



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Early Detection Helps with School Readiness

**Chula Vista, CA** - South Bay parents now have a new resource to help answer questions regarding their children's developmental growth. "Child Ready. School Ready." provided by South Bay Community Services and funded through First 5 of San Diego County, offers children 15 months to five years of age free developmental screening to confirm important milestones or help to identify possible delays.

No doubt, each child progresses at a different rate. While one child may walk at nine months, another can happily wait 14 months. However, if a developmental delay is detected, early identification can help with a successful treatment.

A screening evaluates a child's development — physical, language, intellectual, social, and emotional. Based upon the results, children can be directed to other free services to assist in areas such as speech and physical therapy.

"If parents are worried about a particular issue, such as the child's speech or ability to grab objects, a screening is a quick, simple and first step to appease any worry or if needed, get the right care for your child," Executive Director of South Bay Community Services Kathryn Lembo said. "Early detection and appropriate intervention can improve the quality of life for both the child at risk and their families."

In the United States, according to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, 17% of children have delays in language or other areas. Unfortunately, less than 50% of these children are identified as having difficulties before starting school -- impacting school readiness and learning.

The free screening is administered by professionals specialized in child development and are available throughout the South Bay region. "Child Ready. School Ready." offers just one more way to set children in the right path for school. For more information, to make an appointment, or locate in the next screening sight, contact South Bay Community Services at 1-888-6-BABY STEPS.

South Bay Community Services is a non-profit organization providing services, support and opportunities for over 20,000 individuals and families in the South Bay Area of San Diego County annually.

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"Child ready. School ready." is provided by South Bay Community Services and funded by First 5 of San Diego County. For a developmental screening in your area contact First 5 of San Diego County at (866) 726-8831 (*toll free*).

### **south bay community services**

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**24 hr. Hotline: 800.640.2933**