First 5 Monterey County (F5MC), hosted “The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibition in Monterey County from June 15 – November 15, 2011 at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California. Additional funding was secured from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, The Community Foundation for Monterey County, and First 5 California.

The presence of the exhibit in Monterey County drew visitors from Monterey County, across California and the United States, and from various countries around the world. In order to increase accessibility of the exhibit for Monterey County constituents, F5MC also funded the Spanish audio interpretation of the exhibit panels. In total, there were 8,973-recorded visits with demographics collected for 3,796 unique visitors.

The North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) Professional Development Series: Dialogues for Quality in Education included five seminars in Monterey County with the focus of “Valuing Early Childhood: An Invitation for Community Dialogue.” The seminars featured educators from Reggio Emilia, representatives of NAREA, California Reggio-inspired educators and leading California policymakers. Invitations for community dialogue held at the exhibit included: small group dialogues; college classes; evening hours for educators; parent days with on-site child care; and meetings for agencies and community leaders with time to tour the exhibit. Group tours were also scheduled for parents, schools and agencies. (Refer to Appendix A: WOL Overview in Monterey County and Appendix K: WOL Monterey Final Report Budget.)

Monterey County Reggio-inspired educators and the Central Coast Association for the Education of Young Children (CCAEYC) submitted a proposal to North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) in September 2008 to secure Monterey County as one of the North American communities to host The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages of Children. The educators had a history of interest in the work of Reggio Emilia and participation in state, national and international study groups,
conferences and initiatives. They felt that the presence of the exhibit could be a powerful provocation
to increase awareness of the competence, intelligence and strength of young children and the
awareness of the importance of early education. Additionally, it was hoped that the experience of
planning and supporting the presence of the exhibit would increase connections and collaboration
among educators and support the development of a strong identity of Monterey County as an
educational community with shared philosophy about education and the quality of childhood.

Monterey County is an under-served and under-resourced area. The growing population has changing
demographics with cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity. It is a geographically large county covering
3,322 square miles located on California's central coast. Challenges for intentionality and coherence in
eyear early childhood professional development and advocacy in Monterey County include the presence of
many different public school districts in the county, multiple funding streams for early education
programs, and limited cross-dialogue and connections among education programs - even among those
that share a geographic relationship or serve similar constituents.

The educators proposed that the presence of the exhibit and related professional development
opportunities would have the following impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impacts (Outcomes)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of the competence, intelligence and strengths of young children.</td>
<td>• increased use of educational approaches based on the strength of children’s curiosities and ideas</td>
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<td>• increased curriculum and program approaches involving co-construction between and among children and adults</td>
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<td>• increased physical presence of young children’s ideas and creativity in community and educational settings</td>
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<td>Understanding of the connection between cognition, imagination and emotion</td>
<td>• increased opportunities in educational settings for young children to experience and use diverse expressive languages</td>
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<td>• increased parent and educator participation in reflective practices to support emotional, cognitive and social growth (including observation, documentation and dialogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking, dialogue and exchange among diverse Monterey County participants</td>
<td>• increased coordination and integration among early learning providers and systems</td>
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<td>• increased collaborative planning for professional development initiatives and projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking, dialogue and exchange between Monterey County participants and colleagues in other counties, states and countries</td>
<td>• increased identification and shared awareness of the challenges facing education in broader contexts (i.e., state and national)</td>
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<td>• increased local advocacy efforts for the support of children’s rights</td>
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F5MC, an independent public agency supporting community partnerships and programs that
enhance the lives of children ages 0 -5, agreed to host the exhibit and to support free and/or low-fee
initiatives and events related to the exhibit. F5MC was uniquely positioned to support participation
among a variety of constituents due to existing relationships with community agencies, foundations,
schools and businesses. The F5MC Commission includes the heads of the Department of Social
and Employment Services, the Health Department and a member of the County Board of Supervisors. The proposed impacts of the exhibit were aligned with current and future F5MC activities related to parenting development, early childhood workforce development, mental health and policy/advocacy. Therefore, collaboration with F5MC was determined to be most likely to sustain professional development and advocacy beyond the hosting period.

The National Steinbeck Center, a not-for-profit museum offering educational opportunities and special programs year round, was secured as the venue for the exhibit. This venue allowed for the exhibit to be open free to the public seven days a week.

The museum accommodated the inclusion of two ateliers - the "Ray of Light" Atelier and the Atelier "Painting: Between Material and Nature" - which supported hands-on experiences aligned with the Reggio Emilia approach portrayed in the exhibit panels.

The venue also offered a 50-seat theater for on-going viewing of the movie Not Just Anywhere and space was secured in the exhibit area for the on going viewing of the Landscapes DVD. The museum's foyer offered a resource area for the study of Reggio publications and laptops with links to Reggio related websites, surveys to capture visitor comments, and opportunities to engage in advocacy activities of sending postcards to government officials. On-site meeting rooms were available which allowed for integration of exhibit tours with seminars and meetings.
Promotional materials were developed with NAREA including a website, posters, brochures, articles and a postcard announcement for the Grand Opening Reception. (See Appendix B: Monterey County WOL website and Appendix C: WOL Publicity Card Monterey.) Santa Monica educators with previous experience in hosting the exhibit collaborated in the initial training of 50 volunteers. Groups began booking tours even before the large banner was displayed on the front of the Steinbeck Center.

"Valuing Early Childhood: An Invitation for Community Dialogue” was selected as Monterey County’s focus for the NAREA Professional Development Series and a series of five seminars were developed in collaboration with NAREA. Educators from Reggio Emilia, Elena Giacopini, pedagogista and Anna Orlandini, atelierista, shared their experiences at the Seventh NAREA Summer Conference held at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. The conference included a learning tour to two Reggio-inspired centers in King City serving families who work in migrant and agricultural contexts. Another seminar, Reggio-Inspired California Educators Explore the Role of Dialogue, was co-hosted by F5MC and The Innovative Teacher Project. This seminar featured the work of educators involved in the Innovative Teacher Project/Bay Area, Westside Reggio Collaborative/Santa Monica and First 5 Monterey County. A series of three seminars explored educational work in Reggio Emilia as well as North American contexts with presentations by Lella Gandini, U.S. Liaison for the dissemination of the Reggio Approach; Karen Haigh, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood at Columbia College, Chicago and Teresa Acevedo, Director of Children’s Services at Head Start Child and Parent Centers, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona. (Refer to Appendix A: WOL Overview for more information about the series and number of participants.)

A media press conference was held as the exhibit was opening, and was attended by Amelia Gambetti. (See Appendix D: WOL Monterey Media Alert.) Media coverage included: a photo article in Californian; an article in the Californian on-line paper; inclusion of the exhibit in calendar sections for local TV channels as well as Santa Cruz; and articles in the Santa Cruz Sentinel (a neighboring county) and Weekly Today. It was also reported that the exhibit was covered by television news in Santa Clara. (See Appendix E: WOL Monterey Media Links.)

The Grand Opening event attracted 140 policy makers, philanthropic partners, and other community leaders. (Refer to Appendix F: WOL Monterey Opening Event Postcard.) Government officials and a proclamation from the Monterey County Supervisors designating the five months of the exhibit "as a time for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change” welcomed the Italian educators and NAREA. (Refer to Appendix G: Monterey County Board of Supervisors Resolution June 2011.)

This final report responding to the NAREA questions related to the impact of the exhibit and professional development series in Monterey County will be framed through participant comments collected through on-line exit surveys available at the exhibit and post-exhibit feedback collected through key interviews, focus groups and an additional on-line survey.¹ Descriptions of related post-exhibit activities will also be included.

¹ Anonymous quotes collected through focus groups and surveys are portrayed in boxes throughout the document.
Dialogues Around Quality

How did “The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibit and the NAREA Professional Development Series provoke dialogues around quality in early childhood education in your community?

Invitations for a variety of community dialogues, community meetings and seminars held at the exhibit provoked dialogues around quality among Monterey County constituents including: parents, educators, community leaders, and policymakers. Invitations included: seminars with international, national, state-wide and local presenters; group tours; parent days with on-site child care; and the hosting of dialogue sessions, college classes, and meetings with tours of the exhibit for local agencies and community leaders. Spanish language translation of exhibit panels available through MP3 players and simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at dialogues and seminars supported diversity in participation.

Thirteen dialogue sessions were facilitated by an educator who has participated in study tours to Reggio Emilia or study tours exploring the Reggio approach in the United States. The dialogue sessions supported exchange among a variety of constituents including: early and elementary school educators; art educators; college instructors; mental health service providers; preschool administrators; and family child care providers. (Refer to Appendix H: Sample Invitation to Dialogue Session.)

Tours were arranged by 93 groups including: local educators; educators from programs across northern California and Nevada; school district staff and administrators; college class tours; libraries; and parent groups. Family days were sponsored with on-site child care to encourage parents to visit the exhibit. (Refer to Appendix I: Monterey Family Day Flyer.) Additionally, F5MC sponsored meetings for various collaborative groups and community/government leaders at the Steinbeck Center with time to tour the exhibit and share reflections. (Refer to Appendix J: Monterey WOL Letter to Agencies.)

Comments indicate that participation in the exhibit resulted in changes to dispositions or practices related to quality in early childhood education including increased:

- willingness to explore new ideas;
- reflection upon current practices;
- listening to children and colleagues; and
- intentionality in practice.
"(We are) open to new ideas - we reflect more and ask why we are doing things. We are better able to support children's interests and to explore."

"We are more willing to change – to say maybe that is not working right."

"I look at things differently – I’ll ask myself 'how does that resonate with what I learned from the exhibit?'"

"I now open my mind to use everything I have in the community and look at whatever resources I can get to better myself and to teach children."

"We pay a lot more attention to what the children are saying and doing."

"Now we are more sensitive to children’s interests. We reflect more and ask why we are doing things."

"Instead of giving an answer, I try using a question...giving them the time and space, slowing down."

"I am paying a lot more attention to how I present things. Not only in a pleasant looking way but also when I am talking with the children - just asking really open ended questions to try to really understand them more, where they are coming from, what their feelings are about the materials and where they want to go with them. The bottom line is I am listening more."

"I have changed the kind of questions I make to (children) - we ask good open questions and we can get more - they can give more."

"We have made changes I never thought we would be able to do – learning to step back and children having deep discussions and sharing their theories with each other. Before we would have children talk mostly to us as adults. Watching the videos really made a difference – we could see how teachers supported the children’s thinking."

"My son’s teacher - second grade – has been a teacher for about 28 years. She said, 'I know I have been teaching for a long time in an approach but now I want to do something different and I know I can do it.' She invited parents to come and bring food and the children are studying math by selling food and creating their own way to sell the food. All the children are involved and she is not teaching them by saying 'do this'. She is doing something very different. And I am so happy she is doing something different. She said, 'I know I can do it and that they can learn through the play and process.'"

"Before I would be very strict with my own kids and I didn’t have time to be with them because I was working. Now with the Reggio Emilia it inspired me a lot to find out about new things and communication and attachment with parents. I think it changed me a lot more as a parent than as a teacher. With my family, I said, I need to change. At home I need to change. Now I see things a lot different – the image of my own children."

"We have a 6 year old and he had been asking for a drum set that he had seen in the rafters of our garage. After my husband saw the WOL exhibit he came home and got the drum set down for our son. Now it is amazing. I thought, 'wow this was a direct result (of the exhibit)– and my son is really good!' "
Collaborative Participation

How did the exhibit and the professional development series strengthen the collaborative participation of educators, families, administrators, community members and/or government leaders in the dialogue about early childhood education in your community?

F5MC sponsored a seminar to encourage pre-planning for use of the exhibition in March 2010 in collaboration with the experiences of the Westside Collaborative in Santa Monica who had previously supported the presence of the exhibit in their community. A wide range of interests were represented among the 58 participants including: child care center programs in Monterey County and several other counties; family child care providers; family resource centers; parent educators; high school students; a school administrator; the Arts Council; college early education students; home-based ("license-exempt") child care providers; a church representative; college instructors; therapists, a representative from the state-level/governor appointed early quality commission, and the translator for the exhibition. This supported hopes for participation and cross-dialogue among diverse community members.

Planning and implementation of the exhibit seminars led to new and strengthened relationships and connections among Monterey County educators. The efforts particularly strengthened relationships and collaboration among CCAEYC Board members and exhibit volunteers. Monterey County educators also report greater connection between programs across the county, collaboration with parents in their programs and increased awareness of the importance of collaboration with and among children in their programs. Planning of the professional development seminars strengthened Monterey County relationships with Reggio-inspired educators at the national, state and county level. The seminars also involved the participation of parents and government leaders.

F5MC collaborated with CCAEYC and with NAREA in the design of the professional development series that included co-hosting of the Seventh NAREA Summer Conference. CCAEYC managed scholarships made available to local educators by NAREA and F5MC. The efforts energized and refocused the CCAEYC Board.

"The board would not exist as it is now if we had not shared the experience of the conference and the exhibit. We collaborate much more easily than before - it just takes a phone call and everyone is ready to jump in. Board members took responsibilities for some specific aspects of the conference and exhibit and everyone still remains committed to this way of working together. Also the Monterey County programs are more familiar with each other and feel more comfortable sharing and talking with each other. We are in a difficult period with cut backs and our relationships are important to sustaining each other during this time. We are able to problem solve and support each other - especially among the directors." - Susan Bates, CCAEYC President (during the exhibit period)

Two centers were selected for the learning tour as part of Seventh NAREA Summer Conference - King City Migrant Child Development Center and Alegria Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Center. The two centers had worked intensively with Reggio-inspired teachers through the F5MC Technical Assistance (TA) project. Local groups of teachers and college students toured the center and TA consultants continued to prepare the centers for approximately 300 summer conference participants who would choose to tour the centers. After the summer conference, additional groups arranged for tours of the two centers, including groups serving migrant families in other counties.

The following comments reflect the impact from participation in the Seventh NAREA Summer Conference on increased collaboration among a variety of early education programs in Monterey County and increased connection with programs/educators outside of Monterey County:
"We have much more collaboration and sharing of work with programs in south Monterey County. We are all taking our teachers to visit the programs in King City and even other locations to exchange ideas. The F5MC TA (Technical Assistance) project keeps the collaborations going. All of the programs and people are much more willing to share information for professional development purposes and this is not just presentations at conferences but also sharing work in more informal ways." - Susan Bates, CCAEYC President (at the time of the exhibit)

"College students, teachers from other centers in Monterey County and many educators and administrators from my own company who work in the Bay area have visited the center. They are interested in the documentation and especially our interactions with children. One college class focused on observations of the way we engage with children. Visitors also comment on how calm and focused the environment is and our use of natural and recycled materials." - Paty Tejeda, King City Migrant Child Development Center Site Supervisor

"We have had a lot of people come from other centers. Hartnell Child Development Center students make visits as part of a class. A migrant group from Santa Cruz also visited the center. All of the administrators with my agency that work in different counties came to visit the center. I also made a presentation about our work at the center for an agency-wide Center Supervisor meeting. Since then I have been getting a lot of calls from centers in different counties to ask about our work and to arrange visits to the center." - Fanny Chavez, Alegria Site Supervisor

Volunteers for the exhibit were recruited from a wide variety of constituents including teachers, family child care and informal care providers, college instructors, college students, service providers, elementary and special education teachers, artists and senior citizens/grandparents. The 62 volunteers recorded 2,062 hours of support for the exhibit.

The following comments from volunteers are representative of many similar reports indicating that their shared experience and accomplishments developed a:

- sense of identity among the group of volunteers;
- desire for continued opportunities for connections beyond the exhibit period; and
- sense of community with repeat visitors to the exhibit.
"As a volunteer, I enjoyed a sense of community with other volunteers and exhibit goers. It was inspiring to feel a part of such a rich and empowering view of children and their important work. A sense of awe at their many languages gives me hope for the future." - WOL Volunteer

"We started a Reggio book club. We Are All Explorers is the first book." – WOL Volunteer

Seminar planning deepened previous connections of Monterey County educators with the Innovative Teacher Project in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Westside Collaborative in Santa Monica. A seminar focusing on the organization of cross-center collaborations among Reggio-Inspired schools, Reggio-Inspired California Educators Explore the Role of Dialogue, was co-hosted by F5MC and The Innovative Teacher Project. Teachers and administrators from each of the groups presented their work in small group sessions while highlighting the role of dialogue with children, teachers, parents, and community. These groups continue to collaborate with F5MC professional development initiatives - most recently on June 9, 2012 at a seminar featuring the work of Google Children's Centers, First Presbyterian Nursery School, and Branches Atelier in addition to Monterey County Technical Assistance projects. This seminar also attracted participants from outside of Monterey County who had visited the exhibit and participated in seminars related to the exhibit.

Educators from a variety of programs exchanged impressions and ideas about the exhibit through: small dialogue groups; evening hours arranged for educators from different agencies; and college classes held at the exhibit. This shared experience has increased connections and collaborations among educators in Monterey County. Teachers from various centers continue to arrange visits to centers involved in F5MC Technical Assistance projects. College classes are using tours of these programs and discussions with their teachers as a context for professional development and college curriculum.

The following reflections exemplify reports of increased:

- sense of connection;
- shared understandings;
- collaboration among colleagues;
- collaboration with parents/families; and
- collaboration among children.

"We were all there together that night. We were doing a tour to think together about the exhibit. We enjoyed this experience together but also enjoyed knowing there were other teachers from other programs like state preschool in our community also getting this message. It was a feeling of camaraderie." (Reflection related to a meeting for educators from two agencies managing multiple centers throughout the county.)

"The idea of teacher as researcher – we have really brought that home to our program – once I gave (teachers) the responsibility to come up with a question that they wanted to research they really took the idea to heart and ran with it. They selected 'the environment needs to be visible'...they are taking more ownership for the environment and making learning visible – including the documentation."

"I have had the chance to observe our playgroups and the (providers) that ... went to the exhibit."
They are engaging with the children more. (Going to the exhibit) might have been the turning point in their interactions and also in their engagement in the dialogue we have with them about the children’s learning. They are supporting their child’s development – more engaged. Their conversations with each other have gotten to a deeper level. They talk more about respecting the child’s idea ... observing and listening.”

"Since (the parents) had a visit to the exhibit it is different - like a different kind of trust in the program and the parents are excited about what the children are doing."

"We are presenting children’s work more at parent meetings through PowerPoints and videos. The parents are so surprised to see children problem solving and developing theories. We show slide shows to children too."

"I feel we have better communication with parents and their understanding of what the children’s work looks like - the value of materials and relationships and everything in the community. How valuable and important it is. Since they had a visit to the exhibit it is different - like a different kind of trust in the program and the parents are excited about what the children are doing."

"Parents were inspired also about how to ask a question from listening to teachers on the video and watching their flow of the day. A teacher brought in a guitar and a parent brought in a violin. It was a parent that spent a lot of time at the exhibit reading and researching. She said, ‘the more I read here the more I am learning.’ Then she felt more comfortable to ask if she could bring her son/older sibling who has a violin. It was just so beautifully done - her children had gone to the exhibit too."

"I see our parents playing a lot more with their children – the parents are playing with the light table and in dramatic play. You can see a lot of joy."

"We have been stronger at really letting the children have conversations with each other."

"Working with others that...have similarly experienced the WOL is like writing short hand."

"Visiting the exhibit with our whole professional staff gave us a shared understanding of the process and how important our collaboration can be for making the children's work visible."

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**Values and Goals of Education and Childhood**

**What opportunities for teachers, parents, administrators, community members and/or government leaders to meet and discuss the values and goals of education and childhood were generated as a result of the presence of the exhibit and the professional development series initiatives in your community? How did these opportunities contribute to a better understanding of the various perspectives that exist within your community on this subject?**

A variety of strategies, as previously described, brought educators, parents, administrators, and community members into discussion about the values and goals of education. Specific strategies were designed to attract government leaders and policy makers to the exhibit including: the Grand Opening; F5MC sponsored meetings at the exhibit for various governing bodies and community service agencies; and the inclusion of state-level educational leaders in the professional development series. Invitations were also specifically made for parent participation in the exhibit and for parent-educator exchanges. Agencies and schools utilized the presence of the exhibit as a focus for professional development.
Approximately 140 community leaders, philanthropic partners and policy makers attended The Wonder of Learning Exhibit Grand Opening, June 16, 2011. Monterey County speakers included: Elliott Robinson, F5MC Commission Chair and Director of the Department of Social and Employment Services; Dennis Donahue, Mayor of Salinas; and Simón Salinas, County Supervisor and F5MC Commission Vice Chairperson. Barbara Acton and Margie Cooper, NAREA Board members, and Elena Giacopini and Anna Orlandini, educators from Reggio Emilia, also addressed the participants. This exchange led to a new understanding of the importance of valuing the present experience of children:

"I will never say 'children are our future' again. I will say 'children are our present.' I won't use the word 'allow'; it is their 'right.' It is important to support (the child's) right to be here now and make their experience count today." - Elliott Robinson, Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services Director.

Following this exchange, in many public addresses, Elliott Robinson and Supervisor Simón Salinas continue to emphasize this value.

Mental health therapists made multiple visits to the exhibit with the intention of deepening their understanding and connection with the image of the child as a natural explorer/researcher. The exhibit became an important venue for reflection and inspiration for professionals who support children and families who have experienced unstable family systems, trauma and/or mental illness.

"This exposure took us to a new level of thinking about what is lost to the child in such circumstances. As we held our reflective supervision in the nooks and crannies of the display – thinking together about the children and their exploration, we began to think about how our work with parents and children might help them reclaim and value that part of their natural identity as world explorer. Later thinking together as a staff and bringing in perspectives of children and their families we began to be more intentional about this aspect of “repair” through both prevention and therapeutic processes.” - Relindis Diaz, Community Based Mental Health Supervisor, Kinship Center

"Children we work with... have a loss at the center of their identity and now we can hold the identity of researcher and explorer that they’ve lost." - Kinship Center Therapist

"We also share our ideas with parents and wonder with them." - Kinship Center Therapist

"In Lupin (location of program) we think about things more together and borrow ideas. When we think about things and wonder about things together is something we do more often after WOL. We were able to incorporate a lot of what we learned at WOL when we put our space together here at Lupin." - Kinship Center Therapist

Lella Gandini, Karen Haigh and Teresa Acevedo presented at the seminar "Stories of Teachers, Parents and Children from Reggio Emilia and Other Cities: Sharing our experiences as a source for ideas for collaboration." This seminar was designed to bring educators and parents together with registration prioritized for parents and educators in a program participating together. Parent and educator comments on feedback forms reflect the increased awareness of the importance of parent - teacher collaborations:
"I think (this seminar) will have a life-long impact on my child's life and her education."

"(The seminar) gave me ideas on what to ask the teachers and gave me a different mentality about school meetings and parents and staff approach."

"We have several parents here tonight. This will be a great starting place in reflecting on how to have more parent collaboration."

Survey and focus group feedback indicates that educators, college instructors, parents and community members gained a better understanding of educational approaches that are aligned with values portrayed in the exhibit including:

- the image of the child as creative, curious and capable;
- children's capacities to construct knowledge through exploration/play; and
- recycled and natural materials as resources for learning.

"I was astonished at the capabilities of young children. I have a new level of respect for children and those who foster children's creativity and curiosity."

"It goes back to the trust in the child that they have the capacity to learn the things that you are talking about ... trusting that they have the capacity."

"When the (college) students saw the exhibit, they understood the child in a new way as deep thinkers and philosophers."

"I will pay much more attention to my children's play and how that play informs their learning and how they will see the world for the rest of their lives."

"I will let my child explore more on his own."

"My eye opener was the difference in how you think about children. From how you impart your knowledge to a child to making an invitation to children to learn."

"(Parents) are asking us not to worry about teaching children how to write their names. This is a change. They are really understanding that writing starts with communication. They got that from the exhibit."

"There was great resistance (to philosophy/learning through play) from families before and we felt they did not understand what we were trying to do. Inviting the parents to come was huge because there was a visual. It was almost like parents needed a higher power - a word from Italy and the picture. ... I think they made the connection. They now see that the play has a meaning. I think something happened - they connected with this as a way of learning."

"We are able to explain more about what the children are learning - helping the parents to really see the learning."

"I now think of ordinary things as toys for my grandchild."

"The parents who came to the exhibit seem to understand now the learning that takes place through play. They are motivated now to allow children to construct knowledge. ... They don't expect the teacher to 'teach their child things' but they want their child to construct their own knowledge."

"Esta exhibición me hizo pensar y confirmó la imagen del niño de que es importante y que hay que respetarlo y darle la oportunidad de expresarse, como dicen tienen 100 idiomas y más que todo, escucharlo." (This exhibition made me think and confirmed that the image of the child is important and that the child should be respected and given the opportunity to express him/herself, as they say, they have 100 languages and more than anything, we should listen).

"I see things in a different way now. We are bringing in more natural materials and seeing the potential in recyclable material as things of beauty and creative expression."
"(The exhibit) inspired me to relook and rediscover the material I have around me and think of how they can support children's exploration. I have come to realize that children do not need all those things that advertisers say they need to enhance children's learning, I have come to realize that children get a deeper learning experience from using real and simple materials around them--especially natural materials."

“A mi me hace pensar en el salón de juego y todo estaba ordenado de un catalogo y yo pensaba que todo estaba muy bonito pero ahora entiendo que lo mejor es tener cosas que se pueden usar de diferentes formas.” (This makes me think about the playroom where everything was ordered from a catalogue and I used to think it was all very nice but now I understand that what’s best is to have things which can be used in different ways).

I have heard providers talking and telling stories about how they are implementing their experience of the exhibit at home. Their experience with natural materials and not having to purchase things. One provider said she had taken children for a walk and they were “seeing” the leaves and things that fall off of the trees – they saw it in a different way."

"When my parents came back from (the exhibit) they all walked in the door and kept saying they had so much fun on the (natural materials) patio and they looked at where we are in a completely different light. They said 'We have so much here! It is all natural materials where we are! " (a school in a remote valley)

"We have been working for more than a year and we tell (providers) our program is different – that we don't use regular toys but we are using things in our surroundings. It was a validation when they came into the exhibit and saw that in another country they were implementing this inspiration. They worried that play had no meaning. For me when they came to the exhibit and they had the opportunity to watch the videos it was just very good they saw this happening in another country. A provider said, "you see I told my sister-in-law that it was true they were learning through play and Beth said they were doing this in Italy." She was very excited to confirm her thinking about how children learn. The exhibit confirmed it for her."

"When we brought parents (to the exhibit) they were talking about how in Mexico they didn't have the toys so they played with natural materials. They were amazed at seeing natural materials in the exhibit and that they didn't need to buy toys but could go in their back yard and have wonderful experiences. We heard this over and over that they didn't need to go and buy so many toys."

Visibility of Learning and Relationships

How did the exhibit and professional development series impact the visibility of the learning and relationships of children, teachers and parents within your early childhood education community?

The evolving experiences among the many participants and activities were made visible on large panels at the entrance to the exhibit. Repeat visitors enjoyed finding documentation and photographs of their experience with a group tour, family day, community meeting, or dialogue group. They looked for traces of visits from other groups or friends they felt a connection with. Repeat visitors, including parents and children, looked for images of their past explorations in the ateliers. Parents were particularly impressed to have their images portrayed in a museum setting along with images of government and community leaders.
Information about the number of visitors, languages spoken and where they were from was regularly updated from data collected at the entry desk to the museum. Responses to the on-line survey were posted on the panels. Invitations to past and future dialogues, NAREA Professional Development seminars and parent initiatives were visible as well as the past and future locations for the exhibit. This documentation conveyed the importance of the exhibit as a provocation for dialogue and exchange in Monterey County as well as on a national scale. Visitors expressed pleasure and pride in the visibility of their participation in the broad aims and intentions of the exhibit.

This documentation offered the possibility for visitors to personally experience the value of visibility. Participants expressed their desire to be included in the documentation of the experience of the exhibit. Group tours would check the listing of groups and dates of visits and make sure the information was accurate - if they were missing they would ask to be written in on the panels. Children would ask for pictures to be taken of their work and added to the boards.

Groups began to ask for a group photo to be taken and added to the boards. The growing complexity of the information and number of photographs on the boards gave visibility to the shared experience and growing connections among Monterey County participants as well as participants from other places. There was great pride expressed in the visibility of educators from outside of Monterey County visiting our community.

The exhibit and related seminars have also had an impact on the use of documentation by college instructors:

"Our Spanish-speaking parents look forward to reading the documentation with photos, dialogues, and explanations. When we did not post any new ones, the parents would tell us that it is time for the teachers to add new documentation charts. They want to know what their children are learning." - Jeanne Hori-Garcia, Hartnell College Instructor

"Student teachers are posting their documentation about each child and the dialogues with the children and parents in the classroom and engaging the parents. Parents see the documentation and want to know how they can help. The parents are beginning to see their children as capable and competent." - Cathy Nyznyk, Monterey Peninsula College, Child Development Laboratory School Director.

"The Child Development students, faculty and staff are more reflective and intentional in their work with children and families after their visits to the exhibit. We have increased documentation throughout all the Child Development curriculum classes. We recently created a studio space with the children, families, students, staff and faculty. Students are taking their documentation work into their community programs with excitement." - Pat Henrickson, Child Development Instructor, Gavilan College.
The following comments reflect an increased understanding of the importance of the visibility of learning and relationships among educators as well as parents:

"I have envisioned our space reflecting more of what we saw in the exhibit. More photographs where you can really see (the) learning (that is) happening. They were so beautiful. The photo of the child holding the leaf and their words ‘it’s bruised’ – the photo captured that. I plan on having cameras more available and trying to really capture the learning and displaying it. During the playgroups we are planning to have the photos available to see what (providers and children) did in the past experiences and process. Then to have a dialogue time to reflect on the experiences. To have more visual experience/images for the dialogue."

"We have used more PowerPoint presentations of children’s work. We are trying to get documentation out more regularly for parents. We now show PowerPoints once a month at meetings."

"I’ve always thought that children are amazing human beings and this experience has not so much changed my image of the child, as much as inspired me to help document and reflect to the larger community this image, in whatever small ways I can."

Visibility of Experiences Connected with Values and Goals of Parents, Administrators and Government Mandates

How have the early childhood educators in your community learned to extend the visibility of classroom experiences of learning and relationships to include connections with the values and goals of parents and administrators, as a result of the professional development opportunities created by the exhibit and professional development series? In which way did the educators connect children’s experiences to government/district mandated curriculum standards and outcomes?

F5MC sponsored meetings at the exhibit included time for leaders and administrators from education, non-profit organizations, social service agencies, and philanthropists to tour the exhibit. The California Child Development Division held a Regional Meeting at the exhibit. Additionally, several sponsored meetings were held at the exhibit for the Monterey County Office of Education including: Superintendent’s Meeting; Curriculum Council; School Board Reception; and a meeting for a group focusing on the development of a recycle center - Resource Area for Teachers.

The seminar "Excellence and Accessibility in Publicly Funded Reggio-Inspired Programs" was designed to invite dialogue among publicly funded Reggio-Inspired programs that respond to frameworks and standards in ways that support/maintain connections, relationships, complexity, diversity and creativity. Lella Gandini, Karen Haigh and Teresa Acevedo presented their related work followed by a panel discussion with leading policymakers. The panel included: Desiree Soto, Northern Field Services Office, California Department of Education; Ron Lally, Co-Director, Center for Child & Family Studies, WestEd; and Kris Perry, First 5 California Executive Director. The Seminar also included a tour of the exhibit.
Comments from the panel:

"I will never look at another childcare center the same way again." - Kris Perry, First 5 California Executive Director

"The presentations reminded me of the importance of listening to children, each other, and parents and to have a dialogue that ultimately builds a stronger collaboration." - Desiree Soto, California Department of Education

"The Reggio Emilio approach can be utilized beautifully by a state preschool program and easily fits with our early learning foundations and curriculum framework." - Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, Education Administrator, Child Development Division, CA Department of Education.

The following comments reflect connections of administrators, college instructors, parents and educators with the values and goals of the exhibit and mandated standards:

"I feel (the exhibit) was a foot in the door to be able to discuss with fellow administrators who had not seen anything like it before. And, these are the people who have the power to change policies, procedures, philosophy and teachers' practices."

"Everything (in the exhibit) made for a richer means of meeting government, accreditation and curriculum standards and outcomes."

"(We had a) positive experience with the ECE curriculum class at Hartnell and their documentation. All students were required to come and some came quite a bit. The exhibit supported expectations for the ECE students aligned with the transfer project, curriculum alignment project, and learning outcomes."

"The one panel I wanted our parents to see was the Enchantment of Writing. In our district and community everything is 'push down' curriculum and making children read and write. When we brought our parents we took our time with this panel. I found the parents now understand that writing and language begins with communicating with others. They stopped asking us when we are going to have their child write their name. They started to value different things. They have become better advocates for a different approach."

"Now Head Start has to use the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System™) tool and we have to really think about what the children are saying to us and we have to open up to them and provide more communication skills. I think that Reggio is already doing this!"

"Our Superintendent was fabulous – she embraced it and came several times through several different meetings to see it. She really understood what we are trying to do."
Documentation of the Role of the Environment

How did the exhibit and the professional development series encourage educators to document the role of the environment in their classrooms? What did educators and parents learn about the role of the environment within the school community through the documentation of the learning and relationships that typically develop within that context?

The movies in the exhibit, ateliers, visibility of the Landscapes DVD and resource library of Reggio publications contributed to participants' increased awareness of the importance of environment. The exhibit panels inspired teachers to think about how they communicate what children are learning and creating with parents, their administrators, and their communities.

"Personally for me what I brought back was I really want to take a look at our space at the playroom at the Firehouse – all of the groups that use it – in light of what we learned from the exhibit. The use of space really spoke to me. I think we can bring in more natural materials and see how the room talks to us/makes us feel. Think about “gifts” what do we want to give the families - a “gift” when they come here."

"We set up our writing area very differently – like we saw in the Enchantment of Writing. We got a unit with shelves and are putting out lots of materials and looking for little mailboxes for children. We have a new shelf with lots of writing materials. We are thinking of having parents help us cut out letters and words and using interesting paper and tools. Anything to promote communication."

"Parents are bringing in more materials and want to be involved more in projects. They want to know when they can be a part of a project. We had some dads that haven’t ever said much in the classroom and they went to the exhibit. One dad came back and started to comment on our light table and natural materials that these things reminded him of the exhibit."

Community Exhibits

Were the educators in your community able to organize an exhibit of documents of the learning and relationships of children, teachers and parents to be shared with community members in a public context during your hosting period? If so, where was the exhibit and how did your community respond? If not, what plans do you have for such an annual exhibit?

A local exhibit was not presented during the hosting period. However, the exhibit inspired plans for future local exhibits:

"I saw the video on Remida and I got so excited. Right away I had the image of the parking lot where they have the farmer’s market and I thought we should do this here – our own recycle day! It would make children visible – to replicate something like that here. It would be wonderful to bring some experience to the community to see what kind of things FFN (Family, Friend and Neighbor license exempt child care providers) are doing. People could see examples of children creating and families would be there to talk about it. Then it might grow to two parking lots!"

"We are planning an exhibit of the 0-5 classroom in the public library."
“Tenemos la idea de Remida aquí en Salinas para exponer el arte de los niños en el ART WALK para que la gente mire el proceso del arte y que también tengan oportunidad de crear arte. Se les puede invitar a que participen los niños de Head Start y otra vez le puede tocar a los de MAOF y puede ser una forma de continuar los de la exhibición y explicar más sobre la filosofía de Reggio y de cómo los niños aprenden.” (We have the idea of doing a Remida Day here in Salinas to exhibit children’s artwork at the ART WALK so that people can see the process of art and to also have the opportunity of creating art. We could ask Head Start children to participate and another month it could be MAOF’s (Mexican American Opportunity Foundations) turn. It can be another way of continuing what the exhibition brought and explaining more about the Reggio philosophy and about how children learn.)

Advocacy for the Rights of Children

How did the presence of the exhibit and professional development series contribute to educators’, parents’ and community members’ abilities to advocate for the rights of children in the community? In what ways did their abilities develop? Did educators and parents develop a better understanding of current policies regarding early childhood education and issues being addressed by school and government officials, the disposition to communicate with school and government officials through e-mail and phone and/or attendance at meetings and rallies?

Multiple strategies were designed to utilize the presence of the exhibit and professional development series to build awareness of the importance of advocacy. At the entrance to the exhibit visitors were given opportunities to write postcards to California elected officials. They were also invited to share how they were moved to action on a display of hanging Action Cards. A computer was linked to ChildrenNow - a national advocacy website - and their policy platform was printed and posted.

The following comments reflect increased awareness of the importance of advocacy as well as ways to participate in advocacy:

"(The exhibit) heightened my need to be a strong advocate for the rights of children all over the world, and especially in our community. I think I see myself as more of a leader in the field of early development than I did before being a regular volunteer with (the exhibit)."

"I like the idea of advocacy looking like the contribution of children to the community. Advocacy can be giving something back instead of asking for something. I like the idea of doing something more public. I like the idea of doing things with the children where they are the center of attention as valuable, creative, fantastic citizens and seeing this as advocacy."

"I’m involved in the innovative teacher project. We are working together as an advocate for parents’ rights – bus loads of people from Google, Bay Area came to the exhibit and have gotten renewed passion and also not just to talk about it but to do something or get out of the group. Innovative Teachers project – we also have a book club and are reaching out to people outside of the field to speak out. Trying to get “Edupolitics” going – advocacy of rights for teachers, women, parents."
"When I go to school, I advocate for the kids by informing the teacher who is trying to direct a child toward an area, that what the child is doing (playing with the light) is also play."

"When I went to the exhibit it confirmed for me that when we dialogue we can think big and we can make change."

"Every time I see the exhibit I am inspired to continue my work with supporting teachers to take charge of their professional development and to question the systems that prevent us from providing this quality to our children."

"(The exhibit) made me sad not because of what the children (in Reggio) were doing but because of how little we give our children. We could let them explore and we probably don't even give them a fourth of what they need. We always limit everything for them. I guess it is because we think, 'he's only two and I think he doesn't understand.' I think unconsciously we don't give children enough credit. ... They are so intelligent but we cut things because they are little. That was really sad. It is not just the parents - it is the community and the state - it is everybody who is not supporting them."

First 5 agencies in California actively participate in statewide dialogue concerning childhood and education and advocacy for public policy through relationship with First 5 California and the First 5 Association (comprised of F5 representatives from each of the 58 counties in the state). Executive Directors from the Bay Area First 5 Associations held a meeting at the exhibit. The F5 Santa Clara director is participating on a team planning for a new Educare center. Several members of that team also participated in the exhibit and began to research ways to include Reggio-inspired approaches in their planning and also participated in the study tour to Reggio Emilia in May of 2012.

"I already feel changed by the Reggio approach and it will affect how I see programs from now on. Just today at the Educare planning meeting in Santa Clara, everyone who had been, insisted on the Reggio 'environment.' " Jolene Smith, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Clara

F5MC serves as a catalyst for dialogue and engagement with policy makers and community and business leaders. The exhibit was aligned with F5MC initiatives to inspire parents, educators, the business community, public policy makers, and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood and to elevate the importance of early childhood. The exhibit was envisioned to serve as a catalyst for future countywide strategic planning for quality early education for all children in Monterey County.

In March 2012, F5MC collaborated with the Monterey Rotary club to bring Nobel Prize Laureate Economist James Heckman to speak to almost 300 business and community leaders. That event was also live streamed to other First 5’s throughout the state. The momentum started by this event and The Wonder of Learning exhibit led two members of the Board of Supervisors -- Jane Parker and Simón Salinas – to request an assessment of countywide spending and programs for children ages 0-5 in order to ensure the result would be a useful document for providers, community members and donors, the Monterey Council Children's Council requested the establishment of an Early Childhood Development Initiative to create a County-wide Early Childhood Development Strategic Vision and Road Map for children from the prenatal stage through age 5 and their families. This is the first time that such a large and diverse body representing all of the major county organizations as well as local nonprofits and the business community has agreed to embrace this topic. This is a pivotal opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development and to provide the tools for the community of providers and funders for quality programs to maximize children's potential.

School districts inspired by the exhibit and the event with Professor James Heckman contacted First 5 to discuss ways to support higher quality early learning. The Superintendent of Gonzales School District collaborated with F5MC to create an event in August 2012 - "Our Children-Our Community: Discovering and Creating Community with Our Youngest Children" - designed to promote the district's connections with early educators in Gonzales. The event included a presentation by the teachers who have been supported with F5MC technical assistance by Flor Ferro from First Presbyterian Nursery
School. They discussed their work with children in exploring and using their community context for learning experiences and participants then toured the preschool. Gonzales participants discussed resources to support learning in their community context and next steps to becoming a more connected community of educators.

The Director of Early Childhood Education for Monterey Peninsula Unified School District contacted F5MC for conceptual support in their proposal for a new preschool for parents who are able to pay a fee (the state preschools have low-income requirements and many working parents cannot find preschool options). The proposal was particularly inspired by the presence of the exhibit, which resulted in a strong desire between the district’s superintendent and some parents for a preschool that would become a reference point for quality and inspire and lead the evolution of quality among their existing preschools. At a school board meeting the Director of ECE introduced meeting the idea of the new preschool and there was discussion among the board and community members about the inspiration of the exhibit. The Regional Parent Teacher Association representative described the exhibit as "a life-changing event". This evoked supportive comments from three other school board members who also referenced the exhibit and the work of Reggio Emilia with all school board members nodding in agreement. The school district is now committed to supporting the preschool with start-up and in-kind resources and is interested in exploring the Reggio approach.

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**Continuing the Dialogue**

The presence of The Wonder of Learning Exhibit in Monterey County continues to be a reference point in our dialogues around quality in early childhood education. The following comments point to the powerful impact of the exhibit for participants and the inspiration it provides for continued dialogue and collaboration:

"The exhibit has left impressions in my heart. It has changed and given us new ways to teach young children."

"(The exhibit has helped me) to understand we can influence the future."

"(I see the) passion that Reggio educators have for their work with children (and feel) an awakening - an excitement of learning."

"I think this changed our community. It felt so important. An opportunity to value childhood in a different way. I got a new value for Salinas and our community on so many levels."

"(The exhibit will have) impacts on how we teach, how we think about ECE, how we work together with children and families and each other."

"(The exhibit is) a launch to help us approach our future work with greater collaboration and intentionality."

"The whole point of the philosophy is to allow children time to explore and we need to remember that for ourselves. The journey we want to bring and everything we want for children won't happen tomorrow. The idea that we need to explore and plan and talk and move in a direction and that a lot of reward will come from the journey for us and the children."

Monterey County is honored to have been selected as a reference point for the journey of the exhibit and the NAREA Dialogues for Quality in Education. Elena Giacopini, in her address at the Seventh NAREA Summer Conference, noted the metaphor for the scientific theory that a single occurrence, no matter how small, can change the course of the universe - "the beating of a butterfly wing in one part of the world has impact on something far away. Nothing is insignificant. We don't know where or when the echo of that will occur." We hope this Final Report reflects many of the impacts resulting from the occurrence of The Wonder of Learning Exhibit in Monterey County with our acknowledgement that it is impossible to know the many echoes that have occurred and that will continue to occur.
ABOUT OUR VISITORS

Number of visits*: 8,973 (11/15/11)
- 2,456 in pre-arranged groups
- 5,545 walk-in
- 179 in community dialogue groups
- 793 in local organization meetings, college classes and events held at the exhibit

*the count is described as visits because some visitors came more than once

Visitors Home Location:
- 33.2% Monterey County
- 93.5% California
- 97.7% United States
- Other countries include United Kingdom, Norway, Australia, France, New Zealand, and eight others

Most Popular City Home Location:
- Salinas (677)
- San Jose (229)
- San Francisco (210)
- Fresno (85)
- King City (75)
- Monterey (75)

Languages Spoken:
- English only 54.1%
- English & Spanish 22.7%
- English & another language 8.0%
- Spanish only 8.2%
- Other languages 2.6%

Other popular languages spoken: French, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Tagalog, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Italian, Russian, Thai and many others

Demographics Collected: 3,796 individuals

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Online survey at WOL Exhibition: 369 Responses (11/29/2011)
The exhibit:
- Gave new ideas of how to play with children: A lot – 84.4%
- Increased opinions about the importance of early childhood: A lot – 71.2%
- Increased understanding of the importance of early learning and quality child care: A lot – 70.0%
- Changed understanding of young children's abilities: A lot – 65.9%

Rate the following:
- 3D hands on material areas: Excellent - 72.5%
- Multimedia content of exhibit: Excellent – 70.0%
- Written content of exhibit: Excellent – 64.9%
- Location of exhibit (NSC): Excellent – 64.5%
- Overall experience: Excellent – 71.5%

Comments:
- Recognized the great capacity and worth of children for who they are now, not just who they might be in the future, and celebrated the amazing contribution they are capable of exactly as they are to the community and larger society.
- I will pay much more attention to my children's play and how that play informs their learning and how they will see the world for the rest of their lives.
- Having children exercise their freedom to express their creativity without having to correct them due to our own beliefs.
- I wish our local city and state policymakers would know that productive citizens of the community start from educating young children, giving them quality early education, therefore schools need support from these policy makers.
- I am inspired to make changes in the classroom. I will be considering a wide range of materials and activities that allow for more child directed activities.
- I will provide a rich environment for children to interact in, but will not necessarily guide it. I will let their theories guide their play.
- Reinforce the value of stepping back and allowing children to share what they observe, enjoy, and wish to know.
North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) Professional Development Series: Dialogues for Quality in Education

This multi-year North American professional development series coordinated by NAREA and Reggio Children coincides with the presence of the exhibit in host communities. The series is designed to deepen theoretical awareness of the philosophies and experiences of Reggio Emilia. Two Reggio Emilia educators participate in a special initiative in each host community. Each host community also offers additional local experiences related to the exhibit.

Monterey County Focus: Valuing Early Childhood: An Invitation for Community Dialogue

Seminar 1: Seventh NAREA Summer Conference, June 16 – 18, 2011. Educators from Reggio Emilia, Elena Giacopini, pedagogista and Anna Orlandini, atelierista, shared their experiences at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. The conference included a Learning Tour to King City with visits to King City Migrant Child Development Center and Alegria Migrant Head Start. Attended by approximately 435 participants from across the United States and Canada.

Seminar 2: Reggio-Inspired California Educators Explore the Role of Dialogue, October 15, 2011. This seminar attended by 120 participants was co-hosted by First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) and The Innovative Teacher Project and held at Hartnell College. A panel representing Westside Reggio Collaborative/Santa Monica, Innovative Teacher Project/Bay Area, and First 5 Monterey County described the organization of cross-center collaborations among Reggio-Inspired schools. Small group sessions represented the work/projects of each network while highlighting the role of dialogue with children, teachers, parents, and community.

A series of Seminars on November 11 and 12 featured Lella Gandini, U.S. Liaison for the dissemination of the Reggio Approach; Karen Haigh, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood at Columbia College, Chicago and Teresa Acevedo, Director of Children's Services at Head Start Child and Parent Centers, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona.

Seminar 3: Reflecting and Projecting Together on The Wonder of Learning Exhibit, Friday, November 11, 2011. 8:00 a.m. - noon at the Steinbeck Center. Through sharing of images of the exhibit and viewing the exhibit together with Lella, Karen, and Teresa, 117 participants revisited the many layers of interactive documentation in the exhibit with discussion about how it relates to our future work.

Seminar 4: Stories of Teachers, Parents and Children from Reggio Emilia and Other Cities, Friday, November 11, 2011. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Steinbeck Center. Lella, Karen and Teresa shared experiences as a source for ideas for collaborations among teachers, parents and children. This seminar, with 74 participants, was framed for cross-dialogue among administrators, teachers, and parents in schools.

Seminar 5: Excellence and Accessibility in Publicly Funded Reggio-Inspired Programs, Saturday, November 12, 2011. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A dialogue among publicly funded Reggio-inspired programs that respond to frameworks and standards in ways that support/maintain connections, relationships, complexity, diversity, and creativity. Lella, Karen and Teresa shared experiences in government funded programs from three contexts: Reggio Emilia, Chicago and Tucson. Desiree Soto, Northern Field Services Office, California Department of Education; Ron Lally, Co-Director, Center for Child & Family Studies, WestEd; and Kris Perry, Executive Director First 5 California engaged in a panel discussion about the presentations. Attended by 70 participants.

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<tr>
<th>Community Dialogue Groups</th>
<th>Group Tours</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal facilitated dialogues were designed for exchange of ideas and impressions among a variety of constituents. Thirteen sessions were attended by 179 participants.</td>
<td>93 groups scheduled to visit the exhibit. <strong>F5MC WOL Sponsorship Program</strong> reimbursed expenses for groups of MC early childhood professionals to visit the exhibit.</td>
<td>Family Days offered free onsite child care and activities for both parents and children. <strong>F5MC WOL Sponsorship Program</strong> reimbursed expenses for groups of MC parents to visit the exhibit.</td>
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Community Leaders/Policy Makers

Grand Opening. Approximately 140 community leaders and policy makers attended The Wonder of Learning Exhibit Grand Opening, June 16, 2011. Speakers included: Elliott Robinson, First 5 Commission Chair and Director of the Department of Social and Employment Services; Dennis Donahue, Mayor of Salinas; and Simón Salinas, County Supervisor and First 5 Commission Vice Chairperson.

Collaborative Meetings. Local groups hosted collaborative meetings at NSC and touring the exhibit. Examples include: Children’s Council, Governance Council, Non-Profit Alliance of Monterey County, and the **F5MC Special Needs Initiative Partner Meeting**.

Advocacy Opportunities. Visitors were invited to share thoughts and support of early childhood in several ways. Writing to California legislators and governor on a prepared postcard, signing up for Children Now’s Children’s Movement, and sharing how they are moved to action on our hanging Action Cards.
The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition is offered by Reggio Children in collaboration with NAREA (North American Reggio Emilia Alliance) and hosted in Monterey County by First 5 Monterey County with other community partners. The exhibition will be at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California from June 15 - November 15, 2011 for its only Northern California venue during a six-year tour (from 2008 through 2014).

This traveling exhibition shares the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Approach to education. The exhibition will be free and open to the public during the National Steinbeck Center’s regular hours of operation: Weekdays (Mon-Fri) and Weekends (Sat-Sun), 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The exhibition has the aim to inspire parents, educators, service providers, government leaders, policy makers and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood. Visitors will be immersed in stories from the work and everyday experiences of the schools, showing children, from birth, using many languages, for example, art, music, numeracy, drama and literacy, to learn about and make meaning of the world.

A series of professional development opportunities will be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

For more information please visit us online:

- ReggioExhibitMonterey.com
- thewonderoflearning.com
- reggioalliance.org

Supporting Documents:

WOL Tour Reservation Form
WOL Volunteer Application (In English and Spanish)
Guide to Planning a Visit to the WOL
Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Immerse yourself in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. This exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

The exhibition is free and open every day from 10am - 5pm. Spanish audio interpretation is available.
Aprenda sobre la asombrosa travesía de los internacionalmente reconocidos centros para bebés-niños pequeños y centros preescolares en Reggio Emilia, Italia. La historia comienza con una pequeña villa que construye una escuela para niños pequeños luego de la devastación de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Ahora gente de todo el mundo reconoce el trabajo educativo de la ciudad de Reggio Emilia por su educación temprana de calidad.

Sumérjase en anécdotas sobre las experiencias cotidianas de las escuelas que muestran a los niños, desde el nacimiento, usando muchos “idiomas” para aprender sobre el mundo y darle sentido. Esta exposición ofrece oportunidades para deleitarse en el poderoso aprendizaje que ocurre durante la infancia temprana.

La exposición es gratis y está abierta todos los días de 10am a 5pm. Interpretación en audio disponible en español.
MEDIA ALERT

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

PRESS CONTACT:

The Wonder of Learning Exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center

SALINAS, CA (DATE) – “The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children” Exhibition will be at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California from June 15 - November 15, 2011. This is the North American version of the Exhibition of the Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of the Istituzione – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Salinas will be the exhibition’s only Northern California venue during a six-year tour (from 2008 through 2014).

This international exhibition shares the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Approach to education with California. The exhibit will be free and open to the public during the National Steinbeck Center’s regular hours of operation; seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details: The exhibition aims to inspire parents, educators, service providers, community leaders, policy makers, business, and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

Attendees will learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. At a time of extremely scarce resources community members and parents prioritized the education of children. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Visitors to the exhibit will immerse themselves in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. Through a variety of media, this exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the wonder of childhood. You are invited to join in community and international dialogue about the quality of education and the celebration of childhood. Some of the languages children use include painting, drawing, sculpting, graphic representations, music, numeracy, drama, and literacy.

Reggio Children developed this exhibition in collaboration with the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance. The exhibit is being hosted locally by First 5 Monterey County with funding from other major donors including: The Lucile and David Packard Foundation, The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, The Community Foundation for Monterey County, and First 5 California. Spanish audio interpretation of the exhibit panels will be available.
Press Event:
Tuesday June 14, 2011
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
The National Steinbeck Center
Agenda:
- Brief Presentation - Overview of Exhibit (11:00 - 11:10)
- Opportunity to Tour Exhibit (available between 11:10 - 12:00)
- Interviews (available between 11:10 - 12:00)

Media Interviews Available

Interview Topics Possibilities:

1. Amelia Gambetti, educator, Reggio Children/International Center Loris Malaguzzi Co-Chair International Network Coordination & International Liaison for Consultancy to Schools, Reggio Emilia, Italy – Is available to discuss the Reggio Emilia approach to education and “The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibit.

   Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia municipal preschools for 25 years. She has worked on the creation and consequent updates of “The Hundred Languages of Children” traveling exhibition. Amelia is part of the research group for Reggio Children coordinating the new version of the exhibition being shown at NSC and in other locations throughout North America. Ms. Gambetti is an educational consultant to many schools, universities and colleges in North America. Many articles, books and periodicals in the United States have published her writing related to her experiences in early childhood education. Amelia Gambetti is also part of the editorial board of Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange. She is also a board member of the Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d’Infanzia of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, a member of the Managing Board of Reggio Children and a board member of North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA).

2. Margie Cooper, President, Inspired Practices in Early Education, Inc. & Co-Chair, North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) – Is available to discuss NAREA’s mission and goals, its collaboration with Reggio Children in the coordination of “The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibit project and the NAREA
Professional Development Series, in partnership with Reggio Children and exhibit host communities

Margie Cooper is the President of Inspired Practices in Early Education, Inc., a non-profit organization that was formed to support the presence of “The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibit in Atlanta, Georgia in 2000. Through Inspired Practices, she consults with schools in Georgia and South Carolina in a long-term Reggio-inspired professional development project. Margie is a North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) board co-chair, founding board member and exhibit committee member. She is also a member of the Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange editorial board.

3. Elliott Robinson, First 5 Monterey County Chairperson and Director of the Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services – Is available to speak about the critical importance of the first 5 years of a child’s life. A child’s early experiences help form the foundation that shapes children’s future health, happiness, growth, development, and learning achievement at school, in the family and community, and in life in general.

Recent research confirms that the first five years are particularly important for the development of the child's brain, and the first three years are the most critical in shaping the child's brain architecture. Early experiences provide the base for the brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life. Those experiences have a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities.

4. Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey County – Is available to talk about the image of the child as resourceful and creative. Additionally, Francine can speak about the alignment between the values and aims of the exhibition and those of First 5 Monterey County including the importance of focusing resources on young children especially at a time when funding is scarce.

5. Colleen Bailey, Executive Director, National Steinbeck Center – Is available to talk about the National Steinbeck Center's interest in bringing the exhibition to Salinas and its
connection to the National Steinbeck Center’s new mission to build community, celebrate creativity inspired by the words of John Steinbeck.

Background on Reggio Emilia:

Reggio Emilia, a city in northern Italy, has become a point of reference for excellence, study, research and exchange for teachers and policy-makers from all over the world. The city supports a cohesive system of schools for infants and preschoolers that combine the concept of social services with education, offering both education and care as necessary to provide a high-quality, full-day program.

Based on a respectful image of every child as capable and competent and a constructor of their own knowledge, the Reggio Emilia Approach is aligned with current research and recommendations for best practices. With over 40 years of continuous research and analysis of practice, the approach sees children as competent, resourceful, curious, imaginative, inventive, and possessing a desire to interact and communicate with others. The approach has a strong belief that children learn through interaction with others, including parents, staff, and peers in a friendly learning environment. The use of a wide variety of creative media is an integral part of the process of learning.

About The Wonder of Learning Exhibition

“The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages” of Children is a 7,000 square foot traveling exhibition. Stories and projects from the schools are offered through different media, including three-dimensional objects, videos, books, audio recordings, etc. Two “ateliers” will offer hands-on experiences. The “Ray of Light” Atelier will offer exploration of light and materials through the use of light tables, overhead projectors, white surfaces and different sources of light. In the Atelier “Painting: Between Material and Nature,” participants will be able to create compositions and transform a variety of natural materials through crumbling, crushing, sifting, and powdering. A 50-seat theater will offer videos related to the experience and philosophy of the Reggio Emilia municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools. Computers with Internet access in addition to several books and resources from Reggio Emilia will allow visitors to engage in research related to the Reggio Emilia approach.

In order to enhance accessibility to Spanish language participants, Spanish audio interpretation is being created by First 5 Monterey County and the National Steinbeck Center. "The Wonder of Learning" is currently touring without the option of Spanish translation.

For more information about the exhibit visit the websites: www.thewonderoflearning.com, www.reggioalliance.org/exhibit_project/current_version.php or www.reggioexhibitmonterey.com
APPENDIX E: Monterey WOL Media Links

KSBW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV5utgpV4Xw


Assembly Member Allejo's website: http://asmdc.org/members/a28/district-events/item/2717-the-wonder-of-learning-the-hundred-languages-of-children (no longer active)

WOL was in community calendars, both in newspapers and on TV.


San Jose City Guide: www.sanjose.com/the-wonder-of-learning-exhibition-at-the-national-steinbeck-center-e1287141 (no longer active)


Things to Do: http://www.thingstodoinsalinasca.com/All-Events/4-July-2011/Popularity/ (no longer current)
THE WONDER OF LEARNING
the hundred languages of children

Exhibition of the infant-toddler centers and preschools of the Istituzione - Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy
North American Version

in collaboration with
North American Reggio Emilia Alliance

JUNE 15-NOVEMBER 15, 2011
NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

hosted by FIRST5 MONTEREY COUNTY
SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, June 16, 5-7 pm Opening Reception

Join us for The Wonder of Learning Exhibition
National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street, Salinas CA

RSVP at www.first5monterey.org

Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Immerse yourself in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. Through a variety of media, this exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

You are invited to join in community and international dialogue about the quality of education and the celebration of childhood.

“...The child has a hundred languages, a hundred hands, a hundred thoughts, a hundred ways of thinking, of playing, of speaking.”

—Loris Malaguzzi
From the poem “No Way. The Hundred is There.”

The exhibition will be free and open to the public daily, including weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Resolution Number:
Adopt Resolution welcoming The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibition to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas from June 15 – November 15, 2011; and designating these five months as a time for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change. The traveling exhibition shares the amazing journey of the internationally renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

WHEREAS, we consider it an honor and privilege to host this world renowned exhibition in Monterey County and are proud to say that some of our early childhood education programs are embracing the Reggio Emilia approach; and

WHEREAS, hosted locally by First 5 Monterey County, the exhibition highlights how children, from birth, use many “languages,” such as art, music, play, drama, and literacy, to learn about and make meaning of the world; and

WHEREAS, the exhibition provides the community with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of how children learn – showing that children are born curious, creative, capable, and aware of their own theories about how the world works; and

WHEREAS, because of the generous support of sponsors including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, and First 5 California, the exhibition is free and open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the June 16th grand opening of the exhibition is being held in conjunction with the 2011 North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) Summer Conference at Asilomar, which brings together more than 400 educators; and

WHEREAS, visitors from across the country and the world will come to Monterey County to see the exhibit and to participate in early childhood dialogues and conferences held in association with the exhibit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey on behalf of the County and all the citizens thereof, hereby proudly recognizes the Reggio Emilia exhibition “The Wonder of Learning, The Hundred Languages of Children”; and designates these five months as a time for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change; and

Furthermore, we share our appreciation with the Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of the Instituzione – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy for sharing their journey with education and young children throughout the world.
Friday Night November 4th
at
The Wonder of Learning
5:00 - 8:00 PM
National Steinbeck Center

First 5 Monterey County invites you to a special evening at the exhibition!

Meet Cindy Grayson
Child Development Consultant for Monterey County
Ms. Grayson works with all Title 5 contractors with the California Department of Education to ensure quality programming for children and families.
Meet and talk with Ms. Grayson between 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Participate in a Dialogue Group with Reggio-inspired teacher Janice Martinez
Ms. Martinez, a teacher at Hartnell Alisal Child Development Center in Salinas, will facilitate review and discussion of panels at the exhibition beginning at 6:30 p.m. Janice has attended a study tour to Reggio Emilia and participated in the first Ray of Light Workshop in Reggio Emilia in 2008.

Enjoy First Friday Art Walk in Oldtown Salinas
Galleries, shops and restaurants in a three-block area throw open their doors to visitors!
Live local Rock Band!

You can view the exhibit free every day, including Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Join us for Family Day at The Wonder of Learning Exhibition

FREE ON-SITE CHILD CARE AVAILABLE
so parents have time to focus on the exhibition
Parent and child activities also available

What: Family Day at The Wonder of Learning Exhibition
When: Sunday, November 6
Where: National Steinbeck Center
One Main Street, Salinas
Time: 11am - 3pm
Cost: FREE

www.First5Monterey.org

The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Young children, from birth, use many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world.

Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The international traveling exhibition presents the world-renowned Reggio Emilia approach which aims to inspire parents, educators, and other child advocates to understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

November 6th is a special Family Day. The exhibition is at the National Steinbeck Center through November 15. It is free and open every day from 10am - 5pm. Spanish audio interpretation is available.
October 11, 2011

Dear Friend,

Are you ready for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change? We have a unique chance for you, your colleagues, and the families you serve to visit to the internationally renowned Wonder of Learning Exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center. The exhibition, here through November 15th, shares the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy’s perspective of young children, learning, and community support for both.

The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children is an exhibition of the infant-toddler centers and preschools of Isituzione – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy (the North American Version). The infant toddler centers and preschools in the Italian city of Reggio Emilia - which began from a grass roots parent movement after the Second World War - are based on an innovative and strong image of the child and every child’s potential and developing competencies. The exhibit from Reggio Emilia communicates new ways of gathering materials and creating environments where research and the joy of discovering and learning by children and teachers together are possible.

Visitors have found the exhibition presents a perspective of how to value and respect young children and learning in general. The exhibition shows how children are valued as competent learners with valid ideas and solutions from infancy. It emphasizes the importance of inquiry, problem solving, and exploration in learning.

As someone who values ongoing learning, we believe you will both enjoy and benefit from a tour of The Wonder of Learning Exhibition.

We invite you to visit the exhibition soon, it’s last day is November 15th. Located at the National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street in Salinas, it is free and open to the public from 10am-5pm every day. Please share this with others.

Also if you're interested in arranging a tour of the exhibition or would like to hold a meeting in conjunction with the exhibition, please contact me to discuss further.

Quotes from Exhibition Visitors

- I recognized the great capacity and worth of children for who they are now, not just who they might be in the future, and celebrated the amazing contribution they are capable of exactly as they are to the community and larger society.
- I will pay much more attention to my children’s play and how that play informs their learning and how they will see the world for the rest of their lives.
- I appreciate the example of having children exercise their freedom to express their creativity without having to correct them due to our own beliefs.
- I've been a mental health practitioner for 15 years and this exhibit has changed my practice.
- I wish our local city and state policymakers would know that productive citizens of the community start from educating young children, giving them quality early education, the refore schools need support from these policy makers.
Sincerely,
ABOUT OUR VISITORS

Number of visits*: 8,973 (11/15/11)

- 2,456 in pre-arranged groups
- 5,545 walk-in
- 179 in community dialogue groups
- 793 in local organization meetings, college classes and events held at the exhibit

*the count is described as visits because some visitors came more than once

62 volunteers recorded a total of 2,062 hours to support the presence of the exhibit in Monterey County.

Demographics Collected: 3,796 individuals

Visitors Home Location:

- 33.2% Monterey County
- 93.5% California
- 97.7% United States
- Other countries include United Kingdom, Norway, Australia, France, New Zealand, and eight others

Most Popular City Home Location:

- Salinas (677)
- San Jose (229)
- San Francisco (210)
- Fresno (85)
- King City (75)
- Monterey (75)

Languages Spoken:

- English only 54.1%
- English & Spanish 22.7%
- English & another language 8.0%
- Spanish only 8.2%
- Other languages 2.6%

Other popular languages spoken: French, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Tagalog, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Italian, Russian, Thai and many others

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Online survey at WOL Exhibition: 369 Responses (11/29/2011)

The exhibit:

- Gave new ideas of how to play with children: A lot – 84.4%
- Increased opinions about the importance of early childhood: A lot – 71.2%
- Increased understanding of the importance of early learning and quality child care: A lot – 70.0%
- Changed understanding of young children's abilities: A lot – 65.9%

Rate the following:

- 3D hands on material areas: Excellent - 72.5%
- Multimedia content of exhibit: Excellent – 70.0%
- Written content of exhibit: Excellent – 64.9%
- Location of exhibit (NSC): Excellent – 64.5%
- Overall experience: Excellent – 71.5%

Comments:

- Recognized the great capacity and worth of children for who they are now, not just who they might be in the future, and celebrated the amazing contribution they are capable of exactly as they are to the community and larger society.
- I will pay much more attention to my children's play and how that play informs their learning and how they will see the world for the rest of their lives.
- Having children exercise their freedom to express their creativity without having to correct them due to our own beliefs.
- I wish our local city and state policymakers would know that productive citizens of the community start from educating young children, giving them quality early education, therefore schools need support from these policy makers.
- I am inspired to make changes in the classroom. I will be considering a wide range of materials and activities that allow for more child directed activities.
- I will provide a rich environment for children to interact in, but will not necessarily guide it. I will let their theories guide their play.
- Reinforce the value of stepping back and allowing children to share what they observe, enjoy, and wish to know.
North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) Professional Development Series:
Dialogues for Quality in Education

This multi-year North American professional development series coordinated by NAREA and Reggio Children coincides with the presence of the exhibit in host communities. The series is designed to deepen theoretical awareness of the philosophies and experiences of Reggio Emilia. Two Reggio Emilia educators participate in a special initiative in each host community. Each host community also offers additional local experiences related to the exhibit.

Monterey County Focus: Valuing Early Childhood: An Invitation for Community Dialogue

Seminar 1: Seventh NAREA Summer Conference, June 16 – 18, 2011. Educators from Reggio Emilia, Elena Giacopini, pedagogista and Anna Orlandini, atelierista, shared their experiences at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. The conference included a Learning Tour to King City with visits to King City Migrant Child Development Center and Alegria Migrant Head Start. Attended by approximately 435 participants from across the United States and Canada.

Seminar 2: Reggio-Inspired California Educators Explore the Role of Dialogue, October 15, 2011. This seminar attended by 120 participants was co-hosted by First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) and The Innovative Teacher Project and held at Hartnell College. A panel representing Westside Reggio Collaborative/Santa Monica, Innovative Teacher Project/Bay Area, and First 5 Monterey County described the organization of cross-center collaborations among Reggio-Inspired schools. Small group sessions represented the work/projects of each network while highlighting the role of dialogue with children, teachers, parents, and community.

A series of Seminars on November 11 and 12 featured Lella Gandini, U.S. Liaison for the dissemination of the Reggio Approach; Karen Haigh, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood at Columbia College, Chicago and Teresa Acevedo, Director of Children’s Services at Head Start Child and Parent Centers, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona.

Seminar 3: Reflecting and Projecting Together on The Wonder of Learning Exhibit, Friday, November 11, 2011. 8:00 a.m. - noon at the Steinbeck Center. Through sharing of images of the exhibit and viewing the exhibit together with Lella, Karen, and Teresa, 117 participants revisited the many layers of interactive documentation in the exhibit with discussion about how it relates to our future work.

Seminar 4: Stories of Teachers, Parents and Children from Reggio Emilia and Other Cities, Friday, November 11, 2011. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Steinbeck Center. Lella, Karen and Teresa shared experiences as a source for ideas for collaborations among teachers, parents and children. This seminar, with 74 participants, was framed for cross-dialogue among administrators, teachers, and parents in schools.

Seminar 5: Excellence and Accessibility in Publicly Funded Reggio-Inspired Programs, Saturday, November 12, 2011. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A dialogue among publicly funded Reggio-inspired programs that respond to frameworks and standards in ways that support/maintain connections, relationships, complexity, diversity, and creativity. Lella, Karen and Teresa shared experiences in government funded programs from three contexts: Reggio Emilia, Chicago and Tucson. Desiree Soto, Northern Field Services Office, California Department of Education; Ron Lally, Co-Director, Center for Child & Family Studies, WestEd; and Kris Perry, Executive Director First 5 California engaged in a panel discussion about the presentations. Attended by 70 participants.

Community Dialogue Groups
Informal facilitated dialogues were designed for exchange of ideas and impressions among a variety of constituents. Thirteen sessions were attended by 179 participants.

Group Tours
93 groups scheduled to visit the exhibit. *F5MC* WOL Sponsorship Program reimbursed expenses for groups of MC early childhood professionals to visit the exhibit.

Parents
Family Days offered free onsite child care and activities for both parents and children. *F5MC* WOL Sponsorship Program reimbursed expenses for groups of MC parents to visit the exhibit.

Community Leaders/Policy Makers
Grand Opening. Approximately 140 community leaders and policy makers attended The Wonder of Learning Exhibit Grand Opening, June 16, 2011. Speakers included: Elliott Robinson, First 5 Commission Chair and Director of the Department of Social and Employment Services; Dennis Donahue, Mayor of Salinas; and Simón Salinas, County Supervisor and First 5 Commission Vice Chairperson.

Collaborative Meetings. Local groups hosted collaborative meetings at NSC and touring the exhibit. Examples include: Children’s Council, Governance Council, Non-Profit Alliance of Monterey County, and the *F5MC* Special Needs Initiative Partner Meeting.

Advocacy Opportunities. Visitors were invited to share thoughts and support of early childhood in several ways. Writing to the California legislators and governor on a prepared postcard, signing up for Children Now’s Children’s Movement, and sharing how they are moved to action on our hanging Action Cards.
The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children

Exhibition is offered by Reggio Children in collaboration with NAREA (North American Reggio Emilia Alliance) and hosted in Monterey County by First 5 Monterey County with other community partners. The exhibition will be at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California from June 15 - November 15, 2011 for its only Northern California venue during a six-year tour (from 2006 through 2014).

This traveling exhibition shares the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Approach to education. The exhibition will be free and open to the public during the National Steinbeck Center’s regular hours of operation: Weekdays (Mon-Fri) and Weekends (Sat-Sun), 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The exhibition has the aim to inspire parents, educators, service providers, government leaders, policy makers and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood. Visitors will be immersed in stories from the work and everyday experiences of the schools, showing children, from birth, using many languages, for example, art, music, numeracy, drama and literacy, to learn about and make meaning of the world.

A series of professional development opportunities will be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

For more information please visit us online:

- ReggioExhibitMonterey.com
- thewonderoflearning.com
- reggioalliance.org

Supporting Documents:

WOL Tour Reservation Form

WOL Volunteer Application (In English and Spanish)

Guide to Planning a Visit to the WOL
Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Immerse yourself in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. This exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

The exhibition is free and open every day from 10am - 5pm. Spanish audio interpretation is available.
Aprenda sobre la asombrosa travesía de los internacionalmente reconocidos centros para bebés-niños pequeños y centros preescolares en Reggio Emilia, Italia. La historia comienza con una pequeña villa que construye una escuela para niños pequeños luego de la devastación de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Ahora gente de todo el mundo reconoce el trabajo educativo de la ciudad de Reggio Emilia por su educación temprana de calidad.

Sumérjase en anécdotas sobre las experiencias cotidianas de las escuelas que muestran a los niños, desde el nacimiento, usando muchos “idiomas” para aprender sobre el mundo y darle sentido. Esta exposición ofrece oportunidades para deleitarse en el poderoso aprendizaje que ocurre durante la infancia temprana.

La exposición es gratis y está abierta todos los días de 10am a 5pm. Interpretación en audio disponible en español.
MEDIA ALERT
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

PRESS CONTACT:

The Wonder of Learning Exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center

SALINAS, CA (DATE) – “The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children” Exhibition will be at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California from June 15 - November 15, 2011. This is the North American version of the Exhibition of the Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of the Istituzione – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Salinas will be the exhibition’s only Northern California venue during a six-year tour (from 2008 through 2014).

This international exhibition shares the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Approach to education with California. The exhibit will be free and open to the public during the National Steinbeck Center’s regular hours of operation; seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details: The exhibition aims to inspire parents, educators, service providers, community leaders, policy makers, business, and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

Attendees will learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. At a time of extremely scarce resources community members and parents prioritized the education of children. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Visitors to the exhibit will immerse themselves in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. Through a variety of media, this exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the wonder of childhood. You are invited to join in community and international dialogue about the quality of education and the celebration of childhood. Some of the languages children use include painting, drawing, sculpting, graphic representations, music, numeracy, drama, and literacy.

Reggio Children developed this exhibition in collaboration with the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance. The exhibit is being hosted locally by First 5 Monterey County with funding from other major donors including: The Lucile and David Packard Foundation, The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, The Community Foundation for Monterey County, and First 5 California. Spanish audio interpretation of the exhibit panels will be available.
Press Event:
Tuesday June 14, 2011
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
The National Steinbeck Center
Agenda:
- Brief Presentation - Overview of Exhibit (11:00 - 11:10)
- Opportunity to Tour Exhibit (available between 11:10 - 12:00)
- Interviews (available between 11:10 - 12:00)

Media Interviews Available

Interview Topics Possibilities:

1. Amelia Gambetti, educator, Reggio Children/International Center Loris Malaguzzi Co-Chair International Network Coordination & International Liaison for Consultancy to Schools, Reggio Emilia, Italy – Is available to discuss the Reggio Emilia approach to education and "The Wonder of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit.

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Recent research confirms that the first five years are particularly important for the development of the child's brain, and the first three years are the most critical in shaping the child's brain architecture. Early experiences provide the base for the brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life. Those experiences have a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities.

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**Background on Reggio Emilia:**

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Based on a respectful image of every child as capable and competent and a constructor of their own knowledge, the Reggio Emilia Approach is aligned with current research and recommendations for best practices. With over 40 years of continuous research and analysis of practice, the approach sees children as competent, resourceful, curious, imaginative, inventive, and possessing a desire to interact and communicate with others. The approach has a strong belief that children learn through interaction with others, including parents, staff, and peers in a friendly learning environment. The use of a wide variety of creative media is an integral part of the process of learning.

**About The Wonder of Learning Exhibition**

“*The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages*” of Children is a 7,000 square foot traveling exhibition. Stories and projects from the schools are offered through different media, including three-dimensional objects, videos, books, audio recordings, etc. Two “ateliers” will offer hands-on experiences. The “Ray of Light” Atelier will offer exploration of light and materials through the use of light tables, overhead projectors, white surfaces and different sources of light. In the Atelier “Painting: Between Material and Nature,” participants will be able to create compositions and transform a variety of natural materials through crumbling, crushing, sifting, and powdering. A 50-seat theater will offer videos related to the experience and philosophy of the Reggio Emilia municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools. Computers with Internet access in addition to several books and resources from Reggio Emilia will allow visitors to engage in research related to the Reggio Emilia approach.

In order to enhance accessibility to Spanish language participants, Spanish audio interpretation is being created by *First 5 Monterey County* and the National Steinbeck Center. "The Wonder of Learning" is currently touring without the option of Spanish translation.

For more information about the exhibit visit the websites: [www.thewonderoflearning.com](http://www.thewonderoflearning.com), [www.reggioalliance.org/exhibit_project/current_version.php](http://www.reggioalliance.org/exhibit_project/current_version.php) or [www.reggioexhibitmonterey.com](http://www.reggioexhibitmonterey.com)
APPENDIX E: Monterey WOL Media Links

KSBW:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV5utgpV4Xw


The California Endowment:


Assembly Member Allejo's website:  http://asmdc.org/members/a28/district-events/item/2717-the-wonder-of-learning-the-hundred-languages-of-children  (no longer active)

WOL was in community calendars, both in newspapers and on TV.


San Jose City Guide: www.sanjose.com/the-wonder-of-learning-exhibition-at-the-national-steinbeck-center-e1287141  (no longer active)


Things to Do: http://www.thingstodoinsalinasca.com/All-Events/4-July-2011/Popularity/  (no longer current)
THE WONDER OF LEARNING
the hundred languages of children

Exhibition of the infant-toddler centers and preschools of the Istituzione - Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy
North American Version

hosted by
FIRST 5 MONTEREY COUNTY

PHOTO BY GIOVANNI PIAZZA, RAY OF LIGHT ATELIER
SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, June 16, 5-7 pm Opening Reception

Join us for The Wonder of Learning Exhibition
National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street, Salinas CA

RSVP at www.first5monterey.org

Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now, people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.

Immerse yourself in stories from the everyday experiences of the schools showing children, from birth, using many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world. Through a variety of media, this exhibition offers opportunities to delight in the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

You are invited to join in community and international dialogue about the quality of education and the celebration of childhood.

“...The child has a hundred languages, a hundred hands, a hundred thoughts, a hundred ways of thinking, of playing, of speaking.”
—Loris Malaguzzi
From the poem “No Way. The Hundred is There.”

The exhibition will be free and open to the public daily, including weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the County of Monterey, State of California

Resolution Number:
Adopt Resolution welcoming *The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children* exhibition to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas from June 15 – November 15, 2011; and designating these five months as a time for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change. The traveling exhibition shares the amazing journey of the internationally renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

WHEREAS, we consider it an honor and privilege to host this world renowned exhibition in Monterey County and are proud to say that some of our early childhood education programs are embracing the Reggio Emilia approach; and

WHEREAS, hosted locally by *First 5 Monterey County*, the exhibition highlights how children, from birth, use many “languages,” such as art, music, play, drama, and literacy, to learn about and make meaning of the world; and

WHEREAS, the exhibition provides the community with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of how children learn – showing that children are born curious, creative, capable, and aware of their own theories about how the world works; and

WHEREAS, because of the generous support of sponsors including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, and First 5 California, the exhibition is free and open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the June 16th grand opening of the exhibition is being held in conjunction with the 2011 North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) Summer Conference at Asilomar, which brings together more than 400 educators; and

WHEREAS, visitors from across the country and the world will come to Monterey County to see the exhibit and to participate in early childhood dialogues and conferences held in association with the exhibit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey on behalf of the County and all the citizens thereof, hereby proudly recognizes the Reggio Emilia exhibition “*The Wonder of Learning, The Hundred Languages of Children*”; and designates these five months as a time for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change; and

Furthermore, we share our appreciation with the Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of the Instituto – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy for sharing their journey with education and young children throughout the world.
Friday Night November 4th
at
The Wonder of Learning
5:00 - 8:00 PM
National Steinbeck Center

*First 5 Monterey County* invites you
to a special evening at the exhibition!

Meet Cindy Grayson
Child Development Consultant for Monterey County

Ms. Grayson works with all Title 5 contractors with the California Department of Education to ensure quality programming for children and families.

Meet and talk with Ms. Grayson between 6 and 7:30 p.m.

### Participate in a Dialogue Group with
**Reggio-inspired teacher Janice Martinez**

Ms. Martinez, a teacher at Hartnell Alisal Child Development Center in Salinas, will facilitate review and discussion of panels at the exhibition beginning at 6:30 p.m. Janice has attended a study tour to Reggio Emilia and participated in the first Ray of Light Workshop in Reggio Emilia in 2008.

### Enjoy First Friday Art Walk in Oldtown Salinas

Galleries, shops and restaurants in a three-block area throw open their doors to visitors!

Live local Rock Band!

*You can view the exhibit free every day, including Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
Join us for Family Day at The Wonder of Learning Exhibition

FREE ON-SITE CHILD CARE AVAILABLE so parents have time to focus on the exhibition
Parent and child activities also available

What: Family Day at The Wonder of Learning Exhibition
When: Sunday, November 6
Where: National Steinbeck Center
One Main Street, Salinas
Time: 11am - 3pm
Cost: FREE

Young children, from birth, use many “languages” to learn about and make meaning of the world.

Learn about the amazing journey of the internationally-renowned infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The international traveling exhibition presents the world-renowned Reggio Emilia approach which aims to inspire parents, educators, and other child advocates to understand the powerful learning that occurs in early childhood.

November 6th is a special Family Day. The exhibition is at the National Steinbeck Center through November 15. It is free and open every day from 10am - 5pm. Spanish audio interpretation is available.

www.First5Monterey.org

The story begins with a small village building a school for young children after the devastation of the Second World War. Now people from all over the world recognize the educational work of the city of Reggio Emilia for quality early learning.
October 11, 2011

Dear Friend,

Are you ready for unexpected connections, extraordinary insights, powerful inspiration, and amazing change? We have a unique chance for you, your colleagues, and the families you serve to visit to the internationally renowned Wonder of Learning Exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center. The exhibition, here through November 15th, shares the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy’s perspective of young children, learning, and community support for both.

The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children is an exhibition of the infant-toddler centers and preschools of Isituzione – Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy (the North American Version). The infant toddler centers and preschools in the Italian city of Reggio Emilia - which began from a grass roots parent movement after the Second World War - are based on an innovative and strong image of the child and every child’s potential and developing competencies. The exhibit from Reggio Emilia communicates new ways of gathering materials and creating environments where research and the joy of discovering and learning by children and teachers together are possible.

Visitors have found the exhibition presents a perspective of how to value and respect young children and learning in general. The exhibition shows how children are valued as competent learners with valid ideas and solutions from infancy. It emphasizes the importance of inquiry, problem solving, and exploration in learning.

As someone who values ongoing learning, we believe you will both enjoy and benefit from a tour of The Wonder of Learning Exhibition.

We invite you to visit the exhibition soon, it’s last day is November 15th. Located at the National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street in Salinas, it is free and open to the public from 10am-5pm every day. Please share this with others.

Also if you're interested in arranging a tour of the exhibition or would like to hold a meeting in conjunction with the exhibition, please contact me to discuss further.

Quotes from Exhibition Visitors

- I recognized the great capacity and worth of children for who they are now, not just who they might be in the future, and celebrated the amazing contribution they are capable of exactly as they are to the community and larger society.
- I will pay much more attention to my children's play and how that play informs their learning and how they will see the world for the rest of their lives.
- I appreciate the example of having children exercise their freedom to express their creativity without having to correct them due to our own beliefs.
- I've been a mental health practitioner for 15 years and this exhibit has changed my practice.
- I wish our local city and state policymakers would know that productive citizens of the community start from educating young children, giving them quality early education, therefore schools need support from these policy makers.
Sincerely,