



Commitment to Quality Preschool

First 5 California
Children and Families
Commission (CCFC)



Share a common goal

- Provide quality programs that help prepare children to succeed in school and in life.
- Build on California's existing early care and education system.





Why invest in preschool?



Because Preschoolers

- Are more likely to be high school graduates
- Are more likely to go to college
- Do better in reading and math
- Develop better social and emotional skills
- Have more self confidence in the classroom



Despite positive research findings

- California ranks 37th in preschool enrollment in the nation

First 5 CA wants to reverse this negative trend



What is First 5 CA doing?



Several projects

- Preschool State Summit (2003)
- Master Plan for Education for all 3 and 4 year olds (2003)
- AB-56 to enact key aspects of Master Plan (2004-05)
- School Readiness Programs
- CARES



More projects

- Early Learning Workforce Development Study
- NIEER Study evaluating California's state-funded children's short-term cognitive and social growth



More projects

- Public Education Efforts – media campaigns
- First 5 California Children and Families Commission ABCD – Constructing Connections
- Power of Preschool



First 5 School Readiness & Preschool Project Strategies

- Preschool expansion
- Quality enhancements for programs
- Staff Training
- Developmental assessments/referrals
- Quality assessments for ECE Programs (ECERS and DR Training)



First 5 School Readiness & Preschool Project Strategies

- Parent Education
- Family Literacy
- Outreach
- Book Distribution
- Reading Promotion Programs



First 5 CARES Program

- **Goal:**

Increase education, professional development, and retention of early learning workforce

- **Investments:**

\$155.2M State and County funds since 2000; funding through 2008



First 5 CARES Program

Outcomes:

- 50,000 stipends/benefits in first four years
- Participants exceeded program requirements with average completion of two courses
- Participants receiving new or higher permit level almost doubled over three years



First 5 CARES Program

Outcomes:

- 52% attended 1 (or more) trainings on children with special needs
- 96% retention for one year; 93% for 18 months
- New collaborations to address barriers to college courses



Power of Preschool (PoP)



PoP provides

- Universal, voluntary and free access
- Periodic health and developmental screenings, assessments and follow-ups
- Preschool content, standards and curricula associated with CA's K-3 standards



PoP provides

- Improved staff-to-child and teacher-to-child ratios
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Transition support for children entering preschool and preschoolers entering Kindergarten
- Family Partnerships



PoP Implementation Status

- Nine Counties Participating as Demonstration Projects:
 - Merced
 - San Joaquin
 - Santa Clara
 - San Diego
 - San Francisco
 - San Mateo
 - Ventura
 - Los Angeles
 - Yolo
- 1,700 children were served by four counties in 2005-06.



Implementation Status

- All nine counties will serve approximately 9,500 children in 2006-07.
- In the next five years, 85,000 children are projected to be served.

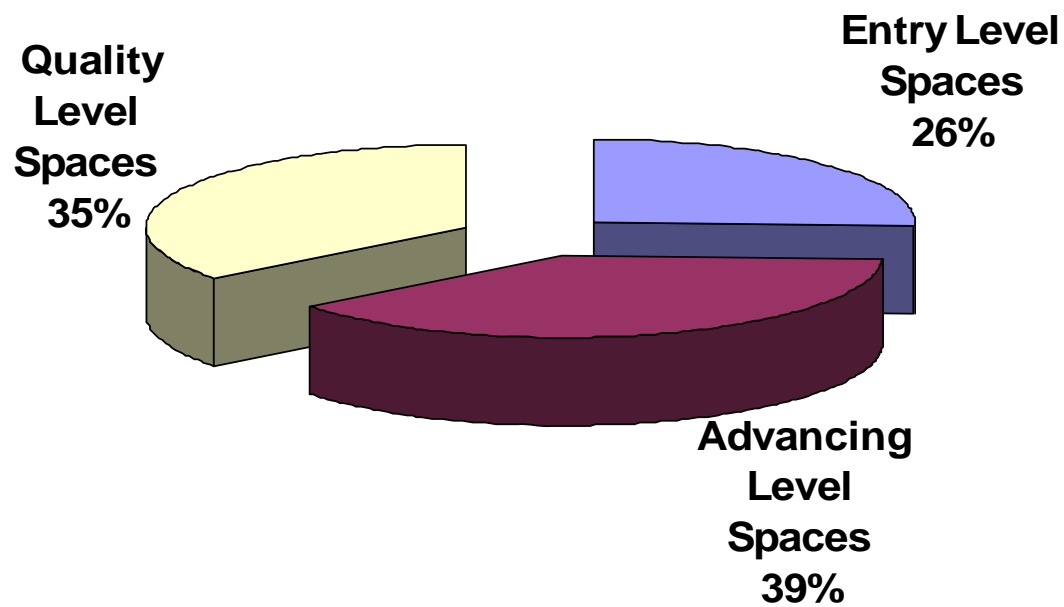


Reimbursement Rates based on teacher qualifications

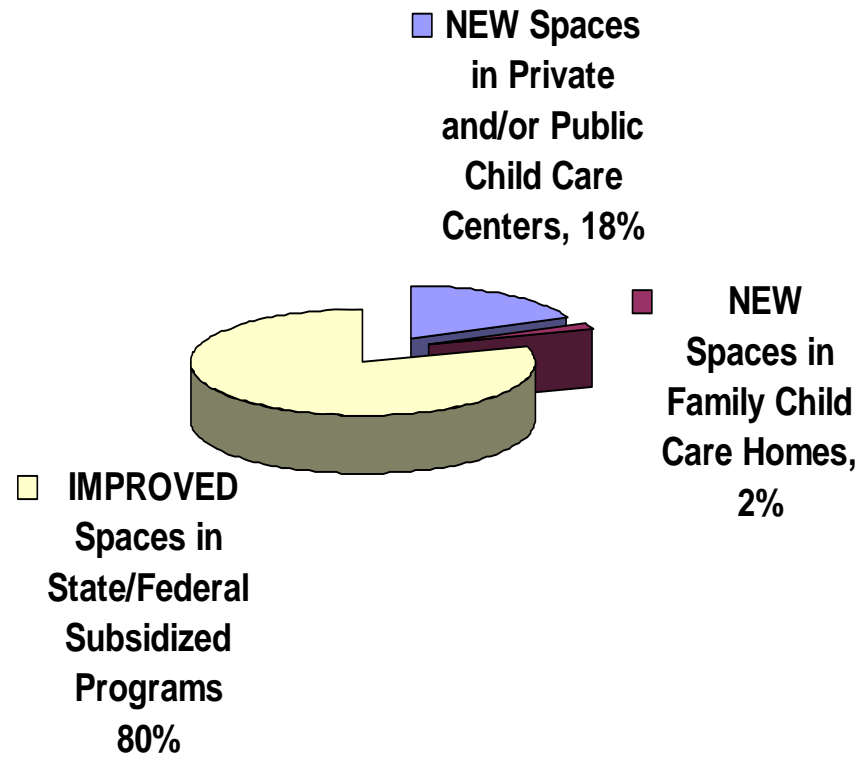
- Entry level
- Advancing Level
- Quality Level



Children Served in FY 2005-06



PoP Spaces “Types” in FY 2005-06



First 5 California Investment in Quality PoP

- \$100 million for 5 years
 - \$90 million for Demonstration Projects
 - \$10 million for Quality Enhancement.
- \$404 million local county contribution



How First 5 California Supports Quality

- First 5 California is promoting the BA degree in Early Childhood
- To receive the highest level of reimbursement (quality level) providers must have a BA degree
- Providers must use the Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS and FDCRS)



First 5 California Facilities Plan

- Authorized three years of support for Affordable Buildings For Child Development (ABCD) Constructing Connections for a total of \$3 million.



First 5 California Workforce Development Plan

- Investment of \$33.3 million for the Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES)
- Invested \$770,000 for the California Early Care and Education Workforce Study



First 5 California Workforce Development Plan

- Current Investment of \$400,000 for the Early Learning Workforce Development Project awarded to Center for the Study of Child Care Employment - UC Berkeley



First 5 California Future Efforts

- Exploring other ways to invest in preschool
- Expanding PoP Programs
- Educating public through media efforts



First 5 California Future Efforts

- Partnering with state, business and foundations
- Supporting county commissions and other early care and education systems



First 5 California's Goal

All California children to
have the opportunity to
go to quality preschools

