



# DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA EMPLOYER CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2009

*“More than two  
in three  
Americans  
favor  
government  
funded child  
care to make it  
easier for  
people to  
work\*.”*

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## Employee Child Care Project Update

The Downtown Santa Barbara Employer Child Care Partnership has made numerous major accomplishments over the past couple years. A few key highlights include:

- Conducted Child Care Capacity Study – surveyed all child care centers and after school programs in Santa Barbara County.
- Decided to conduct a workforce child care study starting in downtown Santa Barbara.
- The County Board of Supervisors agreed that the County take a lead role, contribute towards the cost of the Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care study, and allow County employees to participate in study.
- Created and distributed outreach materials to 415 employers plus 200 Santa Barbara Human Resource members in effort to gain employer participation in study.
- Launched Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care Study and project website.
- Held study kick off meeting and employer liaison meetings.
- Created and distributed employee outreach materials in effort to gain a large and diverse sample of parent and non-parent employees.
- Conducted Santa Barbara Employee Child Care Study - 23 employers participated in the study.
- 2718 employees completed the Child Care Study and 21 parent employees participated in the focus groups.

- Celebrated Work and Family Month.

The Partnership will be presenting the study results to the County Board of Supervisors in March, at which time key findings will also be shared with the public.



Efforts will then be focused on establishing the Partnership’s next steps based on the data collected from the study.

Stay posted for project updates.

## Child Care and the Economy

Despite news that child care enrollment has been steadily declining due to economic hardships across the nation, the demand for high quality child care in downtown Santa Barbara has not wavered.

In fact, over two year waiting list still exist in many

of the high quality child care centers within downtown Santa Barbara according to a recent update to the Santa Barbara Child Care Capacity study conducted by First 5 Santa Barbara County, Early Care and Education Division.



\* [http://www.rockfound.org/index\\_CAW\\_bm.shtml](http://www.rockfound.org/index_CAW_bm.shtml)