



# EVALUATION NEWSLETTER

May 2010

## *Preschool for All – KROA Symposium*

The First 5 Association hosted the Kindergarten Readiness Observational Assessments (KROA) symposium on May 20. First 5 Sacramento staff Doreen Diehl; School Readiness Coordinators Dave Pascoa, Ada Arevalo, Ginger Swigart, and Sara Haycox; and evaluation team member Summerlynn Anderson attended. The seminar emphasized the importance of including assessments of kindergarteners to obtain a broader perspective and understanding of school readiness. For this newsletter we highlight some of the core topics presented at this symposium.

*Counties learn from kindergarten assessments:* Representatives from First 5 San Mateo, First 5 Santa Barbara, First 5 San Francisco, Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Mateo County Office of Education, and Newport-Mesa Unified School District shared the benefits in implementing kindergarten assessments and how data produced were useful for program planning, directing funds, classroom placement, identifying predictive factors, and parent education. A second panel followed detailing three kindergarten assessments currently used by First 5 counties, and one assessment in progress.

*Kindergarten Observation Form (KOA):* Lynne Mobilio from Applied Survey Research (ASR) discussed the KOA and the ASR school readiness assessment model which includes a parent and teacher survey along with the child assessment. The KOA was developed by ASR and includes a child demographic section followed by 24 teacher-rated items broken into four subscales: Self care & motor skills, Self regulation, Social expression, and Kindergarten academics. Each skill is rated as *proficient*, in

*progress*, *beginning*, or *not yet*. The inter-rater reliability is currently being tested.

*Early Developmental Index (EDI):* Neal Halfon, from UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, provided information about the five domains of the EDI: Physical health and wellbeing, Social competence, Emotional maturity, Language and cognitive skills, and Communication skills and general knowledge. This 104 item instrument was developed as a population-based measure by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University in Canada. Teachers enter data using a web-based tool, and results can be used to produce community based outcomes such as tracking “vulnerable” children in each domain at the district and neighborhood level.

*Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile (KSEP):* Matt Quirk from UC Santa Barbara presented the KSEP developed by Santa Maria-Bonita School District, First 5 Santa Barbara County, and the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UCSB. Teacher’s rate children’s physical & health readiness, social-emotional readiness, and school ready knowledge. The KSEP includes two direct assessment supplements for follow-up and intervention for children with low ratings.

*Desired Results Developmental Profile – School Readiness (DRDP-SR):* The UC Berkeley BEAR Center and WestED Center for Child and Family Studies are developing an optional statewide kindergarten assessment to complement the current DRDP preschool assessments with the goal of attaining information about individual children’s development over time. They are recruiting kindergarten teachers to test the instrument this year and plan to have the final assessment ready to implement in August 2011.

### THE EVALUATION TEAM:

*The evaluators of First 5 Sacramento represent a team from Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. (Sacramento) and Harder+Company Community Research (Davis). The evaluation team is dedicated to assessing the impact of First 5 Sacramento services on families throughout Sacramento, while minimizing the amount of time that contractors have to spend on evaluation activities. Please call us if you have any questions about the evaluation of First 5 Sacramento services: WRMA 916.239.4020; H+Co 530.757.8420.*