

Coos Bay, OR
(Coos Co.)
World
(Cir. D. 31,000)

WORLD, COOS BAY

10-4-01

OCT 4 - 2001

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

EDITORIAL

Talk is good; ⁵⁰³⁸action is better

Thanks to a good economy in recent years, child neglect and abuse is down in Oregon. The percentage of children living in poverty is down, too.

The children's watchdog group, Children First for Oregon, this week released the good news. The group tempered the news, though, with warnings parents are going to find less help with the fast-cooling economy.

That's one way to look at it.

People in Coos County have several reasons to be a little more optimistic.

Even with the tight state budget, the Legislature agreed to make million-dollar investments in efforts to help young children and their families, before the problems start. Counties will decide how to spend it. And as with many other state allocations, the bulk of the money isn't destined for the state's most populated areas.

Coos County is on the receiving end for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Not only that, this region already has a solid base of programs designed to help children from the womb on through the years into the working world.

People who work in these programs will say there isn't enough funding, particularly for programs for teen-agers in trouble. There isn't and never will be enough money. That doesn't mean things haven't gotten better here.

As the economy simmers, people who want to improve children's lives can help. Success shouldn't hinge only on tax-supported, family help programs open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Local volunteer groups, churches, even businesses can help round out those programs to improve children's lives.

It just will require people, who want to see children here grow up healthier and happier, to offer more than a little sympathy and a lot of talk.