

CHILDREN FIRST COLLECTIVE SAN DIEGO

Children First Collective San Diego welcomes all to help solve the child care crisis. We are proud to work with local partners, including:

The Chicano Federation

Child Development Associates

Educational Enrichment Systems

First 5 San Diego

MAAC Project

Mission Driven Finance

Parent Voices

San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council

San Diego for Every Child

SAY San Diego

YMCA of San Diego County, Childcare Resource Service

On behalf of the [Children First Collective of San Diego](#), we are reaching out to introduce ourselves and offer insights regarding the local implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), including expanded Transitional Kindergarten (TK).

Similar to the work you are committed to with your educators, our work is grounded in a commitment to maximizing opportunities for young children and working families, informed by experts that include local parents, early childhood system leaders, and researchers in child development. And like you, we are motivated by an unwavering commitment to equity for all communities and all children.

We are thrilled that the state of California is making transformative and unprecedented investments in early learning. We are also mindful that in order to achieve the intention of those investments—equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities and care for all children—there are critical considerations that must be addressed sooner rather than later:

- How best to **support working families with full-day, full-year** learning and care options;
- How to integrate **community-based partners** in the child care mixed-delivery system;
- How to tackle the **UPK/TK staffing challenge** while reinforcing the overall workforce development of the child care sector;
- How to work collaboratively to build a seamlessly integrated prenatal to third grade **continuum of care and learning**.

This is a great opportunity for us to collaborate in thinking through the answers to these questions and we are making ourselves available for connection and thought partnership in the work that lies ahead. As you can see within the document, '[An Inclusive Framework: Designing and Implementing Prekindergarten in California](#),' we have done a considerable amount of thinking on these topics. This framework and recommendations can help with insights across sectors, and local recommendations can serve as suggestions for what is possible in our region.

As your district navigates greater integration of younger learners into your education continuum, please know we stand ready and willing to work with you and all of your educators to promote a robust mixed delivery system that helps all children and families thrive. From prenatal through early childhood and into the early elementary grades, unquestionable success can only be

achieved through a whole child, whole family, whole community approach to this generational investment in early education.

The Children First Collective San Diego looks forward to an expanded collaboration, and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect in the upcoming weeks. This will be to discuss next steps in how we can together pursue a better tomorrow where our youngest learners reach their potential to thrive.

Sincerely,



Courtney Baltiyskyy

YMCA Community Support Services

Children First Collective San Diego Co-Facilitator



Erin Hogeboom

San Diego for Every Child

Children First Collective San Diego Co-Facilitator



[Tackling the challenges of child care across our San Diego County communities](https://sdchildrenfirst.org)

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