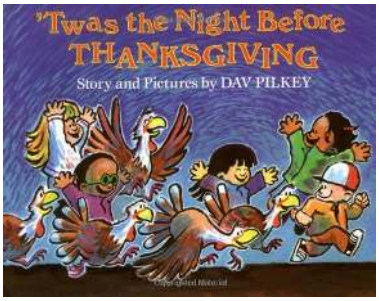
Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

Perfect for:
- Preschool and school aged
- STEM observation



Busy Board

Perfect for:
- Toddler, preschool, school aged
- Manipulatives
- Fine motor skills
- Sensory friendly



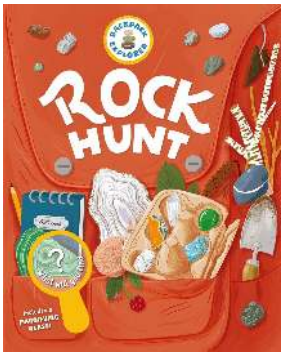
'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving Book

Perfect for:
- Thematic storytime
- Preschool



One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count With Me! Book

Perfect for:
- Preschool
- Fall themed story time



Rock Hunt: What Will You Find? Book

Perfect for:
- Preschool & School aged
- Observation

- Seasonal read
- Counting & math
- Exploration

Provider Resources



IECMHC Network
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Network
Connect. Reflect. Grow.

For more information, call our Helpline at 1-877-524-2422 or email us at IECMHCNetwork@wested.org

Family, Friends, and Neighbors Connect with a Consultant and Other Caregivers!

Consultation can help you increase your understanding of children's behavior and development, strengthen your relationship with families, access community connections, and care for yourself.

Am I a Family, Friend, or Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver?

Do you care for the children of a family member, friend, or neighbor on a regular basis? Then you are an FFN!

Why Should I Seek Consultation?

- Are you feeling burnt out?
- Do you need additional support in understanding and responding to children's behavior?
- Would you like to develop more skills to support children's social, emotional, and mental health?
- Do children in your care need help coping with stress and trauma?

Areas of Support

- Focusing on your relationships with the children and families in your care
- Responding to behavior that you may find concerning or challenging
- Caring for children with specific developmental needs
- Promoting your mental health and well-being

How Will Consultation Be Provided?

Virtually, over three months, through a combination of three individual and four group sessions, with an IECMHC Network consultant.

Consultation groups begin in **September** and **November**. See below for the group session dates:

Groups on Tuesdays
October 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
October 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
November 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
November 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Groups on Mondays:
November 30, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
December 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
January 11, 2027, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
January 25, 2027, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

HELP IS HERE!

The IECMHC Network services are offered at **no cost!** **FFNs** who participate in consultation services are eligible to receive a **stipend up to $175** and a ***Connect. Reflect. Grow.* Kit.**

To sign up for consultation, submit a new request form. A member from our team will contact you.

CDSS WestEd

State of California Department of Social Services, Copyright 2026

To learn more about the IECMHC Network and the various services available to you, visit our website.

SCAN ME

Amador Quality for Kids
Creating the Best Early Care & Education for Our Children

STRONG START Calaveras
Excellence in Early Learning


Amador
QUALITY FOR KIDS
Supporting the Best Early Care & Education for Our Children
Are you a preschool teacher, childcare, or family, friend, or neighbor (FFN) provider?
Sign up today for Quality for Kids to earn some amazing incentives as you grow in the field of early childhood.
Incentives Include:
Participation in ongoing campaigns
Early childhood education and safety classes
Learning opportunities-online, in-person, etc.
Professional development hours
Learn about all the incentives and opportunities you can earn while participating in Quality for Kids, along with exciting NEW incentives added this year!
For more information call Aimee at (209)257-1092 or email q4k@first5amador.com
Our Partners
The Resource Connection
College Connect
Amador Early Learning Council
FIRST 5 AMADOR


STRONG START Calaveras
✦ GROW. LEARN. EARN. ✦
STRONG START CALAVERAS
Excellence in Early Learning | Quality Improvement Support for Childcare Providers
Quality Counts California
Are You One of These?
✓ Licensed Family Childcare Provider ✓ Preschool Staff ✓ Family, Friend, or Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver
Get Paid to Grow!
Earn monetary incentives for:
✓ Quality Improvement Plan Goals
✓ ECE courses & educational units
✓ Health & safety classes
✓ Professional development milestones
Free Resources Too!
As a participant, you also receive:
✓ FFN Engagement Activity Kits
✓ Toolkits for DLL & children with disabilities
✓ Professional development resources
✓ Books, ASQ resources & training
✓ Ready for Kindergarten booklets
How to Apply
Apply online or request a paper application!
Required documents:
✓ Program Application
✓ Participation Agreement
✓ 2 Quality Improvement Plan Goals
✓ W-9 (new participants)
Key dates:
✓ Aug 1–30: Open Enrollment
✓ January-March: Midyear Check-In
✓ May 1–15: Goal Updates Due
✓ June: Incentive Checks Issued!
Ready to Strong Start?
Let's Talk!
(209) 754-6914
rsweet@calaverascounty.gov
first5calaveras.org
A First 5 Calaveras Program | Part of Quality Counts California (QCC)
FIRST 5 CALAVERAS
STRONG START Calaveras

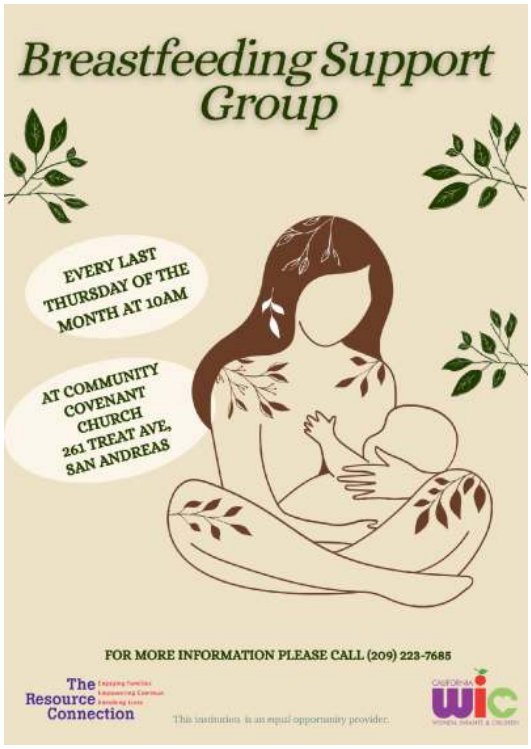
Events


Do you have a child on the Autism Spectrum? Amador County Public Health has created a group to help parents connect.
A S D
AMADOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Together we can
Join us at 6 pm the first Tuesday of each month at First 5 in Jackson
Together we can build an Autism friendly community!
For more information please contact :
Naila Hertzog or Marsha Stone
(209) 223-6407
publichealth@amadorcounty.gov
Your child may qualify for MEDI-CAL; scan the link above to learn more.


Calaveras Pregnancy Center
Free Baby Resource Giveaway Day!
3 HOURS ONLY!
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2026
NOON - 3PM
CALAVERAS PREGNANCY CENTER
575 STANISLAUS AVE. STE. A ANGELS CAMP
NO OBLIGATION - JUST FREE STUFF!
Baby Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Bibs, Crib Sheets, Blankets, Diapers & More!









Fridays at 11: 15 am starting October 2, 2026

At the Peer Wellness Center 373 W St Charles St, San Andreas, CA 95249

Hosted by Amelia Vongphairoth, ACSW

Playgroups

Free to all children ages 0 through 5 in Amador County and their Mom, Dad, Grandparent, or Caregiver

All Sites 9:30-11:00am

Tuesday-Jackson
First 5 Amador Learning Lab
975 Broadway, Jackson

Wednesday-Ione
Ione Memorial Hall
207 S Amador St, Ione

Thursday-Pioneer
Faith Lutheran Church
22601 State Hwy 88, Pioneer

For questions
call (209)257-1092
or check

talk, read, sing, play!

Messy Mornings

'Learning Through Play'

"DRESS FOR MESS!"
Join us for messy, unstructured play time!

EVERY FRIDAY
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

First 5 Amador's Indoor/Outdoor Learning Lab
975 Broadway, Jackson

This playgroup is open to all Amador County children ages 0-5, and their parents or caregivers

For more information, call 209-257-1092

FIRST 5 AMADOR

PLAYGROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30AM

BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER
364 MAIN STREET
WEST POINT, CA

FIRST 5 CALAVERAS

Blue Mountain
Coalition for Youth and Families

BMCYF.ORG OR 209 293 4500
BMCYF PLAYGROUP ON FACEBOOK

Calaveras Unified School District
GROWING TOGETHER
PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT
2026-27 School Year
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE
Part Day Program: 7:45-11:30am
San Andreas Elementary
Jenny Lind Elementary
Valley Springs Elementary

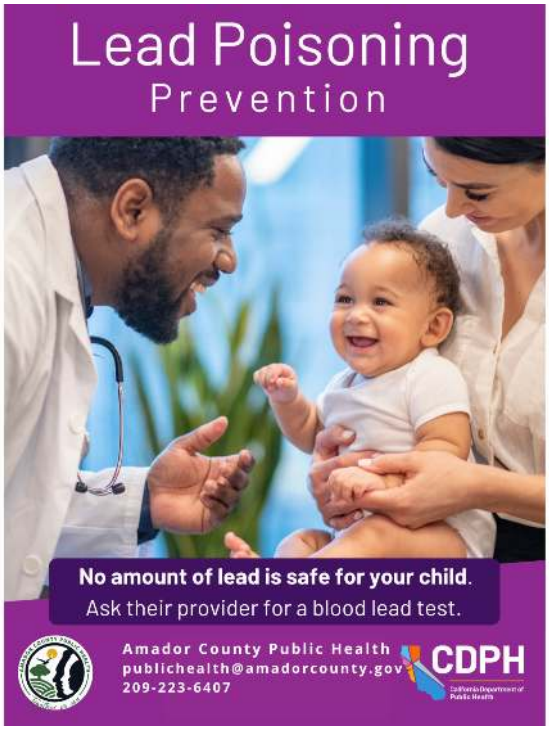
Play, Learn and Grow... Together!

State Preschool slots are available, income-based qualifications.

For more information, please contact
Alissa Bain 209-754-2318

CUSD









CDSS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



The Resource Connection Child Care Resource and Referral Services | 8085 Highway 26 Ste G | Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245-9423 US

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