

# *Children's Bill of Rights for Merced County*

PROCLAIMING OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY

## **KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PREPARED PARENTS AND PRIMARY CAREGIVERS**

1. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO have parents and caregivers who are prepared and educated to become the "most important persons in the world" to their children.

## **STABLE AND NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS**

2. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO have parents and caregivers who recognize and effectively fulfill their responsibilities for nurturing, loving, and supporting their children.

## **Home Environments that Make Learning a Priority**

3. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in stable home environments with routines that prioritize learning and optimal development, including regular healthy meals, enough sleep, support of learning, good hygiene, and plenty of physical activity.

## **RICH AND MEANINGFUL LIFE EXPERIENCES**

4. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO participate in varied and meaningful enrichment experiences introducing them to the arts, nature, sciences, and cultures, which demonstrate life's beauty, richness, and human potential.

## **SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM ABUSE AND VIOLENCE**

5. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in homes free from mistreatment, abuse, and neglect, and in communities without violence, drug use, and gang influence.

## **A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

6. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live and grow in a healthy environment with clean air and water, affordable healthy foods, and spaces safe for exploring, play, and physical activity.

## **QUALITY HEALTH CARE**

7. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO affordable and accessible physical, dental, and mental health care, including early identification and timely services.

## **EXCEPTIONAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND GUIDANCE**

8. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO high-quality care, education, and guidance--from their earliest years through young adulthood--that promote achievement, success in life, and a love for lifelong learning.

## **DREAM BIG!**

9. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO be encouraged to "dream big", to be challenged, and to live their lives with hope and inspiration.

## **THE COMMUNITY'S HIGHEST PRIORITY**

10. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in a community that demonstrates daily that all of its children are its #1 priority as evidenced through its commitment of time, money, effort, and unified support.