



# CHILDREN FIRST

HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL SINCE 1961

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*New volunteers Theresa and Marge enjoy rocking a baby.*

## VOLUNTEERS BRING VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE TO CLASSROOMS

Students weren't the only ones learning something new at Children First's Dr. Elaine Marieb Early Learning Center this spring. Many volunteers participated in the 40-hour Introduction to Childcare Course through the Florida Department of Children and Families. They discussed subjects like "Health, Safety and Nutrition" and "Child Growth and Development" with the goal of having a better understanding of what goes on in the classrooms. "You understand now why teachers are doing what they're doing, and it helps you support them," said one volunteer.

The course was offered in a live format for the first time at Children First, thanks to a partnership with Pinellas County Schools, the nearest training provider.

"The idea is to make it easy and build a community of volunteers. It's much more fun to take the courses with a friend than online," said Volunteer Coordinator, Jean Ward.

The volunteers took advantage of that time together. Instructor Venice Duchesne says they spent extra time studying together for the tests required to obtain the early childcare credentials. A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers!



*Volunteers participate in Early Childhood Care & Professional Development Class*