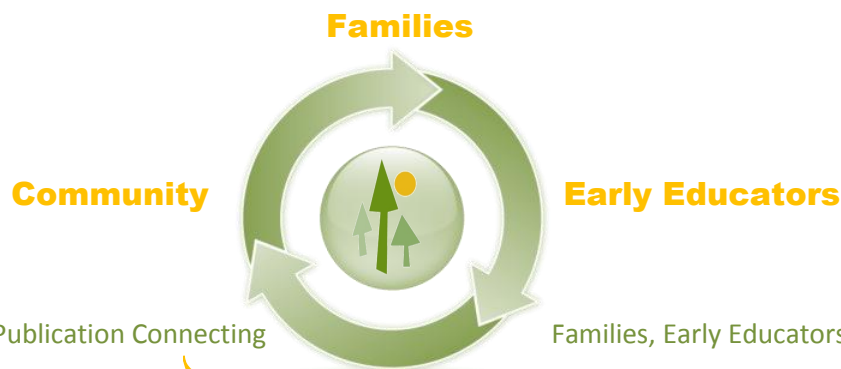


# Sierra Nevada Children's Services

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A Partnership Project Publication Connecting

Families, Early Educators and Community

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# Full Circle



## CALIFORNIA BUDGET ANALYSIS

MARCH 2011

Here is a summary of the proposed budget measures that will affect California's most vulnerable young children.

Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Health Insurance for families earning up to 250% of the federal poverty level\* would increase family insurance premiums and co-payments for doctor visits, prescriptions, emergency room services and hospital services. Participants in Healthy Families would face increases of \$14-\$18 per month/per child enrolled. The legislative budget proposal also caps the annual number of doctor visits subject to physician authorization of medical necessity; eliminates coverage for over-the-counter medications like cough and cold medicines; and cuts funds for children's vision coverage in Healthy Families. Decreased payments to Medi-Cal providers are also proposed. Aspects of these proposals would require federal approval.

CalWORKs proposed changes include reducing the time limit for assistance in this welfare-to-work program from 60 months to 48 months; cash grants to adults would be reduced by 8% with additional reductions for some child-only families. This would reduce the maximum grant from \$694 to \$638/month. The Budget Conference proposal extends exemptions previously granted allowing CalWORKs recipients with young children to remain out of the work force without affecting their CalWORKs time limit. The budget also cuts \$5 million from substance abuse and mental health services for CalWORK's recipients, supports that help stabilize families.

Child Care: While the Budget Conference proposal restores Stage 3 child care for low-income families, the eligibility for state-subsidized child care has been reduced from 75% of State Median Income to 70%. This will drop some families from child care eligibility. The Legislature approved a 10% across the board increase in family fees paid for subsidized child care. The Legislature's budget also eliminates the Centralized Eligibility List, which had been established to ensure that low-income families can gain access to child care services. Additionally, the "refundable" portion of the Child and Dependent Care Expense Credit was eliminated. However, the core child care tax credit program remains in place.

Cuts affecting Early Care and Education Providers: Across-the-board program cuts will reduce funding across the board to all child care subsidy programs by 15%, with the exception of Stage 1 and 2 CalWORKs child care. In addition, the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) paid to CDE-contracted programs will be reduced by up to 10%. License-exempt child care reimbursement rates will be reduced from 80% of the licensed rate to 60%. The Legislature's Conference budget assumes that low-income families will pay higher fees to make up the program funding gap. Reports from providers around the state indicate that infant and toddler child care will bear the brunt of these funding reductions since infant care is costly to provide.

\*2010 Federal Poverty Level - Family of Four = \$22,350.00



# SNICS Picks

By Sharon Thurman



## HOLLYHOCKS AND HONEYBEES GARDEN PROJECTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

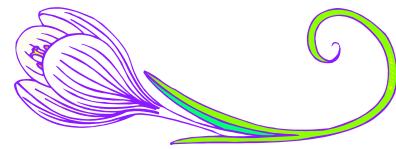
By Sara Starbuck, Marla Olthof, and Karen Midden

Gardens are places where a child's imagination engages nature – and the result is joyful learning. *Hollyhocks and Honeybees* guides teachers through the unique and expansive learning opportunities offered by gardening with children.

Learn how gardening curriculum incorporates language and literacy, science and math, social sciences, and the arts, as well as physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Simple instructions lead teachers through planning, preparation, plant selection, growing zones, and pest control. Also includes sample garden designs, recipes and activities, ideas for parent and community involvement, and resource lists. It is 181 pages of valuable information, and darling photos of children working in the garden.

More books on Gardening and Spring:

**This Year's Garden**, by Cynthia Rylant  
**Zinnia's Flower Garden**, by Monica Wellington  
**Where Butterflies Grow**, by Joanne Ryder  
**It's Spring!**, by Linda Glaser  
**Frogs Sing Songs**, by Yvonne Winer



**Good Night, Baby Bear**, by Frank Asch

Baby bear doesn't want to go to sleep. First he wants a snack. Then he wants a drink. And now he wants the moon! What is a loving, but very sleepy, mother to do? With a lot of ingenuity – and a little magic – Mother Bear produces just the right comforts to help her baby snuggle up and dream.

More books about Moms:

**Mommy Hugs**, by Karen Katz (board book)  
**I Love My Mommy Because...** by Lauren Porter-Gaylord  
**Mama – A True Story**, by Jeanette Winter  
**Mommy Mine**, by Tim Warnes  
**Love You Forever**, Robert Munsch  
**You're Not My Real Mother**, by Molly Friedrich

## Subsidy and Resource and Referral Updates

### SUBSIDY

We are in the midst of open enrollment and there have been many transfers of families amongst Family Support Specialists. Please make sure to check the top of the attendance sheet to see who the current Specialist is.

### CALWORKS STAGE 3 UPDATE

On October 8, 2010, the Governor vetoed funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 for fiscal year 2010-2011 effective November 1, 2010. Funding has been redirected through an administrative process completed by the CDE and approved by the Legislature and the Governor to provide services to eligible Stage 3 families. This process provides identified funding for Stage 3 services beginning January 1, 2011. At this time SNCS is re-enrolling eligible families in Stage 3. In the future, currently enrolled families no longer eligible for CalWORKs Stage 2 funding will seamlessly transfer to CalWORKs Stage 3. Please contact a Family Support Specialist if you have any questions.

### IMPORTANT

Please be advised Family Support Specialists are now processing provider reimbursements from approximately the **6<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> of EVERY MONTH**. While every effort will be made to respond to phone calls and emails during reimbursement processing, response time may be delayed. Specialists have limited availability for walk-ins during this time. If you need to meet with a Family Support Specialist, please schedule an appointment to ensure a Specialist will be available.

## Local News From SNCS

### GRASS VALLEY

The cool, rainy days of winter have begun to give way to the longer, sunnier days of spring making many of us want to get out there and enjoy the lovely weather; fortunately there are plenty of opportunities for families go out and do just that. Here's a list of several, free local events going on in April and May:

- **Keeping Kids Safe Festival** at the Beam "Easy Living" Center, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-4:00pm. Lots of fun things for the kids such as crafts, a petting zoo, bounce house, giant slide, face painting and much more. Call (530) 582-0860 for more information.
- **Shred It Day at Sierra Nevada Children's Services** – Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Suggested donation of \$10/per bankers box – please call Katherine at (530.) 272.8866 x222 for more information.
- **Nevada County Concert Band "Spring into Summer"** concert, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm at the First Baptist Church of Grass Valley, 1866 Ridge Road. For more information call (530) 272-6228
- **Llama Show at Nevada County Fair Grounds**. May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Come see these furry cuties compete in packing, obstacle, carting, and halter events. Call (530) 273-6217 for more information.
- **Wildflower walking tours** led by park docents at South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport. Tours start at the North parking lot. Easy walks along the south Yuba River provide spectacular views and dazzling color. Bring comfortable shoes, water and a camera. Every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 am, through Memorial Day weekend. Call (530) 432-2546 for more information. Donations welcome.



## Local News From SNCS



### SIERRA COUNTY

"Babies," a nationally acclaimed movie, has been added to the SNCS Resource Library. To introduce the movie, we have scheduled a movie night, complete with gourmet popcorns on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the Sierra Nevada Children's Services office, 105 Beckwith St. Loyalton. Providers, expectant Moms and new parents are invited to attend. Please contact Charlene Kreeger @ (530) 993-1288 to reserve a seat.

### EARLY SPROUTS CURRICULUM

Under a grant funded by First5 Sierra the Early Sprouts curriculum is being incorporated into weekly activities at Sierra Kids Child Development Center. Coordinator, Amy Filippini, provides a "seed to table" experience. Centered around a working garden (off season, via markets) Staff and children grow, harvest and prepare nutritional cooking activities. Using a variety of experiences; sensory exploration, tasting and cooking sessions and take home family food and recipe kits, children become aware of healthy food choices and understand how our natural world sustains us.

### SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR CLASS: APRIL 9, 2011 – 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

#### LOYALTON SOCIAL HALL

Alex MacLennan: Instructor (Tahoe Forest Hospital)

Calls will be made to enrolled participants to confirm attendance (Class is closed as enrollment is full at this time.)

### KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP: APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup> – LOYALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – CONTACT: 530.993.4182

### TRUCKEE

#### SAVE THE DATE!

Tahoe Truckee Child Development Conference

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - Location: Former Parks and Recreation Building

Keynotes: Lorraine Weatherspoon & Sue Hudnall (California Preschool Instructional Network)

Contact: Ruth Hall - [rhall@ttusd.org](mailto:rhall@ttusd.org) or (530) 582-2583

Activities for Kids in and around Truckee:

#### TPOTS POTTERY

10607 W. River St. #2

(530)550-7822

#### TAHOE TRUCKEE PARKS AND RECREATION

"Little Mixers"-Cooking for Kids - Ages K-5

Wednesday/Thursday until end of June - 3:45-5:00

Location: TTPR Community Recreation Kitchen

(530) 582-7720

#### NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

Hands On-Sunday Family Program

Families tour Animating Light exhibition and will make kaleidoscopes using fun and colorful materials.

April 24, 2011 – 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: 160 W. Liberty Street, Reno Nevada

(775) 329-3333





# SNCS Grass Valley Workshops & Activities

## APRIL 2011

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 a.m.	SNCS Grass Valley	<b>Tots and Twos</b>	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: Ada at 530.272.8866 ext 221
Tuesday, April 5th Deadline: 5:00 p.m.	SNCS	<b>Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE</b>	<b>Subsidy Attendance Sheets for March 2011 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.</b>
Wednesday April 13th 6:30 to 8:30 pm	SNCS Grass Valley	<b>Taming Toddlers</b>	Connie Moller, ECE Parenting Specialist of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program will provide a unique developmental glimpse into toddlers and present tips on how to best guide these little guys towards happy independence.
Saturday, April 30 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 1:00 pm	SNCS Grass Valley Parking Lot	<b>Shred It Day!</b>	Here is an opportunity get rid of paper clutter. "Shred It" will be parking their truck in our parking lot and shredding for four hours 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 30 <sup>th</sup> . This is a perfect way to discard any personal/confidential paperwork. Suggested donation is \$10/per bankers box and proceeds will go towards SNCS Programs.

## MAY 2011

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 am	SNCS Grass Valley	<b>Tots and Twos</b>	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: Ada at 530.272.8866 ext 221
Thursday, May 5th Deadline – 5:00 pm	SNCS Grass Valley	<b>Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE</b>	<b>Subsidy Attendance Sheets for April 2011 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.</b>
Thursday, May 19th 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	SNCS Grass Valley	<b>Developing a Dynamic Curriculum</b>	Jeannette Mulhern, a Sierra College Instructor, returns to present the second installment of her two-part curriculum series. Come and learn how to create a fabulous curriculum especially suited to the unique needs of your program.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TRAININGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING NETWORK MEETINGS.**

PLEASE CALL ADA AT 272.8866 EXT. 221 WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO ENROLL.





**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**KEEPING KIDS SAFE FESTIVAL**

Hosted by:

**BEAM "EASY LIVING" CENTER**

**April 16, 2011**

**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Presenting:

Marc Klaas, Klaas Kids Foundation

Digital Fingerprinting and Photo ID's for kids of all ages

Bring your bikes and helmets for the  
 Grass Valley Police Department Bike Rodeo

Event will be held rain or shine

Beam "Easy Living" Center Parking Lot

Colfax Hwy and Henderson Street, Grass Valley, CA

Fun Face Designs  
 Bounce House  
 Giant Slide  
 Crafts

Hot Dogs  
 Popcorn  
 Sno-Cones  
 Drinks

Clear Creek 4-H Petting Zoo  
 Grass Valley Fire Department  
 And Local Fire Protection Agencies  
 Nevada County Sheriff's Department  
 Loads of info for "keeping kids safe"  
 Raffle Prizes

**SHRED IT DAY**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:00 AM TO 1:00 P.M.**

**SUGGESTED DONATION - \$10.00/PER BANKER'S BOX**



Sierra Nevada  
**Children's  
 Services**

SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
 256 Buena Vista Street (Parking lot)  
 Grass Valley, CA

Call: 530 272.8866 ext 222 for more information