



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

Hello to all Early Childhood Educators!

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

This newsletter contains several announcements of current and upcoming activities, events, & issues that are of interest to local providers.

Mini-grant Applications for 2004 are included with this newsletter.

Family Child Care Homes: Please look for *additional material included with this newsletter for you* with information on the "There's No Place Like Home" 12th Family Child Care Conference and how to receive partial scholarships for that event

Several upcoming conferences are being planned for April and May: An all day Literacy Conference, a Curriculum Day, and a special training on Disaster Preparedness. We will send informational mailings when the dates are finalized.

A **Provider Appreciation** event is planned for the first week of May, sponsored by the School Readiness Coalition, The YMCA and the Early Childhood Association of Sarasota. Details to come!

Transitioning to Kindergarten...Now is the time to assist parents and their children with the process of transitioning to Kindergarten. A schedule of the Kindergarten Orientation, known as "Round Ups" held in the local elementary school, is included with this newsletter, along with a flyer of tips to assist parents and children with this important event. The Round Ups are occurring in April throughout Sarasota. Talk with your parents and encourage them to attend these activities. If you would like additional information on helping children and their parents with this process, please contact Chandra Ryan at 685-4290.

Child Care Resource and Referral Service: Remember to contact Venise Duchesne of the YMCA at 952-9524, ext. 1090, and let her know when there are any changes to the information that is in the database of local child care providers. Let her know when you have openings! She receives over 200 calls a month from parents looking for information on child care. Keep the information about your site updated and accurate!

Infant and Toddler Programs: The Coalition will be contacting and visiting some local programs that serve infant and toddlers, both centers and homes, and hosting a couple of meetings to hear what local providers who care for infants would like to see the Coalition provide in the way of support and assistance in this area.

UPK-Universal Pre-Kindergarten: The Coalition plans to hold an Informational Forum on this topic. Details to come. Please look at the following website www.upkflorida.org to keep up with the many changes occurring as it goes through the legislative process.



COMMUNITY-BASED THERAPY PROJECT ALIVE AND WELL

In 2002, the School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County established the Community-Based Therapy Services Program for School Readiness-sponsored children in child care centers and homes in Sarasota County. The Florida Center for Child & Family Development administers this program, in collaboration with the Children's Therapy Works, and Easter Seals of Southwest Florida. This program provides follow-up on developmental screenings where a concern has been identified, and provides developmental and mental health services for eligible children.

A team of Physical, Occupational, Speech and Mental Health professionals are available to provide evaluation and therapy services for eligible children birth through five years of age on-site at the child's child care center or home or at their clinic settings. They can also provide consultation for parents and child care providers to support each child's progress on meeting therapy goals. The Children's Services Coordinator works with families to follow-up on referrals made through FLDRS screening programs and the YMCA to determine children's eligibility for these services. *Referrals can also be made by teachers, directors, parents/guardians, as well as therapists.* If you have any questions concerning a child needing a possible referral please call Jodi Egan at 371-8820 ext. 1047.

Training or Consultation Available!!

Remember to request training and consultation on topics that would be helpful to you, or request assistance with individual children you are concerned about.

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 these services, please complete the "Request for Training Form".

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 to be added to the list!

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