

Parents: You & Your Child Are Invited to ‘The Hub!’

By Linda Hanf McIntosh

The Hub has come to El Dorado County. What better place for this kind of hub than at the local libraries.

These are Community Hubs created for families to have a safe and active place where a team of specialists are on hand to offer help in the areas of health and family. The specialists recognize that keeping a family



Larissa Quintard and her daughter Dakota had fun at the craft table



The Ribbon Cutting for the Hub at the Library in Cameron Park was held on Feb. 7. Shown here are (L-R) Nancy Owen-Hazard, manager of Cameron Park Library; Jeanne Amos, El Dorado County Library director; Shiva Frenzzen, County Supervisor, District II; and Marni Price, Early Childhood Literacy Specialist for Cameron Park and So. County.

safe and healthy can have its challenges. Since parents are a child's first teacher, that first teacher can use assistance.

The idea is that the Hub's services and specialists can help to build resilient families through collaboration with parents in a community atmosphere so children can grow in healthy ways, even through difficult times. The focus is in three broad areas: Health, Literacy and Parenting.

The Hubs are located at the libraries in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Placerville, Georgetown and South Lake Tahoe. Classes, activities and groups are open to families with children ages 0 to 18. Even expectant parents are encouraged to come and get an early start. It's a place to get health tips, find insurance, doctors, dentists, and be a part of activities that promote wellness. The Health

health, the Hub provides a learning center for building language skills. There are new books to check out, story time kits, play centers and workshops to support parents in talking, reading and singing with their child daily.

Resources to help with parenting include activities that promote friendship and sharing feelings through Play & Learn plus information for managing changing behaviors. Family engagement specialists are available by appointment to meet with parents at the Hub.

Since 90% of a child's brain develops by age 5, the Hub pilot program has been launched to give local children every opportunity in their early lives to be healthy. Statistics show that every dollar spent on investing in young children saves at least

staff is available by appointment to meet with parents and provide individual assessment and assistance. Besides a focus on

\$4 to \$9 in the juvenile justice, remedial and special education systems. Not to mention how much the children themselves are helped by this early investment. HUB creators believe that by investing in prevention and early intervention, an entire community benefits.

The Hub premise is: the more connected parents are with their children, the better the child's development. Knowing where a child is developmentally helps a parent understand the child's behavior and to respond in a positive way to guide his learning and life. Parents can strengthen their families by building positive relationships, and the Hub is there to help with this.

The Community Hubs are a partnership among First 5 El Dorado, EDC Library, EDC Early Care and Education Planning Council, EDC Child Abuse Prevention Council, EDC Health and Human Services Agency's Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Program and Mental Health Services Act. The First 5 El Dorado Commission invests \$1 million annually in building an early childhood system to assist families in preparing their children for school.

To learn more about attending a Hub in your community, call the Placerville Library at 530-622-5787.