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First 5 San Bernardino Book Event Comes to the High Desert *Will distribute 4,000 books, 1,000 backpacks to area children*

SAN BERNARDINO – October 29, 2021 – First 5 San Bernardino is excited to help High Desert families build home libraries for their young children by hosting a free event on Saturday, November 13, 2021, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Cora Harper Fitness Center 840 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311. Each child (ages 0-5) will receive four books to take home along with other items.

“Young children who are talked with and read to regularly throughout the first five years of life will have heard a staggering 30 million words more than those children who were not positively spoken with, read to, or engaged with during those early years,” said Karen E. Scott, executive director at First 5 San Bernardino.

Key activities that work to build and exercise the developing brains of babies and young children include talking, reading and singing in safe and caring ways, Scott explained.

As part of First 5 San Bernardino’s Annual Literacy Event, the community is invited to participate in the organization’s free drive-thru event to receive books, backpacks and Kinder Kits (with 1 glue stick, 1 pencil and pencil box, 1 pack of crayons, 1 scissors, and 1 large eraser). Additionally, Potter the Otter reading character will be there along with kid-friendly DJ music and other vendors providing information to help parents of young children.

“We want parents, caregivers and others who interact with our youngest children to know about the importance of the brain development that takes place in the earliest days, months and years of a child’s life,” Scott stated. “Events like this are designed to communicate the vital importance of reading to children early and often,” concluded Scott.

This event aligns with the countywide [Vision2Read campaign](#), which aims to improve literacy among children and adults by highlighting literacy resources throughout the county.

*Supplies are limited to the first 1,000 attendees and **registration is required** by going to First 5’s website at www.first5sanbernardino.org.

About First 5 San Bernardino

First 5 San Bernardino’s distinct purpose is to improve the lives of young children and their families by giving them the best possible start in life. For the past 23 years, First 5 San Bernardino has been working dynamically through strategic partnerships to promote, support and enhance the health and early development of children prenatal through age 5, their families and communities. First 5 San Bernardino has evolved into a system where stakeholders and services are integrated, coordinated and sustainable, and one that families experience as accessible, inclusive and equitable. For more information, visit First5SanBernardino.org.