



## Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County

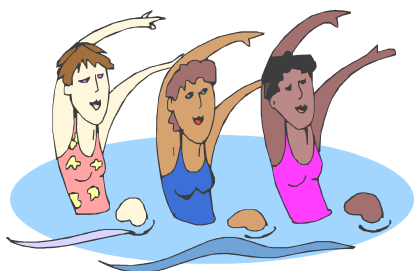
### November 2005 Newsletter

Information for all Early Childhood Educators

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

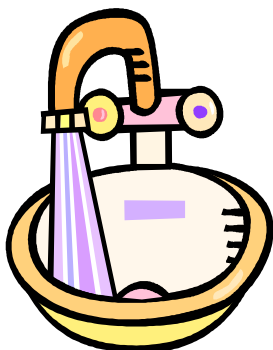
### We Need Your Help!

Two different surveys are enclosed with this newsletter. In order to proceed with our Substitute Pool project and our "Sink in Every Classroom" goal, we need some information from you. Please complete both surveys and send them back to us as soon as possible in the return envelopes provided.



We discussed the *Substitute Pool project* in our last newsletter. Once we have some additional information from you we can work on getting this project going.

The "Sink in Every Classroom" project is a new idea that comes from you! Many of you have requested assistance with putting a sink in your classrooms. We all realize that this is a critical component of a safe and quality child care environment, and the Coalition is committed to helping that happen. The first step is to assess the need through the survey.

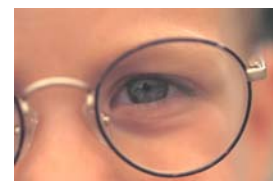


### Are you interested in becoming a Literacy Mentor?

We are looking for Directors interested in being trained to become Literacy Mentors for their own teachers and/or teachers from sites nearby. We are exploring a new project designed to improve the skills of our providers in creating literacy rich environments. This project is targeting those sites not currently involved in the Gold Seal project, which is planning some new activities to support literacy in accredited sites. Trainings and a stipend will be offered to those directors interested in making the commitment. If you are interested, please let us know by calling one of us at 954-4830

### Hearing and Vision Screenings

We want to make sure that all of our children receive necessary hearing and vision screenings. We are fortunate that there are several options for this service in our community. The Coalition's nurse, Claire Burnett, who many of you remember from the last two years, is available again this year. She has been calling sites and scheduling screening times. If you want to schedule your site for these screenings, please contact Dianne Rose at 954-4830, ext 3.



### Update on the Insurance Forum

The insurance forum was held in October and was very well attended! Specific information about affordable options that may work for many of you were presented. Now we are planning additional workshops. The next one will be for directors, with information how individual employee insurance plans can be handled through a payroll deduction system, even if the employer is not able to contribute to the costs. This saves taxes for both the employee and the employer or center. Details will be coming soon!

### BOCA BETH is Coming!

BOCA BETH, a music, movement, and fun based program to teach Spanish is coming to town for a Coalition and HCCPS sponsored evening on **November 14** at 7:00 pm. BOCA BETH has many enthusiastic supporters among family child care providers and this is a chance to find out what all the excitement is about.



Please call Dialyn Rae, HCCPS president, at 355-4572 to reserve your spot and find out the final location. This workshop is open to all directors, teachers and family child care providers!



## VPK NEWS

The new performance standards for 4 year olds are soon to be released. VPK providers will be the first ones to receive the new standards, which will only be distributed during the standards trainings. It is mandatory that all VPK

teachers and directors attend one of the official trainings. The first one will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> and is already full. The next one is in Venice on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and is filling up fast. Terri Konczak, the VPK regional facilitator who is presenting both trainings, asked that attendance be limited to 50 people, so you must call to reserve your space. We are planning a Saturday training as well, but it may not be until January.

### Sarasota

Thursday, November 17

6:00 - 9:00 pm

SCTI , Building 28 Cafeteria - not the cafeteria in Building 5 where workshops are often held  
Beneva Road, Sarasota

Building 28 is on Beneva Road between Proctor Road and Wilkinson Road, two buildings down from Cyesis. Building 28 is the cafeteria for Cyesis.

### Venice

Tuesday, December 6

6:15 - 9:15 pm - changed from 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Venice YMCA, Youth Center  
701 Center Road, Venice

The Youth Center is the last building in the Venice YMCA complex, at the far end of the parking lot.

Remember that Dianne Rose is available to provide technical assistance regarding your VPK classroom. If you have any VPK training or technical assistance needs, please contact her at 954-4830, ext 3.

In Sarasota we have over 1000 children enrolled in VPK programs. This is excellent! **Thank you** to all of our VPK providers!

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 the Coalition at the general email address below.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

The Coalition's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Provider Conference is planned for Saturday, January 28, 2006! The theme this year is "Embracing the Profession of Early Childhood Education". The keynote speaker will be Myra McPherson. Mark your calendars now for a jam packed event and look for more details soon.

### Spread the word...

## Child Care Scholarships Available!

Once again, there is no waiting list for parents who may be eligible to receive financial scholarships to assist with child care. Please let your parents know. They must be working or attending school for at least 20 hours per week and meet income eligibility. Parents may contact the Coalition's Child Care Connection office at 556-1600, ext 107 for a pre-screening of eligibility and for more information on the enrollment process.

## Sign In Sheet Reminder

All providers should have parent sign in attendance sheets. Providers that have scholarship children are required to have parent sign in sheets to confirm the child's attendance, and, in addition, it is a state requirement that these files be kept for 5 years. The Coalition is required to periodically conduct monitoring of provider payments, and in order to do so we need to have copies of your parent sign in sheets to confirm that you have been correctly paid!



## Resource Room *Still* in the Works

As we told you in the last newsletter, The Coalition has been working on setting up a resource room for child care providers in our new space downstairs at Gold Tree Plaza (where the Child Care Connection is located). We will announce the *grand opening* of the Resource Room as soon as it is ready!!

## Infant and Toddler Program

Phase II of our Infant and Toddler Initiative is getting under way. We will be offering workshops and trainings focused on this special age group. Stay tuned!



Child Care Connection of Sarasota  
(Resource & Referral, Scholarship Child Care Program, Provider Payments)  
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