



Calistoga Family Center
Healthy Families. Strong Community.

Family Centered

newsletter for Calistoga Family Center

www.calistogafamilycenter.org

April 2008

Active Kids - Play to Learn

[Parents Support School Readiness](#)

[Volunteer Tax Preparers Make VITA a Success](#)

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During the summer months *Active Kids/Ninos Activos* is offered weekly creating

more opportunities to learn through play.

Volunteers Make Taxes Less Taxing!

Scroll down to read about our friendly tax preparers...



All About Kids!

Wednesday mornings are all about kids, active kids! Every other week, children under five and their moms, dads, or caregivers are offered an hour of learning disguised as fun.

Active Kids/Niños Activos is a program supported in part through a grant from First Five Napa County which provides activities that inspire children to learn, share, and laugh together. Children listen to stories, sing songs, learn dances, and try out many sorting, counting, and messy art activities.

What may sometimes look like chaos is actually a step in preparing for school readiness. Parents and/or caregivers gain valuable insight to how children learn.

"The experience our volunteers bring back every year is critical. It allows us to run a highly efficient VITA program year after year. "

- Indira López

The activities are simple and fun for the children and easy for the parents to try at home, assisting their child as they begin the process of preparing for school. A bilingual approach allows both the children and their parents to learn together.

Local organizations also supplement the program with health, nutrition, and fitness related topics providing valuable information for parents and learning activities for children. Learning is fun at Calistoga Family Center!

Volunteers are the heart of VITA!

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**, often referred to as "VITA" is a nationally recognized program supported by the IRS and United Way. The purpose of VITA is to assist low income families optimize their earnings by ensuring they receive all of the state and federal credits for which they qualify when filing taxes. Most families who participate in VITA increase their income by at least 10% simply by filing for taxes that were overpaid.

Tax preparers are volunteers who have completed a IRS certified training program. At Calistoga Family Center, families are greeted by volunteer veterans Jim Barnes and Ray Bransetter. Both preparers have been involved with the program for three or more years and continue to bring back valuable experience and skill each tax season. "Our volunteers make VITA a success for us," commented Site Coordinator Indira Lopez. "Thanks to the time they donate and the hard work they do, we will prepare over 100 returns this year."