

Mary Ann Hansen grew up in Humboldt County and serves as the Executive Director of First 5 Humboldt, an agency dedicated to supporting Humboldt County's youngest children and their families. Mary Ann began her lifelong interest in the well-being and resilience of young children, their families and caregivers while earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development at UC Davis and becoming involved in legislative advocacy. She returned to Humboldt to open and operate a non-profit, community-based childcare center that is still in operation 30 years later. She earned her Master's Degree in Education with a specialization in Child Development from Humboldt State. Her thesis was a longitudinal examination of children's perceptions of self-concept and self-efficacy over time. Mary Ann has worked in the HSU Child Development Department since 1994 and still teaches their Policy Analysis and Advocacy course. Mary Ann is a California-endorsed Transdisciplinary Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Practitioner and Reflective Practice Facilitator. She continues her policy advocacy work by serving as Policy Chair of the First 5 Association of California and as a Board officer of the First 5 Center for Children's Policy, which promotes policies to better support the well-being of young children and their families —policies which ultimately lift up California by fostering a well-prepared, healthy and successful workforce. She also serves on the California Surgeon General's Trauma-Informed Primary Care Task Force and co-chairs the Network of Care subcommittee, working to design a roadmap toward connected systems of care for children and adults impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences.