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First 5 San Bernardino urges early literacy at Chino event

Birthday party for character Potter the Otter emphasizes books' importance



Preschool children sing Happy Birthday to the children's book character Potter the Otter at a Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, event hosted by First 5 San Bernardino, at the Chino Youth Museum. (Courtesy of First 5 San Bernardino)



By **STAFF REPORT** |

Preschool children sang Happy Birthday to a book character and got free books during an event that combined fun with a focus on literacy.



Preschool children, joined by musician Markus Law, right, sing Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, with children's book character Potter the Otter at an event hosted by First 5 San Bernardino at the Chino Youth Museum. (Courtesy of First 5 San Bernardino)

[First 5 San Bernardino](#) joined with the [Chino Youth Museum](#) to host the Tuesday, Sept. 30, event featuring Potter the Otter.

More than 30 children 5 and younger and their families attended. In addition to free books, they enjoyed birthday cake, songs, crafts and playing with interactive exhibits at the museum, which is marking its 25th anniversary.

"Any of your child's milestones, like celebrating a birthday, their first day of school or losing a tooth, is a reason to celebrate with a new book," Scott McGrath, deputy director of systems and impact at First 5 San Bernardino, said in a news release. "Reading builds stronger brains, gets them ready for school and builds meaningful family connections, which is why it's important to introduce them to books at an early age."

The gathering was part of First 5 San Bernardino's [Gift a Kid a Book](#) campaign that urges the giving of books as presents. First 5 San Bernardino has handed out more than 10,000 books to San Bernardino County families through the program, the release states.

For more information and resources on books for young children, click [here](#).