

January 5, 2016

First Step Thanks Pacific Office Equipment for Diaper and Supply Assistance

First Step Family Support Center sends a warm THANK YOU to Pacific Office Equipment, a locally owned office supply and solutions company, for hosting their Diapers and Books Drive through the month of December. Pacific Office Equipment collected about six cases of diapers, baby wipes, almost forty new and gently used books, and an assortment of clothing and supplies that will be immediately put to use in the community to help parents ensure their children are healthy and thriving. The Diaper and Book Drive will now be moved to Jim's Pharmacy for the month of January.

Why give diapers? Thirty percent of families with babies in the United States will go without diapers at some time this year. Some parents are forced to re-use dirty diapers. Many families do not have access to a washer and dryer and therefore cannot supplement with cloth diapers. First Step Drop In Center provides emergency diapers to families in need. They also provide social support, advocacy, access to a computer and printer, telephone and fax machine. Their clothing and equipment closet provides families with gently used baby and toddler clothing, blankets, and equipment for free. First Step strongly believes that no baby should have to go without!

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/07/diaper-need/399041/>

Why give books? 44% of children in the United States live in a low-income home. Low income families have less access to reading materials and therefore have less opportunity to read to their children. A child's limited access to books means missing out on stimulating activities including hearing and reading aloud, which could result in the 30 million word deficit known as the "word gap." Reading out loud helps children to learn about the world around them and acquire a more in-depth vocabulary. First Step wants to ensure that families supported by their programs have access to books in their home and the ability to promote important language development interactions for their children, creating a culture of literacy in the home. <http://literacy.rice.edu/thirty-million-word-gap>

First Step Family Support Center serves over 1,700 families per year, helping them access education, social support, and supplies to ensure that children are happy

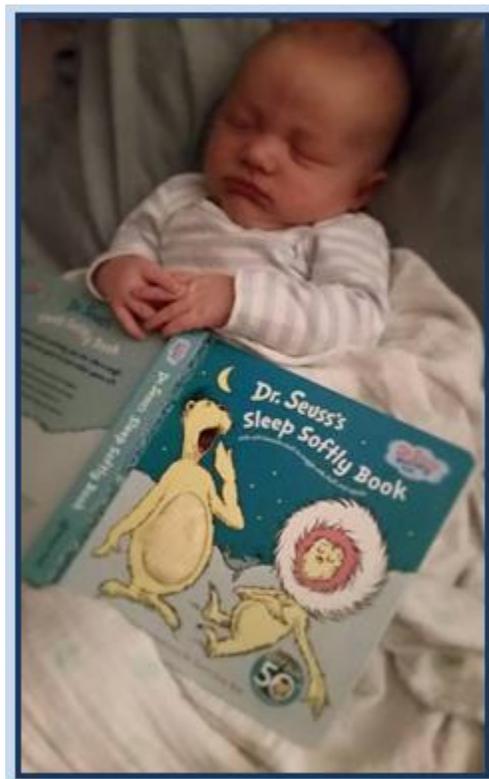
and thriving in their earliest years. Their mission is to promote the healthy development of children and families in Clallam County. Please support children and families in your community by donating to become a Friend of First Step. You can donate online through FirstStepFamily.org or by mail to P.O. Box 249, Port Angeles, WA 98362. First Step is a proud United Way agency.



Betty Graf and McKenna of Pacific Office Equipment lead the efforts.



A look inside the full crib of donated diapers, books, and other assorted items.



Damien Millet enjoys his first book.