
FREE Infant/Toddler Trainings!

Over 45 local child care providers are participating in the Coalition's Infant/Toddler Initiative, a voluntary program that offers mentoring, equipment and materials to child care programs serving children 0-36 months. The program began in February and runs through the end of June 2005.

As part of this program, a series of Infant/Toddler trainings will be sponsored by the Coalition and offered **FREE** to any interested providers. CEUs available! See attached flyer for details!



Self-Assessment Winners' Circle

Congratulations to 126 local providers!

At the beginning of last summer, the Coalition distributed self-assessment forms to all child care providers and asked you to evaluate the strengths and challenges in your programs. 126 of you took the time to fill out these forms and make plans to improve your sites this year!

To thank you, the Coalition will be giving each of the 126 providers a set of 10 large colorful multi-cultural posters highlighting positive character traits! Congratulations to you all! See the attached letter for more information!



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.

Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
(listed below: official mailing address only)
4727 Elder Berry Drive Sarasota, FL 34241
phone 941.379.1479 fax 941.922.1359
jgasparro@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org

<http://www.earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org>

Coalition activities funded in whole or in part by the Office of Early Learning (a division of the Agency for Workforce Innovation) and the Sarasota County Government.

Free Tips for Parents

Picky Eaters, Sibling Rivalry and More!

Sound parenting advice on more than 50 topics is available free of charge in a series of columns written by Robert McCall, Ph.D., a former columnist for *Parents* magazine. These columns, "well suited for newsletters...provide clear, concise and accurate information on topics such as dealing with a child's lying, what to do about nightmares, discipline and finicky eaters, and how to recognize and address grief in children."

Valuable, free information for parents on a variety of subjects! Add some tidbits to your program's monthly newsletter or include the website below in your newsletter as a resource for your parents.

These columns are available at:

www.education.pitt.edu/ocd/family/parentingcolumns.asp

Important note from the Coalition: As you know, this is just one of many resources available on these topics. Differing opinions exist among experts and educators alike, and information should be reviewed carefully before giving it to parents, to be sure that it is in line with your center or family child care home philosophy.

Developing Effective Discipline Skills

You asked for it, you got it! The #1 training topic requested by child care providers continues to be discipline and managing challenging behaviors.

Well, **Saturday, April 9th** is your lucky day! Nationally-recognized psychologist and trainer Dr. Fred Johnson and Training Manager Elma McKay from Children First will be presenting a workshop on this topic and teaching 10 techniques for encouraging children and building self-discipline. The training will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Flanzer Jewish Community Center in Sarasota. The \$25 fee includes materials and a copy of Dr. Fred Johnson's book, Effective Discipline for the Difficult Child. 6 CEUs are available. Checks can be made payable to the "Early Learning Coalition" and mailed to the ELC address listed at the bottom of this newsletter. For questions, please call Elma at 953-3877.

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