

Relationships at the Center of Change

Each number tells the story of a community that cares deeply for its children



Relationships at the Center of Change



Why We Are Here

- What families with young children are experiencing
- How systems are working together – or not
- The impact of First 5 Monterey County investments



A Question for All of Us

How can we ALL support
children's needs, even before
birth?

The State of Systems in Monterey County:
An Examination of Supports for Children
Ages Prenatal to Five

APRIL 2025

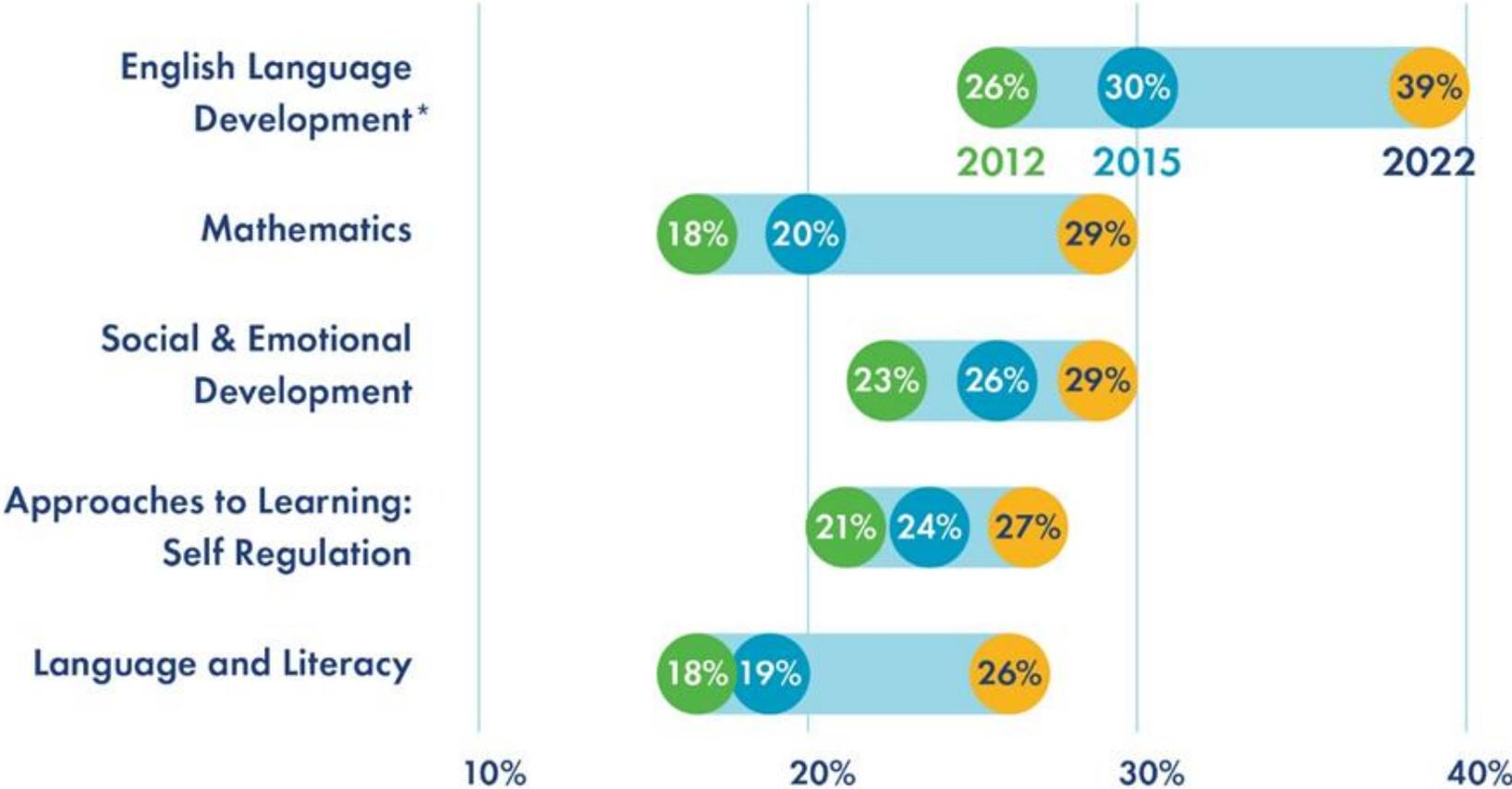


What Shapes Outcomes in Early Childhood

- Family Financial Stability
- Family Health Care
- Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Early Care and Education
- Family Support Services

Progress is Possible: What we're seeing over time

Children in ● 2022 were more likely to meet the readiness thresholds across all domains than children in ● 2015 and ● 2012.



Progress is Not Equal: Where Families Still Struggle



Nearly **two out of three** families with children under **six** did not earn enough to cover basic living needs (2023).

Source: United Way of California, "Monterey County: The Real Cost Measure in California 2023," accessed October 17, 2024.

Recommendation:

Advocate for continuous eligibility to family stability programs like CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal and WIC, including advocating for the elimination of some time limits or granting waivers for certain programs at the federal, state and local levels.

What it Feels Like

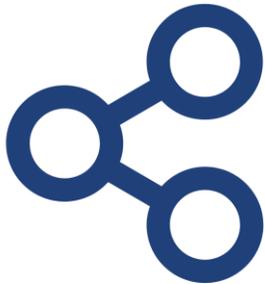
“These children deserve protection and resources that make them feel safe. They are the future of this country, and they deserve programs and subsidies that allow them to live a fair and dignified life. It is unjust that their dreams and futures are broken by unfair policies.”

- María Sánchez, Monterey County Child Care Provider

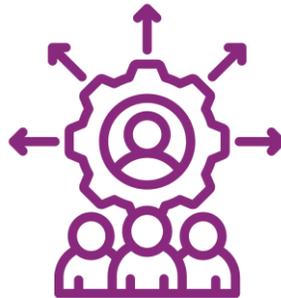


Where First 5 Monterey County Comes In

Connector



Capacity Builder



Advocate

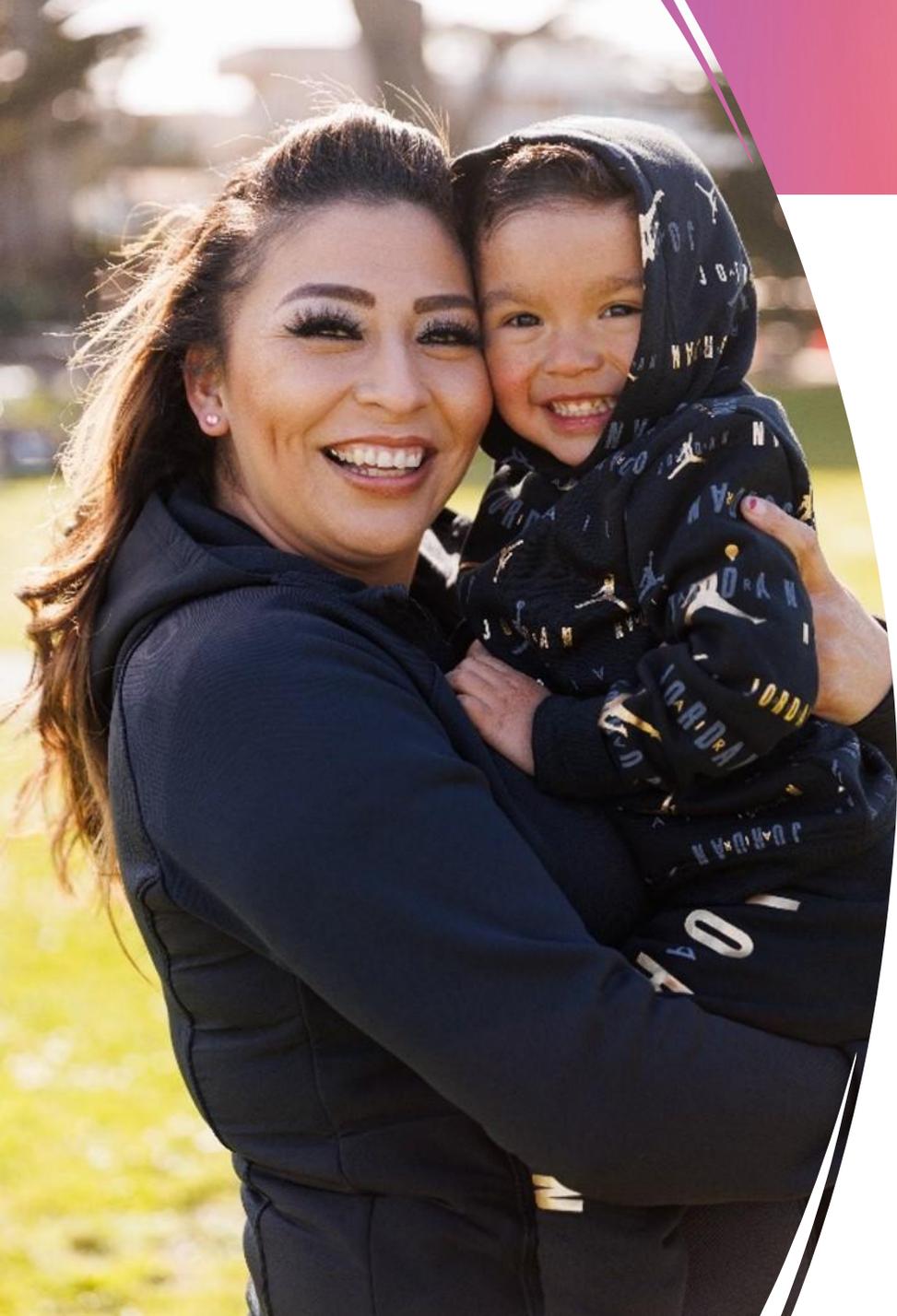


Support That Walks WITH Families

Care Coordination helps families connect to services so they do not have to navigate systems alone.

Parents as Teachers promotes safe, stable and responsive parent-child relationships





Finding Strength, Confidence and Connection

“Today, I feel proud — not ashamed — to talk about my life and my children. I’ve learned to make healthier choices and better decisions. I used to dwell on the past, but now I focus on how far we’ve come.”

Building Capacity: Supporting the People Who Support Families



Capacity building is an ongoing investment in people – not a one-time training.

What providers are saying: Mental Health Training

“ I feel more capable of continuing to help my community and the families I work with, with the advice and teachings that the Instructors have given us on how to self-regulate ourselves. This has helped me become stronger in my work.”



Centering Equity

- **51** participants in Diversity-Informed Tenets workshop
- **22** participants in Building Cultures of Community Care
- **6** Trainers/Facilitators for Building Cultures of Community Care

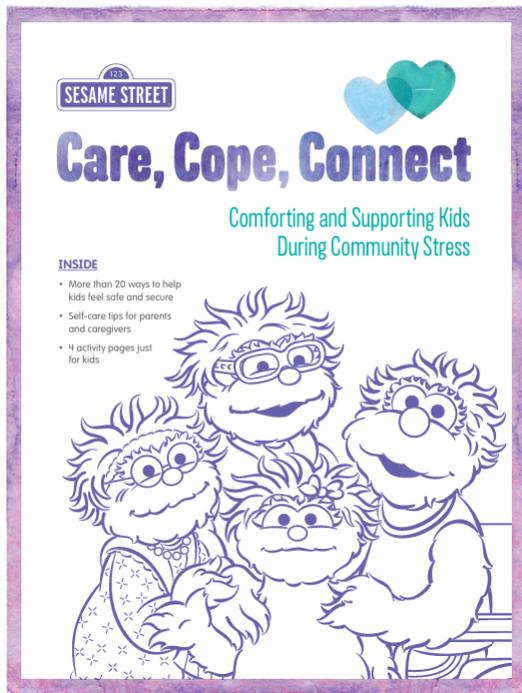




Community Voice → Policy Change

- Parent Leadership
- Regional advocacy
- Policies that reflect lived experience

Responding in Real Time: Supporting Immigrant Families



- Emergency preparedness
- Mental Health and wellness
- Culturally affirming resources

Impact at a Glance

9,514

Children, caregivers, and providers participated in F5MC funded activities.

5,896

Total children 0-5



42

Total children 6+



2,773

Total primary caregivers



803

Total practitioners, providers and educators



Systems Change is a Shared Effort

Continue to include early childhood in county documents

- Legislative platform

Continue to include early childhood programs in county budget and collaborative funding opportunities:

- Bright Beginnings
- Capacity Building
- Home Visiting/Care Coordination

Systems Change is a Shared Effort

Continue to advocate for policies that affect young children

- State legislation
- Federal legislation

Participate in an early childhood learning experiences

- F5MC Building Cultures of Community Care
- Mental Health Training Series