



Early Learning Coalition  
of Sarasota County

## Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County

### July-August 2006 Newsletter

Information for all Early Childhood Educators

**DIRECTORS: PLEASE COPY BLACK & WHITE VERSION OF NEWSLETTER TO SHARE WITH TEACHERS!**



### STAR Project is underway...!

After months of planning the **STAR-Substitute Training and Recruitment** program is getting off the ground! The goal is for the Coalition to recruit, screen, orient and facilitate the basic training of both substitute and permanent teachers so that they will be ready for placement in local child care centers. There will be nominal fees to help cover the costs of the screening and training.

When we surveyed providers last year this need was rated extremely important, and many of you have asked when we would have this program up and running. Now we are taking the first steps. Come to an exploratory meeting on **Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Landings, Room 101 at 6:30** to find out more about this new program and give us your feedback.

The plan is to start with a small pilot group of providers who will also serve as an advisory group to the program.



With their input we can assess, evaluate, and modify the process as we go into the next phase and expand to include all providers.

### Pre/Post Child Assessment Update

Just a quick note to let you know that the state now requires the Coalition to facilitate pre and post child assessments on a random sample of children *of all ages*, not just 3 year olds as was done before. We will continue to use the Creative Curriculum Child Assessment Profile for children 3-4, and will be exploring appropriate tools for the younger children. We will have trainings on conducting child assessments and using the Creative Curriculum Child Profile in early Fall for those of you who need it.



### It's ECA Conference Time

Once again the Coalition will be sponsoring teachers and directors to attend the ECA State Conference at the end of September. Our allocation for conference scholarships is smaller this year, so we are going to limit our sponsorship to 5 attendees per site. **Please use the attached modified conference registration form** which includes a space to enter your site. Once the forms are received the Coalition will complete the registration process and send out confirmation postcards. Coalition sponsorship is for conference registration only - it does not cover hotel costs. **Registration forms should be returned to the Early Learning Coalition by Monday, August 21** to 1750 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit K-1, Sarasota 34234. We hope many providers will be able to take advantage of this opportunity!



### Are You Prepared for a Hurricane?

Do you have a disaster plan in place? Do you know what you would do if a hurricane hit our area? It is that time of year to be thinking carefully about this issue. Child care providers recently received a packet of materials from the Sarasota County Health department with information on hurricane and disaster planning and preparedness, and the Coalition also has this information in the Resource Room. Please review this information carefully and let us know if there is a specific issue that you need assistance with at this time.

Also, please let us know if you believe that your center can serve as an emergency childcare site immediately following a disaster. Obviously there are many unknowns, but some sites may know that they are located in a designated hurricane safe building or are part of a larger organization that has this capacity. We have made a tentative list already but want to make sure that we have as many resources available as possible for parents and first responders.



