



Early Learning Coalition  
of Sarasota County

## Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County

### October 2006 Newsletter

Information for all Early Childhood Educators

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

## Creative Curriculum Assessment Trainings Coming Up

Beginning this year the state is requiring Coalitions to facilitate pre and post child assessments on a random sample of school readiness children *of all ages*, not just 3 year olds as was done in the past. We will continue to use the Creative Curriculum Individual Child Profile for children 3 - 4, and the new Creative Curriculum Assessment tool for infants and toddlers. **Two trainings on using the Creative Curriculum Assessment will be held in October; one in Venice on Monday, October 16 and one in Sarasota on Tuesday, October 17** (separate flyer enclosed). Assessment is a crucial component of a quality program. These trainings will explore why assessment is important, how to use the Creative Curriculum assessment tools, and how to use the assessment results to help meet the needs of children.



VPK legislation expects that a pre/post assessment will be completed for all VPK children, too, and has now included assessments on scholarship infants and toddlers too, as we mentioned above. That means that this training will be a useful overview for any teacher who would like to learn more about implementing assessments for all age groups.



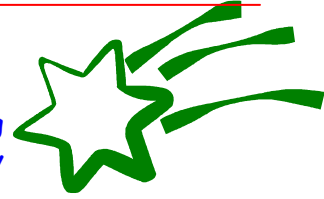
## 111 ECA Scholarships

There will be 111 teachers and directors sponsored by the Coalition at the ECA conference in Orlando this year. This should be a great opportunity to meet, greet and share ideas with colleagues!

## Check Out the Passport Program!

The Passport Program offers financial assistance for education plus incentives to meet goals. Flyer is enclosed.

## STAR Program News



The **STAR** (Substitute Training and Recruitment) Program is ready for implementation!

For the last month the Coalition has been out in the community recruiting qualified people to serve as substitutes in child care centers. These candidates have already begun training and are excited to begin substituting. Now we are ready to start enrolling centers.

For a reasonable yearly fee you will have access to the list of trained substitutes which will continually be added to and updated. For a placement fee you may hire a substitute as a full time teacher. Attached are both an Expression of Interest form and a flyer with the yearly fees, based on the number of substitutes a center expects to use during the year. Filling out the Expression of Interest does not obligate a center to participate in the STAR Program, nor does it require an application fee. The enrollment will be limited to start, so centers that complete the Expression of Interest first will also be the first accepted into the program.

Please contact Sandy Zook at 941-313-1304 or email [szook@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org](mailto:szook@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org) with questions about the STAR Program. We thank the providers that helped shape the program for their input and suggestions.



## Coalition Agreement and Self Assessment is for ALL Providers

Some providers are still asking, "*Should I complete the Agreement and Self Assessment if I don't have scholarship children?*" The answer is **YES!** By signing and completing the Agreement and Self Assessment you become part of our child care community and demonstrate your commitment to quality care for all our children, **and you become eligible to receive mini-grants, scholarships for trainings, additional program materials, on-site assistance and any other services offered by the Coalition during the year.** Remember, the Coalition is responsible for ensuring that all child care providers meet state standards and have appropriate programs in place, and the process we are using at this time is to have providers sign the Agreement and complete the Self Assessment - so get on board if you haven't already.



## VPK NEWS

The first VPK payment has been issued! With our new reimbursement and attendance procedures in place we are looking forward to a much easier process this year!

### Important Reminder

**VPK Attendance Sheets and Monthly Absences Reports for each VPK class must be turned in by the 2<sup>nd</sup> business day of the month.** Providers can not be paid promptly unless all documents are in on time! Our goal is to pay providers as soon as attendance is processed, so please get these to the Child Care Connection on the due date.

### VPK Trainings

Additional **VPK Standards Trainings Part I** will be held in the Resource Room every other month for new VPK providers or those who missed the previous trainings. Dianne Rose, Coalition Program Manager, will present the training, which is mandatory for all VPK teachers. The VPK Performance Standards will be given out at the trainings, and teachers will get an overview of what is expected in a VPK program.

**Tuesday, October 10**

**6:00 to 9:00 pm**

**ELC Resource Room**

**2886-B Ringling Blvd., Sarasota**

(Tuttle & Ringling, below the Child Care Connection)

Space in the Resource Room is limited to 8, so sign up early. Call Dianne Rose, 954-4830 ext. 3

**\*Remember that Dianne is available to help you set up your classroom and develop your VPK program!**



Visit our website! Minutes of meetings and scholarship applications are posted. A calendar of meetings is also available, as well as the community training calendar. 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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## VPK Literacy Trainings

What is a literacy rich environment? Are your activities really appropriate? The VPK Standards stress the importance of having a strong literacy component in place. This training will make sure you are on the right track! A copy of the Creative Curriculum Literacy book will be given to each VPK class. Trainings will be presented by Dr. Myers:



**Monday, October 30**

**Lakeside Lutheran Church, Meyer Hall**

**2401 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice**

**6:30 to 8:30 pm**

**Thursday, November 7**

**The Landings, Blue Awning, Room 101**

**1950 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota**

**6:30 to 8:30 pm**

Call Julia at 954-4830 ext. 4 to reserve a space.

## Resource Room News

Find great things and new items in the Resource Room!

- \* Copies of the VPK Emergent Literacy course are now available to borrow in a binder with an accompanying DVD (perfect if you don't have a computer)
- \* Review the new Creative Curriculum Assessment tool kit for Infants and Toddlers

### **Resource Room hours are:**

Tuesday Noon to 4:00 pm

Thursday 3:00 to 7:00 pm

First Saturday of the month 1:00 to 3:00 pm

(941) 556-1600 ext. 118

[resourceroom@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org](mailto:resourceroom@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org)

## **\*A Note To Family Child Care Providers**

All providers must use an appropriate curriculum. Quite a few family child care providers wrote "None" when asked their curriculum (compared to the 89% of centers that are using an appropriate curriculum). We will be holding workshops, contacting family providers and giving information on this topic, so stay tuned. **An appropriate curriculum is a MUST!**

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