



# Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County

## April 2005 Newsletter

Information for all Early Childhood Educators

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

### Last Chance This Year!

#### Hearing and Vision Screenings

Have you offered hearing and vision screenings at your child care center or family child care home this year? If not, time is running out! Please call (941) 685-4290 to schedule an appointment. Both screenings are offered free to any child whose parents or guardians would like them to be screened. Screenings are not diagnostic in nature, but will indicate if further evaluation is needed by the child's pediatrician.



### April 2005 Featured Teacher



Congratulations to our first-ever featured teacher!! **David Scott** has worked at **Selby Preschool at Children's Haven and Adult Community Services, Inc.** since 1996, when he responded to

an ad for a position working with children who have special needs. He had wanted to do something that he thought was worthwhile and decided to take the position. With a background in social studies and reading education, David soon found himself in new territory!

Having successfully navigated all of the required preliminary steps, Selby Preschool recently applied to NAEYC for accreditation. **Director Missy Eckenrod** credits David and his teaching colleagues for their hard work in bringing the Selby program to this new level.

Missy tells us, "*David is a wonderful teacher! His devotion to the Selby children is awesome and his expertise in child care and development make him a superb Selby team member. His sense of humor keeps us all smiling even on the toughest days!*"

-**what David loves most about his work:** getting to see children grow and develop, especially those with special needs

-**favorite advice for other teachers:** Stay calm and keep your sense of humor!

-**favorite children's song:** Wheels on the Bus (easy to make up extra lyrics!)

-**favorite song of all time:** Handel's Messiah, Franz Schubert's Quartet in D Minor

-**favorite activity with children:** just play in general

-**favorite activity after work:** sleep

-**favorite classroom sound:** laughter

-**favorite children's book:** Leo the Late Bloomer

-**favorite book:** Overcoming Autism...the novel Mile Zero

-**favorite advice for parents:** Don't compare your child with others. They are all different!

-**favorite quote:** Just another day in paradise.

In recognition of his dedicated work with children in our community, David will receive a gift for his classroom from the Coalition. **Congratulations, David, Missy and the rest of the Selby team! And keep up the great work!**



### T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

#### Why They Might Be Right For You!

Would you like to get your CDA, CDAE, Director Credential or AS degree and have 80% of the related costs completely paid for? You're in luck! Funding is available

through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program. These scholarships provide the majority of the cost of tuition and books, a \$75 travel stipend per semester, a bonus for caregivers who complete their contract, counseling and administrative support, and in most cases, reimbursement to your center or family child care home for your release time. Scholarship recipients and sponsors (such as your child care center) typically pay only 10-20% of the costs.

These funds have historically been underutilized in our county and we are eager to have more local teachers and directors take advantage of these funds! **For more information, please visit [www.flchild.com](http://www.flchild.com) or call (877) FL-TEACH.** (Note: occasionally, funding may be unavailable on a temporary basis. Ask when funds are likely to be available and apply again!)



## Half-Day Infant/Toddler Training



Another great opportunity for infant/toddler teachers is planned from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. on **Saturday, May 14th** at the Community Foundation of Sarasota! An expert on responsive caregiving, Beverly Kovach, will discuss setting up quality environments for infant/toddler classrooms and strengthening the quality of teacher/child interactions. CEUs will be provided for FREE through funding from the Coalition. Don't miss this great professional development opportunity! Check out the attached flyer for more details on this and other Infant/Toddler trainings scheduled this spring!

## FCCH Conference Scholarships

### Attention Family Child Care Home Providers! Annual Conference—June 24-26, 2005

Do you want to get *re-energized* about the important work you do every day with children? Are you looking for *new ideas* to improve the quality of your family child care home? Would you like to *network* and *share experiences* with other family child care home providers just like you?

Well, your Coalition has the answer for you! We are now accepting scholarship applications for the annual Family Child Care Home conference in Clearwater, FL, scheduled for June 24-26. Scholarship information was mailed to all family child care providers last week. Because we know how costly conference expenses can be, Coalition scholarships this year will include the conference registration fee and up to three nights of hotel accommodations—a value of over \$300!

Scholarship applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. We hope to sponsor as many providers as possible, so send in those applications! Take advantage of this great professional development opportunity! The deadline for applying is **Friday, May 6th**. If you have any questions about Coalition scholarships, please call (941) 685-4290. For questions related to the conference, please go to [www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org) or leave a message for Abbie Bill at (954) 581-1192 and she will return your call.

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.

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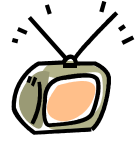
<http://www.earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org>

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## Turn Off the TV!

(From Noodle Soup pamphlet entitled "Too much TV can harm your young children".)

Many preschoolers today (ages 2 1/2 to 5) spend more time in front of the TV than it takes to get a college degree. All that viewing can be harmful. Why?



- Small children cannot tell the difference between what is real and make-believe. TV and video games can confuse and mislead them.
- Watching too much TV or programs that contain lots of violence, sex or bad language can interfere with a child's brain development.
- Sometimes TV and video games cause children to hurt themselves or others because they copy what they have seen on the screen.
- Too much TV can make children passive. Kids need to be doing something in order to grow. All too often, the TV is used as a pacifier or babysitter. TV can block a child's rapidly developing social and mental skills.
- Children who watch too much TV don't read as much or end up doing as well in school. Their reading and language skills fall behind.
- Even if the TV is "only on in the background", it can still be damaging. TV interrupts children's ability to play independently.
- TV exposes children to things that are not good for them to hear or see
- Unfortunately, when adults watch TV they are more focused on the program. Children get less one-on-one attention.

### Children who watch too much TV can:

- have decreased creative skills, mental and motor skills
- beg for toys and sugared foods they see in commercials
- be inactive for hours that can lead to obesity
- show increased aggressive behavior

Mounting evidence does show that violence on TV leads to violence in our schools. Children under 7 years old are very influenced by what they watch, especially by powerful images of violence.

Of course, not all TV is bad! Some educational TV shows can help children develop certain skills and teach them new things. TV time, however, should be limited and closely supervised by adults. 2-3 year olds should watch no more than 5 hours a week.

**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under 2 do not watch any TV at all.**