



# DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA EMPLOYER CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2008

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

First 5  
Santa Barbara County  
Office of Early Care  
& Education

1 East Anapamu St.  
Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101

Tel: 805-884-8062  
Fax: 805-564-8586

hgold@countyofsb.org  
www.countyofsb.org/ceo/



## Employee Child Care Project Update

Welcome to the first Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care Survey project newsletter. This is the first of many newsletters on the project progress.

We are excited to announce that the survey has been a huge success! Thank you for your support and participation in the Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care Survey project.

Twenty-three employers representing a diverse sample of the various industries within downtown Santa Barbara took part in this project and over 2,700 employees completed the survey, which was available in English and Spanish online

and in print. In addition, three parent employee focus groups were conducted to offer employees the opportu-



nity to openly discuss their concerns about child care responsibilities and to gain insight into if and how these responsibilities impact their work life in Santa Barbara.

Initial analysis of the survey and focus group results indicate that child care issues

affect more than just parents. *This is clearly an important issue in the community.*

Further analysis is currently being conducted. The survey results and individualized employer reports will be available by the beginning of November.

Survey results will be shared with participating employers and key community members at the **Next Steps Luncheon** in November, at which time the Partnership will strategize how to proceed.

*Stay posted for more information about the Luncheon.*

## Bottom Line Statistics

The US Department of Labor estimates 72% of absenteeism is due to child care related issues.\*

Recent research indicates that 55% of workers who were offered a child care subsidy were better able to concentrate at work and 48% were

more likely to stay at work.\*\* Over 75% of surveyed workers felt that the subsidy has improved their job performance.\*\*

More than 75 of Working Mother magazine's "Top 100 Companies for Working Mothers" offer either full-

service child care or back-up care.



\* [http://www.workoptionsgroup.com/workplace\\_impact.html](http://www.workoptionsgroup.com/workplace_impact.html) \*\*Work & Family Connection. 2005. *The Most Important Work-Life-Related Studies*. Minnetonka, MN Retrieved from <http://www.awlp.org/awlp/library/html/businessimpact.jsp?nodeid=827305&vernum=0>