



Child Care Connection of Sarasota

Connecting Families to Resources for Quality Early Childhood Education

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Resources for Child Care Providers

- **Training/Technical Assistance** can be obtained by calling the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County's office at **941-954-4830**. The ELC also maintains a **Resource Room** for local child care providers. Call for more information.
- **Providers may receive screening, referral, and mentoring support services for children with special needs or challenging behavior** locally through the Early Learning Coalition's contract with the Florida Center for Child and Family Development. To request assistance call the local **Warm-Line** at **941-371-8820 ext. 1901** or **800-587-1385 ext. 1901**.
- **The Statewide Inclusion Warm-Line** will help answer your questions about how to best serve children with special needs in your care. The Inclusion Warm-Line number is **1-866-357-3239**.
- **The Central Directory** helps parents of children with special needs find services: Call **1-800-654-4440**.
- **Early Steps** for children up to age 3 and **FDLRS**, for children 3-5, provides screening, assistance for optimal development and school readiness skills for children for whom a concern has been identified. In this way, problems may be detected early and a plan can be developed. Call **1-800-654-4440** for more information.
- **Licensing inspection reports** can be reviewed at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare/> and click on "provider information" or contact the Sarasota Health Department at **941-861-6081** or the Venice Health Department at **941-861-6133** about licensing files.
- **T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps)** is an early childhood scholarship program that supports early childhood caregivers and center directors to work toward earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalency, an A.S. degree in Child Development and Education or a Director's Credential. T.E.A.C.H. links compensation and training and involves a partnership for the sharing of expenses by the caregiver receiving the scholarship, the sponsoring child care center or family child care home and the T.E.A.C.H. program. The AWI provides funding for the T.E.A.C.H. program. The Florida Children's Forum is the authorized agent for T.E.A.C.H. in Florida. For more information on T.E.A.C.H. call 1-877-FL TEACH (**1-877-358-3224**) or go on-line at www.fcforum.org/teach.php.

- **DCF Child Care Training Information Center (CCTIC)** gives information on state mandated and other child care trainings, credential and renewal requirements, and on-line training courses as well as other resources. Please visit <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/dcf/cct/inf0001.html> or call 1-888-352-2842. The fax number is 1-850-922-4459 and the email address is CCTSC@thechildrensforum.com.
- **The Suncoast Passport Program** offers financial assistance for education plus incentives, bonuses, support services and activities. Participants must meet income eligibility requirements, work at least 32 hours a week and have a dependent under the age of nineteen. For information call the **Jobs Etc.** office in Sarasota at **941-358-4200 ext. 146** or in Venice **941-486-2682**.
- **Look for the Stars Quality Improvement System (QIS)** is a program to assist child care providers in Sarasota County in their efforts to offer quality programs and to inform and educate parents about quality child care. The Early Learning Coalition oversees this local quality improvement initiative which is a comprehensive system of support for providers, with stipends, mini-grants and sustaining payments to help maintain high quality early learning environments. Go to the website at <http://www.lookforthestars.org/home.html>
- **Gold Seal Program** – Accredited child care providers may participate in the state’s Gold Seal Program if their accreditation is through an agency approved by the DCF Child Care Program Office. Child care providers who are accredited by one or more of the approved agencies are issued a Gold Seal certificate by the Child Care Program Office recognizing their achievement. Visit <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/childcare/goldseal.shtml> for more information.
- **Administrator's or Director's Credential** – Legislation was passed in Florida in 1999 to require child care program directors/administrators to have a credential as part of the minimum licensing standard by January 1, 2004. The credential consists of two levels: Foundational and Advanced. As of January 1, 2007, all new directors of programs that offer VPK are also required to have the VPK Director’s endorsement. For more information or an application form, go to <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare/> and click on “training requirements” or call **1-866-320-9710**.
- **Provider Updates** – Child Care Connection of Sarasota will send child care providers an update packet once a year. Child care providers are asked to fill out the Child Care Update and send back to Child Care Connection of Sarasota so their information is current and accurate within the local Child Care and Resource Referral database.