



# School Readiness Coalition Of Sarasota County, Inc.

## MAY 2004

*Hello to all Early Childhood Educators!*

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

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### **School Readiness Eligibility Program to Move!**

As many of you know by now, the YMCA Early Childhood Development department will no longer be managing the School Readiness Eligibility Program after June 30, 2004. The School Readiness Coalition will be directly overseeing the program which will be changing its name and moving to a new community location. But the same excellent team of workers that you have come to know are also moving and will continue to work closely with each of you. The new address for the program, to be called "Child Care Connection of Sarasota", is 2888-D Ringling Boulevard. It is on the corner of Ringling and Tuttle, on the second floor of the Gold Tree Plaza. We will send you the telephone numbers when we have them. Families will all be notified of this change next month. Everyone is working together to ensure that a smooth transition occurs on July 1<sup>st</sup> between the YMCA and the Coalition's new Child Care Connection of Sarasota.

### **School Readiness to Contract with Several Community Partners for FY 2004-2005**

The School Readiness Coalition of Sarasota County is pleased to announce that it will be contracting with several community partners for the coming year. The Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) will be providing on-site mentoring and support to providers that serve School Readiness children through the Provider Technical Assistance Program. The Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCCFD) will be administering the ASQ developmental screening program, also previously managed by the YMCA. These contracts will become effective July 1, 2004. Details to follow soon.

The Coalition is in the process of determining what is the best plan for offering supportive services to sites serving Infants and Toddlers. If you serve these youngest of clients (children from birth to 24 months old), let us know what you need and what would be helpful. These new services will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### *Mini-Grants Awarded!!*

Through the Staff Development and Training Committee and the Quality Initiatives Committee budgets, the School Readiness Coalition was pleased to be able to fund over fifty mini-grant requests recently. The applications were well thought out, and we were happy to support so many of you as you work to make quality improvements within your programs. This year's process for reading and reviewing the applications was anonymous. Each application was independently scored by four different readers. A special "thank you" to all of the committee members who volunteered to read and score the applications. If you feel like you missed out on the opportunity to apply...don't worry, another mini-grant application process is planned for the coming year.



### ***Literacy Conference a Huge Success!!***



On April the 24<sup>th</sup> the School Readiness Coalition, Sarasota Family YMCA/Gold Seal Project, **First Presbyterian Preschool** and Even Start Program sponsored a Literacy Conference. We want to thank the First Presbyterian Preschool staff, who did a wonderful job of organizing and coordinating this event! Dr. Kay Albrecht, writer for the Child Care Information Exchange Magazine, presented an excellent talk on "Literacy from Birth through Pre-K". There were 223 participants, and all received their five-hour literacy credit.

Newsletter continued on the next page...Keep reading!

## Recent Disaster Training Obviously Met a Need!

The recent Disaster Preparedness Training held April 16<sup>th</sup> was "waiting list only" to attend. Thirty attendees received valuable information on being prepared for a number of situations. See the article for additional, valuable resources to assist you with this area of critical importance.

## ARE YOU READY? For the WHAT IF?

By Beth Brown & Inaki Rezola of Southwest Chapter of the  
American Red Cross

As Child Care Providers, you know that the safety of children is of utmost importance. Equally as important are safety issues that impact your staff and businesses. The American Red Cross can help you prepare for emergencies and disasters before they happen. Some simple steps in this process include, but are not limited to, making a plan, building a kit, and getting trained.

The American Red Cross has many resources to assist providers with these steps. One such tool is the Guide to Business Continuity Planning. This CD-ROM offers step-by-step instructions to help address life safety issues, minimize interruptions to your business, and formalize your plan. Additionally, our highly trained Emergency Preparedness staff can assist you with lectures, workshops, and trainings on a variety of topics. Whether it is to help you meet a state mandate (i.e. CPR, water safety) or to aid in the development of a plan, we are here to help.

As our nation's leader in preparedness and response, the American Red Cross has a unique perspective that can assist your business. As your local community partner for disaster preparedness we can provide you with relevant information to help you prepare for such events as floods, hurricanes, fires, and hazardous material spills to name a few. Providers can also use this information to assist with parent education and outreach.

Every year millions of Americans are hospitalized because of injuries, and millions more die of sudden illness because no one knew what to do. Recognizing that an emergency exists and taking action in the first few minutes can save a life. Red Cross Preparedness programs give individuals the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent, recognize, and provide basic care for injuries and sudden illness. Protecting your loved ones, children in your care, and pets will reduce anxiety, stress and uncertainty in times of crisis. Being prepared is the first step to envisioning your future that is safe and secure. *For more information on how we can help you be better prepared, please contact the Southwest Chapter of the American Red Cross at 941 379-9300 extension 247. Together, we can save a life.*



Historic  
Spanish  
Point

invites you for a field trip...

Come for the morning,  
go on a tour,  
learn about a pioneer family,  
and make a *fun project!*

**You are welcome  
to stay for a picnic.**

July 6, 7, 8, or 9, 2004

Admission: \$3.00 a child

Teachers and chaperones FREE

**For field trip information call**

Bao Nguyen 966-5214, ext. 280

[www.historicspanishpoint.org](http://www.historicspanishpoint.org)



### Notice: Healthy Start Coalition Looking for Providers to Offer Respite Care

The Healthy Start Coalition is searching for local child care agencies or family child care homes who could occasionally accommodate an infant or children of clients in the Healthy Start Program for 2 hours up to a few full days. The purpose is to allow temporary respite care for pregnant women or new mothers, or allow them to attend prenatal care or other necessary health-related appointments. The Healthy Start Coalition will reimburse the provider \$3 per hour.

Please contact Jennifer Highland or Sarah Gorman of Healthy Start directly at 373-7070 if you are interested or have questions.



Are you in need of getting your four and five and five year olds hearing and vision tested? If so contact Chandra Ryan at 685-4290 to schedule a screening



The Coalition Office Can Be Reached At: 4727 Elder Berry Drive, Sarasota, 34241; Phone 379-1479; Fax 922-1359; and Email: [sarasotaschoolreadiness@comcast.net](mailto:sarasotaschoolreadiness@comcast.net) or [janetkahn@comcast.net](mailto:janetkahn@comcast.net) or [rchandr2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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!**

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

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](http://www.sarasotaschoolreadiness.org)