

PRESS RELEASE

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Child Development Division's six early education centers remain open to essential workers across Santa Cruz County

WATSONVILLE, CA – All of the Child Development Division's (CDD) six early education centers are currently open for families whose jobs are deemed essential by the County of Santa Cruz March 16, 2020 shelter in place order. The CDD centers, part of Community Bridges family of programs, operate at sites throughout Santa Cruz County. Community Bridges recognizes that child care is an essential service and we understand reducing services at a center has significant social and financial implications on the families affected. Community Bridges continues to adhere to, and monitor, guidance from county and state agencies and California Department of Education and this has required us to limit our services to families most impacted and in need.

We value the health and wellness of the children and families we serve and continue to be diligent in our efforts to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. CDD is strictly adhering to the March 16, 2020 Santa Cruz County shelter in place ruling, as well as guidelines from local and state public health departments, in the following ways:

- Limiting classroom sizes to less than 12
- Children and teachers will be in the same group each day
- Parents are advised to take their child's temperature before arriving at the center and stay home if there is any sign of illness
- Children with any signs of illness will be sent home
- Implementation of additional sanitization and disinfecting methods at the centers
- Increased outdoor activities to provide increased social distancing
- Implementing social distancing as part of the classroom strategy
- Single use thermometers will be available to monitor children during the day and may be used prior to entering classrooms.

ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The first five years of a child's life are critical to their health and success. Our six early education centers provide nurturing and affordable early education at six sites across Santa Cruz County. Part-time and full-day care are available and fees are based on a sliding scale. Our centers maintain low teacher-to-child ratios of 1:8 for preschoolers and 1:4 for toddlers. We offer developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate play-based programs, catering to the unique needs of each child. To learn more, please visit

<https://communitybridges.org/cdd/>

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. Together, our family of programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org.

The Community Bridges family of programs includes the Child & Adult Care Food Program, Child Development Division, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), La Manzana Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources, Nueva Vista Community Resources, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Lift Line and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.