



School Readiness Coalition Of Sarasota County, Inc. Newsletter – February 2004

Hello to all Early Childhood Educators!

**DIRECTORS: PLEASE POST THIS NEWSLETTER AND
SHARE WITH YOUR TEACHERS!**

"READY, SET GROW" ANNUAL PROVIDER CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!!

The third annual "Ready, Set, Grow, Provider Conference" sponsored by the School Readiness Coalition was held on January 24, 2004 at the Pine Shores Presbyterian Church.

The Coalition has placed an emphasis this year on the social and emotional needs of young children. We have focused on that being a key ingredient in children being ready for school and success in later years. Our conference theme was consistent with that message.

The theme for the conference this year was "Character Development: What is it, How to teach it, and How to promote it in our children." There were approximately 150 people in attendance with 12 vendors and exhibitors.

Many of you who attended requested a copy of the motivational piece that Janet Kahn, the Executive Director read as part of her opening remarks. Here is that reading:

"When you are"

*When you are loving, you will be loved. When you are respectful, you will be respected.
When you are genuinely friendly, you will have genuine friends.
When you are helpful, you will have plenty of assistance.*

*When you give freely, you will receive much. When you listen, you will be heard.
When you teach, you will learn. When you trust, you will be trusted.*

*What you do, what you say, who you are, not only flows out from you at every moment.
It also comes back to you accurately and without fail.*

The way the world unfolds for you depends on the way you choose to be.

Ralph Marston

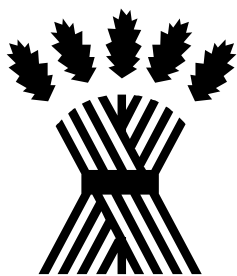
The Coalition would like to thank the Coalition's Staff Development and Training Committee members for months of planning, the breakout presenters; Dr. Kathy Kourapis, Dr. Virginia Myers, Marlene Resnick, Wendy Biasetto and staff at First Presbyterian Preschool for their time in preparation and presentation of meaningful workshops, our vendors and community exhibitors, and the following volunteers for their time in making the conference a success; Deanna Manigo, Laurie Cooke, Michelle Bundy, Elma McKay, Maryann Laprade, Theresa Heinis and Paula Mackay.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2005 Provider Conference!!



Newsletter continued on the next page...Keep reading!

FREE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM



All Faiths Food Bank, along with the participation of Children First Inc., Sarasota County Family YMCA, Sarasota County Extension Service, Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County and Florida Center for Child & Family Development, are implementing a FREE nutrition program called "Growing Healthy Kids" through a *Seeds of Hope* grant. This project is a Collaborative Nutrition Program for preschool children and their families and will include a curriculum with basic information about nutrition, healthy eating habits, food safety, exercise promotion, a kitchen cart and on site educational experiences at the Seeds of Hope Garden, located at All Faiths Food Bank. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brenda Medina or Wendy Harris at Children First, 953-3877. Hurry and sign up so that you won't miss out on this opportunity!

12th Annual Family Child Care Conference

The Florida Child Care Home Association, Inc. will be hosting it's 12th Annual Family Child Care Conference "There's No Place Like Home!" June 25 – 27, 2004 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, Florida. **The Coalition will be awarding partial scholarships for the pre-conference trainings on the 23rd and 24th.** Available trainings are "Association Development Training", "National Observation Training", "Leadership Training", and "Florida Certified Mentor Training". To apply for partial scholarships, complete the Continuing Education Scholarship Form (posted on our website) and mail or fax to the Coalition. If you are unable to access the form on a computer, please call the coalition at 379-1479 and one will be mailed or faxed to you. For more information about the conference visit www.familychildcare.org or email bives@laker.net.

Training or Consultation now Available!!

- Training on a variety of topics, consultations and assistance with special needs children are now available to you through a new coordinated system managed by the Coalition. Enclosed is a copy of the new "Request for Training Form" that is also currently posted on our website and a flyer listing possible training topics and ideas.
- Providers can fill out this form to request training on site for small groups of teachers, individual consultation, or for assistance with a child that you are concerned about. Fax, send or e-mail the form to the Coalition so we can process your request. This will allow the Staff Development and Training Committee to identify training needs and trends, and to be better able to plan for community-wide trainings as well.
- Most individual requests will be accommodated, but there may be times when a training request will be better suited for a larger group training opportunity.
- The Coalition has also funded an Inclusion Specialist contracted through The Florida Center for Child and Family Development to address the gaps in services to providers who have children with Special Needs. This position will be supported by the Coalition until June 2004. If you are need of services provided by an Inclusion Specialist, please list that on the "Request for Training Form" as well.

HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS

Are you in need of hearing and vision screenings? Contact Chandra Ryan at 685-4290. The Coalition is contracting with a retired nurse to conduct requested screenings between now and June 30th.

The Coalition Office Can Be Reached At: 4727 Elder Berry Drive, Sarasota, 34241 Phone 379-1479; Fax 922-1359; Email: sarasotaschoolreadiness@comcast.net or janetkahn@comcast.net or rchandr2@tampabay.rr.com

If any director or teacher would like to receive a copy of this newsletter in their email box next time, just email us at one of the above addresses.

See Our Website for the Sarasota School Readiness Coalition! Minutes of meetings and scholarship applications are posted. A calendar of meetings will be posted, and also a section for you to exchange information and ideas. Look us up and give us your feedback. www.sarasotaschoolreadiness.org