

The Early Learning Coalition's New Look

"Ready for Learning, Ready for Life!"

Our logo has a new look to go along with our new tagline, ***"Ready for Learning, Ready for Life!"*** We feel that our new tagline perfectly captures the vision and mission of the Coalition, that we will be a community where all children enter school with the skills and strong foundation they need to succeed, that they will truly be ready for learning and ready for life. Working in partnership with child care directors, teachers, parents, and community agencies we can achieve that goal for children in Sarasota County.

Along with our redesigned logo we have made a few changes to the look of our newsletter. As we plan for the new school year please let us know what information you would like to see in the newsletter. This is one of the ways we communicate with you and we want it to address your needs - so give us your feedback. Information on how to contact us by phone or email is at the bottom of the 2nd page.

We look forward to hearing from you!



KIDS*FAIR Saturday, July 28

See attached flyer for information on the ***Ready, Set, Grow!*** infant to kindergarten family fair to be held at Roberts Arena in Sarasota on Saturday, July 28 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This is an opportunity for parents to learn about resources available to families, pick up information on preschools, get free health screening and fingerprinting for children, gifts for babies, child development hand-outs and door prizes. For kids there will be activities, stage shows, snacks, and an obstacle course. The Fair is free and fun! Please help publicize it by posting notices for parents at your center. The Fair is coordinated by the United Way Success by Six, the Early Learning Coalition, and Healthy Start.



The ECA Conference is Coming Up!

Once again the Coalition is pleased to sponsor teachers and directors to attend the ECA State Conference in Orlando at the end of September. This year sponsorship will be limited to 6 attendees per site.

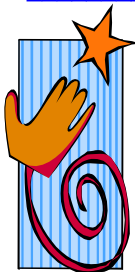
Please use the attached customized conference registration form and be sure to enter your site name. Once the forms are received the **Coalition will complete the registration process and send out confirmation postcards.** Coalition sponsorship is for conference registration Friday and/or Saturday only - it does not cover hotel or food costs. **Registration forms should be returned to the Early Learning Coalition by Monday, August 27,** to 1750 17th Street, Unit K-1, Sarasota 34234. Got to www.ecaoffl.org for information on the conference and hotel reservations. We hope to see many of you at the conference in September!



Family Child Care Conference

The 15th Annual Family Child Care Conference was held June 29 and 30 in Clearwater Beach. The Coalition had sponsored family child care providers with scholarships worth up to \$300 to attend this event. The Coalition was honored to be presented with the Florida Family Child Care

Home Association's 2007 *Agencies Helping Associations Prosper* award at the conference and was inspired by the dedicated and hardworking group of family providers who attended, all committed to offering quality child care programs. Next year we hope many more family providers will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.



Disaster Preparedness Information

The response from directors and teachers who attended the Disaster Preparedness training at Twin Lakes on June 9 was overwhelmingly positive. The training made all of us realize once again how important it is to be prepared, especially when we have the responsibility of caring for young children. For those who did not attend the training a Disaster Preparedness handout, sample forms, and information on accessing additional resources are enclosed with this newsletter. We all need to be prepared!





VPK NEWS

Summer is a time for directors and teachers to take a break, relax, and review their VPK year.

- What went well?
- What could be improved?
- Are additional trainings in specific areas needed?
- Does your VPK classroom need more materials or a different room arrangement to include more learning centers?
- Were you able to create a caring classroom community that is the foundation of a strong program?
- Do you need to review attendance policies with parents to ensure that children receive the full benefit of VPK?



If you have questions about VPK or would like assistance to ensure that your program is meeting state VPK standards the Coalition is here to help. We will be offering trainings on how to incorporate **literacy** appropriately with particular emphasis on **phonemic awareness** (a need that was identified by many VPK providers) and will also be focusing on **math** and **science** this year. The goal of the Coalition is for every VPK program to give children a strong foundation in all the VPK domains, so that they will be "ready for learning, ready for life." VPK information can be found on the DOE/OEL website, www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/. We encourage you to go online and check out those resources.



***VPK Kickoff Celebration – Don't miss it!

Check your email and mailbox for information on the **VPK Kickoff Celebration**, Thursday, August 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Pine Shores. *Hope to see all of you there!*

VPK Standards Training

Next **VPK Standards Training** will be held in Sarasota on August 28th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Location will be announced. Information will be emailed or call Dianne Rose at 954-4830 ext. 3.

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, contact the Coalition at the general email address below.

Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
Coalition Administrative Office
1750 17th Street, Unit K-1 Sarasota, FL 34234
phone 941.954-4830 fax 941.954-4831
mail@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org

Sponsorship by Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Office of Early Learning, State of Florida, Sarasota County Government

Screening, Referral, Assistance

The Early Learning Coalition has contracted with the Florida Center for Child and Family Development (FCCFD) to support children with special needs and challenging behaviors. The Florida Center also assists teachers by offering specific strategies, guidance, and training to help them successfully integrate children with challenges into their classroom. **No child should be asked to leave a program without first contacting the Florida Center and offering the parent resource and referral information.** Children with special needs or challenging behaviors must have access to services or their chances for success are severely limited.



The Florida Center will come to the child's site to conduct screenings and assessments and then work with the child and teacher, if appropriate. These on-site services are available only to providers who have returned the Coalition's Provider Agreement and Self Assessment (those who have not will receive information over the phone.) Before screening, assessing, and working with children the Florida Center must have a consent form signed by the parent (this consent is already on file for school readiness/scholarship children). **The consent form is included in this mailing** for your use, or you may request that parents sign the consent form when children enroll so that you have it on file. **For assistance from the Florida Center call the Warmline, 371-8820 x1718.**

>>>Resource Room Bulletin>>>

* During the summer Dianne Rose is offering 3 hours of lesson plan training for .25 CEUs. This is a great chance to explore the Resource Room and get your lesson planning on the right track! Call the Resource Room, 556-1600 x 118, or email resourceroom@earlylearningcoalitionsarasota.org.



2007/2008 Agreement & Self-Assessment

Thanks to all of you who have completed and returned your Agreement and Self Assessment! You are now eligible to receive the full range of services offered to child care providers in Sarasota County. Many of these resources are available only to those who have returned the Agreement and Self Assessment. Questions? Call 954-4830 x 2. **We appreciate your cooperation!**

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