

FIRST 5 S H A S T A

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 13, 2009

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PROJECTS AWARDED \$40,000 TO SERVE SHASTA'S YOUNG CHILDREN

REDDING-----First 5 Shasta (the Shasta Children and Families First Commission) continues its investment in young children with the commitment of \$40,000 in Special Opportunity funding awards. Shasta County children and families of 0-to-5 year olds will soon benefit as four projects are developed using these funds. Over the past seven years, First 5 Shasta's local early childhood investment totals well over \$12 million.

Projects receiving Special Opportunity funding for Spring 2009 are as follows:

City of Redding Recreation	\$12,000
<u>Project:</u> Under the Big Oak Provide a fenced and secure outdoor learning environment for preschool-age children adjacent to the Enterprise Community Room near Kid's Kingdom.	
Shasta County Office of Education, Early Childhood Services	\$13,000
<u>Project:</u> Bridges to Success Expansion Provide training and support for behavior coaches working with preschool-age children with significant behavior issues.	
Therapy Station	\$ 5,500
<u>Project:</u> Sensory Tools Lending Library Purchase equipment for loan to families with children with Sensory Integration Dysfunction and to early care sites serving children age five and younger.	
Whitmore Union Elementary School District	\$ 9,500
<u>Project:</u> Whitmore Preschool Playground Purchase and install playground equipment at school; playground accessible to the public.	

First 5 Shasta, the Shasta Children and Families First Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, child care and other programs promoting early childhood development for expectant parents and children up to age five. To date, First 5 Shasta has invested over \$12 million in local projects and programs that benefit young children and families.