

Program News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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WHEN:

Wednesday - October 19, 2016 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

WHERE:

College of Alameda Children's Center – 555 Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway, Alameda, CA 94501

WHAT:

Alameda Family Services - Head Start/Early Head Start Program hosted its first Family Night Literacy Event on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. Over 120 families came to the College of Alameda and received training on the "What to Do When My Child Gets Sick" book series. Families enjoyed playing together on the site's new playground sponsored by KaBOOM! and the Dr Pepper Snapple Group, and built by community members this past July. Children in attendance got to visit with Officer Martinez from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, and parents were able to tour the Prescott Joseph Center for Community Enhancement's Breathmobile, a mobile clinic that provides our community with services to children with asthma at no charge.

WHY:

Alameda Head Start and Early Head Start is committed to improving the health, wellness and resiliency of the children and families in our community. This event is part of the program's participation in the UCLA and Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute, and the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness innovative health literacy improvement program. By delivering this easy to understand, and culturally sensitive training to Head Start and Early Head Start families, we strive to reduce absenteeism, improve children's overall health, wellness and resiliency, and empower parents to make more informed decisions about their child's health and reduce the burden of unnecessary ER, and clinic visits on our healthcare system.

Research shows that parents who have gone through the UCLA/ J&J "What to Do When My Child Gets Sick" training curriculum and received a copy of the health information book, reported a 48% reduction in emergency room visits, and 37.5% reduction in unnecessary health clinic visits, resulting in approximately 42% fewer work days missed by the parents, and an estimate of \$554 annual cost savings in ER/clinic visits per each family trained.

ABOUT: ALAMEDA FAMILY SERVICES – HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Alameda Family Services - Head Start/Early Head Start provides comprehensive child development, health, and family support services to low-income families with children from birth to age five. In partnership with parents, our child care centers and in-home services promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children.

WEBSITE: www.alamedafs.org