



School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.

Information for all Early Childhood Educators

September 2004 Newsletter

DIRECTORS—PLEASE POST THIS NEWSLETTER AND SHARE WITH YOUR TEACHERS!

Curriculum Day 2004

Special thanks to over 100 of you who attended Curriculum Day on July 31st at the Pine Shores Presbyterian Church. Following the keynote address by Suzanne Gellens (ECA of Florida), participants attended break-out sessions that focused on a variety of early childhood curriculums including the Creative Curriculum, Galileo, High Scope, Montessori, and curriculum for the Family Child Care Home. At the conclusion of the session, all providers received room planners they could use to experiment with the set-up of their spaces, which led to important discussions of the impact of the classroom environment on children's learning.

Attendee evaluations overall were very positive, with the majority of providers indicating that they found the day to be informative and useful. Some attendees expressed that they are seeking more information and guidance than the half-day Curriculum Day program was able to offer. In response, the Coalition will be sponsoring additional curriculum trainings and informational sessions beginning this fall and continuing throughout the school year (see box below).

The Coalition staff is currently completing distribution of the curriculum materials to providers who requested them, including Galileo access codes and the Creative Curriculum books. Staff is also looking into obtaining High Scope Curriculum for providers who expressed interest in those materials.

CURRICULUM DAY FOLLOW-UP

Do you want to learn more about early childhood curriculums? You are not alone! Many Curriculum Day attendees expressed an interest in continuing their conversations on this topic and learning more.

Next month, we will begin holding Curriculum Workshops to allow providers who use different curriculums to share their insight and experience. Bring your questions and join the discussion! Stay tuned for more information in October's newsletter.

More DECA!

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) pilot project was a huge success last year, involving 20 child care sites and 300 children. In response to positive feedback from so many of you, we will be expanding the project this year to include additional child care sites.

Mark your calendars! The first DECA orientation/training meeting of the year is tentatively scheduled for October 14th. If you have not yet signed up to participate in this exciting project, please contact Mary Wolf, SRC Program Manager, at (941) 313-1179.

Galileo

Child Assessment Project

(includes all three-year-olds receiving scholarship support from SRC)

Do you have three-year-old children in your class or center who receive scholarship support from the School Readiness Coalition? If so, they will be part of a state-mandated pre/post assessment project this school year, coordinated by SRC and Children First.

Training for directors and teachers participating in the Galileo Child Assessment Project will be offered on the dates listed below.

Please contact Tanya Rose at Children First to reserve your spot (953-3877 ext. 126). See flyer for directions.

- Monday, September 20, 2004
Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 21, 2004
Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI)
cafeteria
6:30 p.m.

New Kids in Town

The School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc. was very pleased to welcome three new staff members to their team last month: [Terissa Elmer](#), [Jenn Gasparro](#), and [Mary Wolf](#).

[Terissa Elmer](#) joins us as the Resource and Referral Coordinator in the Child Care Connection office. Terissa comes to SRC from outside of the Chicago area with a wealth of experience in R&R and helping families find quality child care.

Program Manager [Jenn Gasparro](#) recently relocated to the Sarasota area from New Hampshire. She has worked as a classroom teacher at the elementary and secondary levels, and most recently worked in the Development Office at Dartmouth College. She and husband, Chris, are parents of 18-month-old Kate, who has enthusiastically traded in her snow boots for a bathing suit!

Many of you may know [Mary Wolf](#) who joins SRC as Program Manager. Mary is a former SRC Board member and has 12 years of experience as a preschool teacher. Mary will function as our DECA point person and expert trainer. In addition, she will also focus on quality enhancement initiatives such as literacy activities, parent involvement, and Infant and Toddler support.

A Note about Child Care Resource & Referral

There are no charges or fees associated with a provider listing in the R&R Database or for referrals to your program. If you are asked to provide a payment for a referral or for a listing in the R&R database, please call the R&R Network at 1-888-flchild.

For related questions, please contact Terissa Elmer at (941) 556-1600 ext 106.

Contacts

Have a question and you're not sure who might be able to help? Check out the guide below. The School Readiness Coalition has contracted with the first three organizations to provide you with a range of services this fiscal year. The Coalition itself provides the services in the fourth box through its employees at Child Care Connection of Sarasota.

Children First

- *Galileo assessment project*
Tanya Rose (941) 953-3877 ext. 126
Wendy Harris (941) 953-3877 ext. 131

SCTI

- *On-site mentoring to improve quality*
- *Provider support and technical assistance*
- *CDA and CDs*
- *Apprenticeship Program*
Nicole Amill (941) 924-1365 ext. 62341
Janice Sean (941) 924-1365 ext. 62247

The Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCCFD)

- *ASQs and follow up*
- *Inclusion and special needs assistance*
- *Community Therapy project*
Traci Knight (941) 412-9186 ext. 18

Child Care Connection of Sarasota

- *Child Care Resource & Referral*
- *Provider Payments*
- *Scholarship Child Care Program*
Linda Mason (941) 556-1600 ext. 104

Visit our website! Minutes of meetings and scholarship applications are posted. A calendar of meetings is also available, as well as a section for you to exchange information and ideas. Look us up and give us your feedback! If any director or teacher would like to receive a copy of this newsletter via email, please contact Jenn Gasparro or Janet Kahn at the email addresses below and we will add you to the list.

School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.
4727 Elder Berry Drive Sarasota, FL 34241
phone 941.379.1479 fax 941.922.1359
jgasparro@tampabay.rr.com or janetkahn@comcast.net
<http://www.sarasotaschoolreadiness.org/>

Coalition activities funded in whole or in part by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the Sarasota County Government.