

Decades of research prove that children benefit from a strong start.

Access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, healthy nutrition, childcare and afterschool academic support is linked to higher academic achievement, successful careers and healthy, economically vibrant communities.

Investing in these basics for children is not only the right thing to do, it's good for our community and our economy.

Quality early education and afterschool programs generate public savings by as much as \$7 for every \$1 invested. They increase high school graduation by 31%, college attendance by more than 80%, and employment by 23%, and they **build the workforce of the future.**

It may be a surprise that many children do not have access to these vital support systems – **right here in Marin.**



A partial list of local leaders and organizations who are part of the Marin Strong Start Coalition, working together on behalf of every child and youth in Marin...

First 5 Marin

MarinKids

Marin Child Care Council

Marin Child Care Commission

Community Action Marin

League of Women Voters

Parent Voices

Jenny Callaway, Former Trustee, San Rafael City Schools, MarinKids

Aideen Gaidmore, Marin Child Care Council

Juan Rodriguez, Principal, Venetia Valley K-8

Amy Reisch, First 5 Marin

Mike Daly, Marin County Probation

Cindi Clinton, Trustee, Novato USD

Christa Brown, United Way of the Bay Area

Curtis Robinson, M.D., Marin Community Foundation, Marin County Board of Education

Heather Ravani, Assistant Director, Marin County Health & Human Services

Jeff Bialik, Catholic Charities

Carlos Garcia-Bedoya, PhD, Parent Voices

Liz Burns, Community Action Marin

Susan Christman, Larkspur-Corte Madera SD

Kathleen Tabor, MarinKids

Dr. Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent, San Rafael City Schools

Cynthia Murray, North Bay Leadership Council

Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Bob Rosenberg, Marin County School Volunteers

Ethel Seiderman, Community Activist

Marcia Hagen, League of Women Voters

Patty Garbarino, Marin County Board of Education, Marin Sanitary

Susan Gilmore, North Bay Children's Center

Margaret Ballou, Women's Commission

Maribeth Bushey, San Rafael City Council

Pat Kendall, San Rafael Citizen of the Year, 2013

Johnathan Logan, Marin City Community Services District

Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mayor, Mill Valley

Cecilia Zamora, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Cheryl Paddack, Novato Youth Center

Laurie O'Hara, Child Care Commission

**Partial list. Visit us online to add your name and view a full coalition list. Organizations not in bold listed for identification purposes only.*

Join us to ensure a strong start for every child in Marin County.

www.MarinStrongStart.org

Strong Starts Produce Lifelong Results



Preschool

Preschool boosts academic achievement and makes children more likely to start school ready, stay in school and graduate – **yet one out of every three children in Marin does not attend preschool.**



- 35% of Marin 3- and 4-year old children did not attend preschool in 2012, often due to the high cost for families. Only 35% of Latino children attended.
- Fewer than 50% of poor children start school ready compared to 75% of children who are not poor – a 27% gap.
- By third grade, 66% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin did not read at grade level in 2013.
- For every child who attends preschool our economy can save about \$11,400 per child due to increased school attendance, fewer remedial programs required, increased graduation rates and college attendance, decreased juvenile arrests and increased chances of future success in the job market. (Rand)

Affordable Child Care

Affordable, quality child care provides a nurturing environment for brain development while enabling parents to support their families. As many as **800 families are currently on a wait list and unable to secure affordable child care in Marin.**



- The cost of child care is out of reach for many families in Marin where housing, food and other living expenses are very high.
- 30% of families in Marin have an income insufficient to meet basic needs of their family including child care.
- Access to affordable, quality child care reduces the burden on working families, increases family self-sufficiency, and improves economic productivity.

Healthcare

Access to quality healthcare and wellness services for every child improves lifelong health, helps catch problems early, promotes regular school attendance and assures all our children are healthier. Making sure all children in Marin continue to be insured and have access to medical, dental, mental health services and healthy nutrition is key.



- Early screening for vision, hearing, developmental and behavioral issues, and dental problems can prevent more costly interventions later and keep children from falling behind in school.
- 12% of Marin children 2-11 have never seen a dentist.
- 20% of Marin's kindergartners did not have required immunizations.
- Only 55% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin are at a healthy weight.

Extended Learning/Afterschool Programs



Students who fall behind generally stay behind. Students who attend afterschool and extended learning programs consistently show improvements in academic achievement. **In Marin, 60% fewer children who are poor or racially diverse meet state targets in math and English and generally have unequal access to academic assistance such as tutoring.**

- Students that are reading well in third grade are more likely to graduate from high school and are able to keep up in other subjects.
- Students who attend extended learning and afterschool programs are less likely to join gangs, get involved with drugs and alcohol, or drop out of school.



A Coalition for a Solution

Marin Strong Start is a grassroots coalition made up of leaders in education, healthcare, business, local government, early care and education, youth, community services, civic organizations, parents and communities across Marin County.

Marin Strong Start seeks to secure a stable source of funding to ensure access to preschool, quality health and wellness services, affordable childcare and afterschool academic support to meet the needs of all of Marin's children.



Visit www.MarinStrongStart.org to get involved.