



# School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.

## Information for all Early Childhood Educators

### November 2004 Newsletter

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

#### Mini-Grants for 2004-2005




The Coalition invites all interested and eligible providers to submit applications for this year's mini-grants of up to \$500. The deadline for applications is Monday, December 6th. Mini-grants are awarded to providers seeking to enhance the quality of their child care programs through the purchase of additional age-appropriate materials, equipment, or curriculum.

Mini-grant applications and instructions are being sent to all child care center and family child care home providers with this November newsletter. Please review the information carefully to determine whether or not you are eligible to apply. Applications are also available at our website: [sarasotaschoolreadiness.org](http://sarasotaschoolreadiness.org). For related questions, please call our main Coalition number (941) 379-1479.

#### Hearing and Vision Screenings



The Coalition has begun conducting its annual hearing and vision screenings for local children. A screening is a test that indicates if a child needs further evaluation of his/her hearing or vision. The screenings are not diagnostic in nature. A pediatrician or other trained expert in the field would then need to evaluate the child to make a diagnosis.

If you are interested in scheduling an appointment for hearing and/or vision screenings to be conducted at your child care center or family child care home, please contact Jenn Gasparro at (941) 685-4290. Parental permission forms will be sent to you in advance of the appointments and must be completed prior to the screenings. 

*(\*\*Please note that in order to be eligible for Coalition services like hearing and vision screenings or mini-grants, child care centers and family child care homes must turn in their signed Provider Agreement. Agreements may be faxed or mailed to the Coalition address listed at the end of this newsletter.)*

#### Annual Provider Conference 2005



Save the date! The Annual Provider Conference is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. This year's theme will be "Connecting It All" and will feature a keynote address by Lynn McDonald, motivational speaker and author of "*Ladies....If Your Horse Is Dead, Dismount!*".

Additional materials will be mailed in early December. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

#### ASQs (Ages and Stages Questionnaires)

As many of you know, the Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCCFD) is now managing the ASQ process for the School Readiness Coalition.

FCCFD inclusion specialists, Tracy Jaekel and Miriam Boden, have been busy visiting many of you in the past months to follow-up on ASQs for School Readiness children in your care and refer children to appropriate services if needed. They are grateful for the warm welcome they have received from you during their visits.

Providers play a key role in communicating with parents about ASQs. Please help FCCFD staff by:

- ★ sharing the "ASQ Fact Sheet" with parents (a copy is provided with this mailing)
- ★ telling a parent when you have completed an ASQ on their child
- ★ talking to parents when completing an ASQ (ask if they see their child doing a particular item in the personal/social area or others)
- ★ letting parents if you have a concern about a child's development in a particular area
- ★ telling the parent that the inclusion specialist will be visiting their child on a particular day (the inclusion specialist will call the child care center or family child care home prior to a visit)
- ★ reminding the parent that he/she signed consent forms for this with initial scholarship paperwork at the Child Care Connection office

## Quizlet—True or False?

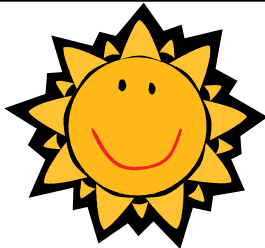


Test your Coalition knowledge on the following mini-quiz! Try it out on other staff members at your next staff meeting. Local providers working with the Coalition should be able to answer these questions!

### True or False?

- 1.) The Child Care Connection office (that handles scholarship child care program and resource & referral) is part of the Coalition, not a separate organization.
- 2.) The Coalition has contracted with the Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCCFD) to conduct the ASQ screenings, inclusion services, trainings and consultations, and the therapy project. FCCFD (941) 412-9186, ext. 18
- 3.) A Provider Agreement is a signed document between child care centers/homes and the Coalition. It expresses the commitment on behalf of a provider to offer a quality child care program and must be signed in order to receive Coalition services.
- 4.) A child care director interested in setting up free training for her/his staff members on a variety of topics can call either FCCFD (see #2 above) or the Early Childhood Education Department at Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) @ (941) 924-1365, ext. 62247, to arrange this. The Coalition has contracted with both SCTI and FCCFD to offer this service and more to local providers.
- 5.) The Coalition spent over \$400,000 last year to support the professional development of local early childhood educators and to help enhance quality at local child care sites.

All of the above are true!



## Hot Topic



Do you have suggestions or ideas concerning this month's "hot topic"? These are issues that most of you face regularly in the child care field. Please email your ideas to [jgasparro@sarasotaschoolreadiness.org](mailto:jgasparro@sarasotaschoolreadiness.org) or call (941) 685-4290. Suggestions will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

November's **Hot Topic**:

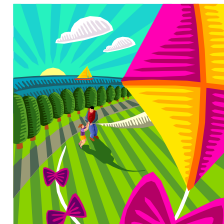
### Managing Challenging Behaviors

## 15 Ways to Praise Children

(from Noodle Soup brochure "25 Ways to Praise", for more information go to: [www.noodlesoup.com](http://www.noodlesoup.com))

Praise children for the many positive and remarkable things they do throughout the day!

- ✓ Thank you!
- ✓ Way to go!
- ✓ You're so smart!
- ✓ I trust you!
- ✓ You are really growing up!
- ✓ Wow!
- ✓ Good for you!
- ✓ Great job!
- ✓ I knew you could do it!
- ✓ Well done!
- ✓ You're the best!
- ✓ Fantastic!
- ✓ You catch on so quickly!
- ✓ Nice work!
- ✓ Outstanding!



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 at the email address below.

School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.  
4727 Elder Berry Drive Sarasota, FL 34241  
phone 941.379.1479 fax 941.922.1359  
[jgasparro@sarasotaschoolreadiness.org](mailto:jgasparro@sarasotaschoolreadiness.org)

Child Care Connection of Sarasota  
(Resource & Referral, Scholarship Child Care Program)  
2888-D Ringling Boulevard Sarasota, FL 34237  
phone 941.556.1600 fax 941.556.1606

<http://www.sarasotaschoolreadiness.org/>

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