



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO RAISING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (CARES) PLUS

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

In order to enroll in CARES Plus, providers must meet the following requirements:

- Provide child care for children ages 0 to 5 in San Benito County for a minimum of 9 months each academic year, working at least 15 hours per week. (Requirement adjusted for providers working in seasonal and other migrant programs.)
- Work in a licensed or license-exempt facility.
- Earn less than \$60,000 annually in childcare income.
- Work in only one county and not receive a stipend from AB212.
- First year participants must attend an Informational Meeting/Registration Workshop

ANNUAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Submit a completed application with all required certifications and agreements.
- Attend a Mandatory Orientation.
- Complete and submit a Professional Growth Plan and Addenda.
- Meet at least twice a year with a CARES Plus Advisor.
- Complete all CARES Plus Program Requirements, including participating in two (2) in-person CLASS™ Observations, if selected.
- Complete CARES Plus Participant Surveys.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR PARTICIPANTS

To receive a stipend*, first year participants must complete a CORE program which consists of three on-line trainings. The trainings are free and are available in both English and Spanish. The trainings are listed below:

1. **Introduction to the CLASS™ tool.** This is an interactive program that provides a basic understanding of the CLASS™ tool and how it can be used to improve teacher/child interactions. (1-2 hours)
2. **Looking at CLASSrooms™.** This training focuses on identifying and analyzing effective teacher-child interactions and includes a video library. (22-30 hours)
3. **Dangers of Second-hand Smoke.** Sponsored by First 5 California and created by the California Smokers' Helpline, this is a self-paced training that provides tools for keeping children safe from second-hand smoke. (1 hour)

Participants who are randomly selected by First 5 California will receive two CLASS™ Observations, one in the fall and one in the spring, during which a trained observer will assess the participants' effectiveness using the CLASS™ tool. Participants who complete the Observations will receive an additional incentive.*

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING PARTICIPANTS

Participants who successfully complete the first-year requirements may continue in the program by completing the higher education component. If a Continuing Participant serves children in multiple age groups or begins serving children in a different age group, they may request permission to complete the CORE program for a different age group in lieu of or in addition to completing the Higher Education Component.

Continuing participants may also be randomly selected to participate in CLASS™ Observations. If selected, they must complete the Observations to receive a stipend and the additional incentive.*

ENROLLMENT

Early educators who are interested in enrolling in the program as a first-year participant must attend an Informational Meeting/Application Workshop. For dates and times, please call First 5 San Benito at (831) 634-2046 or e-mail anaid@first5sb.org

****Stipends and Incentives may be adjusted contingent on funding.***