



## Raising Quality! Newsletter

August 2016

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Let's Do This!

### News & Events

#### **IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive)**

We're excited to announce the release of applications on August 1, 2016 for the IMPACT program! IMPACT has been called "Race, Jr." because it continues the work of Race to the Top, known locally as **Raising Quality!**. While we were able to work with over 200 programs in Race, availability of slots in IMPACT is limited to 87 sites. Sites will be enrolled according to selection criteria that places an emphasis on those serving children with high/special needs, both center- and home-based settings, as well as alternative sites.

On August 1, 2016, the application will be available for download at:

[www.sjckids.org](http://www.sjckids.org) (the First 5 San Joaquin site)

[www.raisingqualitysjc.org](http://www.raisingqualitysjc.org) (the **Raising Quality!** site)

Workshops will be held to familiarize applicants with the IMPACT program. First 5 staff will be on hand to assist with completing the applications and to answer any questions you might have. The workshops are mandatory; you must attend one of the sessions listed below in order to submit an application. Workshops will be held at Family Resource & Referral Center (509 W. Weber Avenue, Stockton) on the following dates and times:

Friday, August 12, 2016: 9:30AM - 11:00AM

Friday, August 12, 2016: 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Saturday, August 13, 2016: 9:30AM - 11:00AM

Thursday, August 18, 2016: 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Please feel free to share information about this program!

For events and the latest news on **Raising Quality!** and other important efforts in San Joaquin County, stay



### Check this out!

Check out the ***Raising Quality!*** website ([www.raisingqualitysjc.org](http://www.raisingqualitysjc.org)). This site has great information for caregivers, teachers, and parents about child care in our community. Check out the training calendar for upcoming opportunities. And refer your parents to the site, too! They'll find some handy resources, like links to health insurance referrals and community-wide supports.

[View all News & Events](#)

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## A Look Back at Race to the Top . . .

As we transition to IMPACT, we look back on our Race to the Top journey . . .

Race to the Top was formally launched in 2013, and the local consortium adopted the ***Raising Quality!*** name to reflect the program's goals and aspirations. In the three years of operation, you have undergone assessments, furthered your education with college coursework, and received trainings on metrics of early childhood care and learning.

It has been a long journey fraught with ups and downs, laughter and tears, but you persisted, and the results are powerful:

- **Racing to the Top:** Programs advanced through the tiers, with a majority landing at Tier 4!
- **Coaching:** Nearly 60 providers received onsite coaching through ***Raising Quality!*** Advisors, receiving support in topics such as curriculum, health and nutrition, special needs, DRDP, and the ERS tools.
- **Training:** The consortium offered well-attended free/low cost trainings on a broad spectrum that supported the elements of the rating matrix (e.g., FCCERS, ASQ, DRDP) as well as general topics relevant to early learning and development (e.g., Cultural Proficiency, Protective Factors).
- **Scholarships:** Nearly 100 awards (almost \$45,000) were made for coursework and professional development!
- **Professional development:** Many of you are pursuing credentials, permits and degrees now!
- **Parent awareness:** Providers report that parents have become increasingly involved with their quality improvement efforts and have become more aware of the providers' critical role in supporting their children's school readiness.
- **Quality Awards:** Over \$1M in Quality Awards was disbursed, representing an incredible re-investment into local programs!

The local consortium of stakeholders has been impressed by the changes taking place in our community. **Your hard work has benefited over 4,000 children and families throughout our county.** We are proud to be witness to not only the changes in your own programs, but to the promise of systemic changes in early care and education that are the overarching goals of the Quality movement.

It has been inspiring to be part of your journeys as you took risks, implemented new practices, grew (both personally and professionally), and displayed your commitment to improving the quality of your programs. We salute you for the tremendous work you do to help the children of our community, and hope to be a partner in your continuing journey of improvement. In our next issue of this newsletter, look for success stories from our IMPACT sites!

**If you'd like to share** your success story, contact us at (209) 953-KIDS (5437) or email us at [sjckids@sjgov.org](mailto:sjckids@sjgov.org).

[View Partner Programs](#)

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## Nice to Meet You!

**San Joaquin County FamilyChild Care Association** invites Family Child Care Providersthroughout the county to join them on the **last Thursday** of each month at **7PM at Brookdale Senior City, 3rd Floor**, located at **355 W. Grant Line Road in Tracy**.

SJCFCCA offers its members a host of benefits including networking and support, free and low cost professional growth and development trainings and

workshops, business referrals, resources and information to help providers improve their businesses, further their education and more! Individual Membership is \$40.00 per year or \$5.00 per meeting for non-members.

For more information, please visit them online at [www.sjcfcca.org](http://www.sjcfcca.org). Call them at 877-835-ABCD or 209-914-5934.



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## Resources

### Trainings:

- Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI), Session 1 of 10  
This is an interactive course that explores interactions through the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) lens. Each session covers a dimension of the CLASS tool.  
September 13, 2016 6PM - 8PM
- Environment Rating Scale Overview  
September 15, 2016 6:30PM - 8:00PM
- MMCI, Session 2 of 10  
September 20, 2016 6PM - 8PM
- MMCI, Session 3 of 10  
September 27, 2016 6PM - 8PM

Stay tuned for registration information for the above trainings, which will be held at Family Resource & Referral Center in Stockton.

### Other Resources:

- Early Childhood Investigations <http://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com>  
Early Childhood Investigations is an ongoing series of conference-quality free webinars for early childhood educators. To see a list of upcoming webinars, go to the site and click "Browse Webinars."
- California Childcare Health Program  
<http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/>  
Check out this site to get the most up-to-date knowledge of the best practices and concepts of health, wellness and safety into all child care programs. Download free (or low cost) resources such as training curricula, illness sheets, fact sheets for families, health and safety notes, posters, forms and Child Care Health Connections newsletters.

[View complete Resources List...](#)

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## About *Raising Quality!*

*Raising Quality!* is a quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs in San Joaquin County. Funded initially by a federal Race to the Top grant and now by First 5 California, *Raising Quality!* will improve the quality of early learning programs and help close the achievement gap for our youngest learners.

[Read more about Raising Quality!](#)



STAY CONNECTED:



First 5 San Joaquin | [sjckids@sjgov.org](mailto:sjckids@sjgov.org), [www.sjckids.org](http://www.sjckids.org), [www.raisingqualitysjc.org](http://www.raisingqualitysjc.org),  
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