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**Alameda County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District**

**For Immediate Release
Press Release**

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Early Education Lasts a Lifetime



Preparing children to become socially, emotionally, and academically ready to learn is the gateway toward success. Educating parents about different options to assist them in selecting child care programs, kindergarten and other educational resources is essential to helping youth reach their full potential. Many families lack access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education programs. Today, only 58 percent of all 3 and 4 year-olds are in pre-kindergarten, family day care, or some type of Head Start program.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, children in early education programs aligned with the educational goals of early elementary school are more likely to graduate from high school and become productive members of their communities. They are also less likely to have children during their teenage years or become involved in the criminal justice system.

The challenge of identifying effective resources that assist in enhancing a child's educational experience can be overwhelming for families. In an effort to provide supportive services to families, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, First 5 Every Child Counts, and PBS KIDS Raising Readers have once again teamed up for the Fourth Annual Ready to Learn Fun Fair at Manzanita Community/SEED School located at 2409 E. 27th Street in Oakland from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The fun-filled atmosphere will showcase a variety of organizations that serve Alameda County residents that provide valuable resources for families to assist with education, nutrition and other supportive services to help children be successful in school.

Children can get their faces painted, play games designed for learning and meet special guests Clifford the Big Red Dog and Super Why Wyatt. In addition, Playworks will provide fun outdoor group activities. There will be a free raffle that will be held throughout the day with prizes such as: tickets to museums, amusement parks, entertainment centers, and more. Each child will have a chance to pick a book of their choice and even parents will not leave empty-handed.

For more information about the Ready to Learn Fun Fair visit www.KeithCarson.org or call 510-272-6695.

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