

The Education Enquirer

Provided By: The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

Summer 2010
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Executive Director, Paul Sharff



Scholarship Update

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Summer Events

Trainings:

For a list of all trainings during July, August, and September 2010, check out the training calendar attached to this newsletter. Please print and share it with your staff.

Provider Meetings:

Thursdays / 12:30pm – 2:00pm
September 16, 2010
@ Manatee United Methodist
Preschool
315 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208

Board Schedule:

9/8/10 - 11:00 am
Executive/Finance Committee
9/22/10 - 11:00 am
Board of Directors

www.elc-manatee.org

The Fall 2010 semester at the State College of Florida is quickly approaching. There is still time for those employed by sites that offer School Readiness to apply to receive a scholarship from the ELC for an FCCPC, Director's Credential, or two-year A.S. degree in Early Childhood. Deadlines for Fall 2010 are listed below:

Fall 2010

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 19 | New applications <u>and</u> FERPA Third Party Release Forms for SCF Scholarship due to ELC |
| August 9 | All class schedules and schedule bills due to ELC |
| August 23 | Fall 2010 classes begin |

The application and FERPA Third Party Release Form are available to print from the ELC website. Visit it at:

http://www.elc-manatee.org/providers_ed_scholarships.shtml

If you have a textbook from the ELC checked out, it must be returned before any additional items may be checked out. Please return these textbooks PROMPTLY, so that others may use them for the upcoming Fall semester. If you choose to drop textbooks off to our front office, they must be accompanied by a note signifying who is making the return for proper credit to be given.



Current Wait List and Enrollment Information

(as of July 1, 2010)

- 1210 children on our School Readiness wait list
- 2479 enrolled in School Readiness Programs
- 135 enrolled in Summer VPK



Public Notice:

THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVATE CHILDCARE PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE.

The Early Learning Coalition statute requires that there be a private childcare provider on the Coalition Board of Directors, and the Bylaws of the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. state that the representative can serve two consecutive four year terms. This position on the Board of Directors will serve as the representative for childcare providers. The representative for this position must be a "for profit" childcare provider. (2010 Legislation)

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County is to provide and coordinate the services of school readiness programs, in an efficient manner, in order to help all children develop the skills needed to achieve future educational success, to support the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher, and to continue to improve the quality of services available in the community.

Applications for this vacancy will be accepted until July 31, 2010. If you are interested in serving, please visit the ELC website at www.elc-manatee.org to complete the application form. Please submit applications via email to pbehr@elc-manatee.org or by mail to the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Attn: Governance Committee, 3526 Ninth Street West, Suite 200, Bradenton, FL 34205.

ELC Provider Email Database

To keep our records current for the new 2010-2011 year, please report all changes in email addresses for the staff at your site. We would like to be able to send out our Training Calendar and the newsletter to teachers, as well as their directors, via email.



If you plan to change the email address used to contact you regarding ELC matters, please notify us prior to making the change.

Attached to this newsletter is a form for you to update the email addresses of your staff. Once complete, fax it to 757-2917, attn: Education Department.

VPK Conference Call



The VPK Conference call scheduled for Thursday, July 8th, 2010 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm has been **cancelled.**

2010-2011 Provider Handbook

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County's handbook for child care providers is now available online. The contents cover procedures for School Readiness and VPK programs as well as information on various coalition departments. Please visit the "Provider Handbook" link on the ELC website.

40 Developmental Assets

Growing to Succeed

by Pam Parmenter

External Assets – EMPOWERMENT

The 40 Developmental Assets series continues as we examine assets 7 through 10. They are External, meaning they come from the world around the children, not from within. Assets 7 through 10 are all about the family and community empowering children by welcoming them, regarding them as resources to be developed, safeguarding them, and providing opportunities for the children to show care to others. Children who experience these assets grow up feeling empowered, and end up being empowered, successful adult contributors to society.

Asset 7 - Community Cherishes and Values Young Children Throughout the community, children are welcomed and included. They are regarded as necessary participants, not just a side issue.

What does this look like?

Visit / volunteer in child-friendly places in the community like youth activity programs, child section of public library, reading or playing in a public school or child care classroom.

Attend and support local child-friendly events like festivals, parades and concerts.

If you are a school or preschool, provide parents with information on child-friendly events in your area.

Seek out health care providers who empower children by having them choose their bandage, or their flavor of fluoride.

Asset 8 - Children Seen as Resources

The community invests in children by developing a child-rearing system that includes family support, high-quality activities and resources that meet children's social, physical and emotional needs.

What does this look like?

Use community resources that support families.

Visit open houses or community events at local police stations or firehouses.

Involve your child in helping to make dinner or in helping to set the table for dinner.

Involve your child in activities in local chapters of child-friendly national organizations – 4-H, religious organizations, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Boy/Girl Scouts.

If other children are attending a social event, plan ways the children can help as well as special activities (card games, kickball, etc.) that they can do.

Asset 9 – Service to Others Provide opportunities for children to offer simple but meaningful, caring actions toward others.

What does this look like?

Coordinate or work on a food drive together.

Treat an elderly friend, relative or neighbor to lunch. Visit a shut-in.

Make cards for sick children, nursing home residents or military personnel.

Encourage children to donate coins to worthy causes.

Thank your child for the good work and talk about how he/she has helped the community.



Asset 10 – Safety Children have the right to assume that the caring adults in their lives have taken action to provide a healthy and safe environment.

What does this look like?

Make sure natural consequences are safe. A bookcase should be bolted to the wall in case a young child tries climbing.

Teach children their name, address, phone.

Teach children never to approach strange dogs.

Teach children to have adult permission before leaving the yard or playground.

Use child-safety seats and booster seats until at least 8 years of age.

Know the adults surrounding your child.

Next time: Boundaries & Expectations Assets



Conversation Helps Language Development More Than Reading Alone

Source: *ScienceDaily*
www.ScienceDaily.com

Adult-child conversations have a more significant impact on language development than exposing children to language through one-on-one reading alone, according to a new study in the July issue of *Pediatrics*, the journal of the *American Academy of Pediatrics*.

"Pediatricians and others have encouraged parents to provide language input through reading, storytelling and simple narration of daily events," explains study's lead author, Dr. Frederick J. Zimmerman, associate professor in the Department of Health Services in the UCLA School of Public Health. "Although sound advice, this form of input may not place enough emphasis on children's role in language-based exchanges and the importance of getting children to speak as much as possible."

The study of 275 families of children ages 0-4 was designed to test factors that contribute to language development of infants and toddlers. Participants' exposure to adult speech, child speech and television was measured using a small digital language recorder or processor known as the LENA System. This innovative technology allowed researchers to hear what was truly going on in a child's language environment, facilitating access to valuable new insights.

The study found that back-and-forth conversation was strongly associated with future improvements in the child's language score. Conversely, adult monologuing, such as monologic reading, was more weakly associated with language development. TV viewing had

no effect on language development, positive or negative.

Zimmerman adds, "What's new here is the finding that the effect of adult-child conversations was roughly six times as potent at fostering good language development as adult speech input alone."

Each day, children hear an average of **13,000** words spoken to them by adults and participate in about **400** conversational turns with adults. More con-



versations mean more opportunities for mistakes and therefore more opportunities for valuable corrections. Furthermore, they also provide an opportunity for children to practice new vocabulary.

Parents should be encouraged not only to provide language input to their children through reading or storytelling but also to engage their children in two-sided conversations, the study concludes.

"Talk is powerful, but what's even more powerful is engaging a child in meaningful interactions — the 'give and take' that is so important to the social, emotional and cognitive development of infants and toddlers," says Dr. Jill Gilkerson, language research director at LENA Foundation and a study co-author.

"It is not enough to speak to children," Zimmerman adds. "Parents should also engage them in conversation. Kids love to hear you speak, but they thrive on trying speech out for themselves. Give them a chance to say what's on their minds, even if it's 'goo goo gah.'"

Important ASQ Update to Providers

When you attended the Provider Orientation for the 2010-2011 School Readiness Agreement, information was presented regarding updated ASQ web-based procedures effective for the upcoming agreement year which began July 1. This revised ASQ system was to be in place on Monday, June 28 and ready for use.

Please read the attached instructions and procedure chart to familiarize yourself with the new process. The main difference is that providers will be receiving ASQ results back electronically and will need to provide a copy of results to parents of the children that are developing as expected. Results will be available no sooner than 24 hours from the time entered.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Child Health and Development at 757-2900 ext. 240 or childdevelopment@elc-manatee.org.

Friendly Reminder:



The 2010-11 School Readiness Agreement states that all ASQs will be completed within the first 14 calendar days of the month. This allows the Child Health and Development team time to process the screenings. Once completed, you will then be able to download the results and provide parents with a copy.

News from the Resource Development Department:

The need for assistance with the cost of child care is growing, but the funds available are limited. Many families are finding they can no longer afford child care (especially those who need full time care now that school is out) and are searching for alternatives. Unfortunately, a decline in the child care industry can spell trouble for Manatee County residents today and tomorrow. Lower numbers of children attending child care programs means that not only are those children missing out on educational opportunities designed to give them a boost in life, but also that some of them (especially school aged children) may be unsupervised and at risk.

We at the ELC feel the pain right along with you and are looking into ways to meet the needs of the children of Manatee County. Although the State and Federal government provide matching funds (up to \$16 for each local dollar raised), we still have to find new and original ways to raise the local dollars used for the match.

The County is also feeling the pinch. As you read in the paper or in Paul's letter to you a couple of weeks ago, the County's proposed budget has been reduced by \$27.8 million from the current year's budget. The portion allocated to pay for all services to children (including School Readiness) already received a cut of approximately 13%. The County Administrator is recommending that this budget receive an **additional \$1.2 million** cut from the services to children (early care and education, homeless shelters, abuse prevention/treatment, special needs care, after school programs, mental health/addiction treatment, etc.). The ELC requested an additional \$100K from the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) which, when matched, can mean up to \$1.6M in additional funds for the School Readiness program. The County Commission has not yet made a decision and we will keep you informed as we learn more, but in the meantime, please be a child advocate and speak up to anyone who will listen. The children of Manatee County are depending on all of us!

At the request of United Way I gathered some statistics that I would like to share with you. These pertain mainly to the School Readiness services (as that's what the United Way funds aid), but some also apply to VPK. I found these to be quite eye-opening.

Each dollar invested in preparing a child for school is an almost \$13 return on that investment by:

- 1) Increasing the likelihood that children will be literate, enrolled in college, and employed (with an average earning 14% higher per person than they would have otherwise);
- 2) Decreasing the likelihood that children will repeat grades or need special education classes, become school dropouts, dependent on welfare, or arrested for criminal activity or delinquency later in life.

Research on high-quality early learning programs that followed their at-risk participants into adulthood show:

- Increased pre-math skills by 21%
- Increased pre-reading skills by 52% for all children and 74% for low-income children
- Cuts in special education placements by 43%
- Increased graduation rates by 44%
- Increased median earnings by 36%

There are 244 public & private child care facilities in Manatee County contracted with the ELC (24 VPK only; 115 SR only; 105 both VPK & SR).

In 2008, 8.1% of Manatee County families were below the Federal Poverty Level. In 2007 it was 7%. Poverty is the single greatest predictor of academic and social failure in America's school children.

In 2009 there were 3626 children born to Manatee County residents.

The number of Manatee County kindergarten students in 09/10 was 3442.

In 2008 there were 23,126 children ages 0-4 in Manatee County.

Statistics suggest that children at home alone are at greater risk of being involved in accidents, of being harmed by strangers, siblings, or friends, and of committing minor delinquent acts.

Manatee County is ranked 17th out of 67 counties in the highest number of teen pregnancies; 13th in births to teens ages 10-14. As of November 2009 there were 14 middle school students pregnant or parenting and 147 high school students.

In 2009 there were 14 documented gangs in Manatee County with 600 documented members. 60-70% of those members are under 18 years old.

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) received a total of 2,054 referrals for Manatee County made juveniles and 919 female juveniles in 08/09.

In a study of 6063 Manatee County children, 17% (1012 children) are at risk of medical problems due to obesity (BMI 85th -94th percentile). 21% (1298 children) are considered overweight (BMI 95th percentile & above).

DCF Summer and Fall 2010 Exam Schedule

Here is the schedule for the DCF Training Examination locations through December 2010. If any staff at your site need to schedule their exam for the State-required classes, they must do so 7 days in advance.

Exams are scheduled through December at the following locations -

Congregational United Church of Christ
3700 26th St W
Bradenton
August 7, 2010
September 11, 2010
October 9, 2010
November 13, 2010
All exams start at 9:00am

State College of Florida - Lakewood Ranch Campus
7131 Professional Parkway E
Sarasota
July 17, 2010
September 25, 2010
November 6, 2010
December 4, 2010
All exams start at 9:00am

Manatee Community Action Agency
302 Manatee Ave E
Bradenton
August 16 and 17, 2010
October 25 and 26, 2010
December 13 and 14, 2010
All exams start at 6:00pm

Venice YMCA
701 Center Rd
Venice
August 28, 2010
October 23, 2010
December 11, 2010
All exams start at 9:00am

- Persons wanting to take the state of Florida exams must pre-register at least 7 days prior to the exam date.

- Examination scheduling 1-888-375-3926 or www.myflorida.com/childcare/training

- For further information contact Venise Duchesne – 1-866-470-1905

All exams start at 9:00am



Child Care Training Exams must be scheduled at least seven (7) days prior to the exam date. To register for exams call the Child Care Training Information Center at 888-375-3926. For questions about exams contact Venise Duchesne at 866-470-1905.

Sunscreens: What, How and Why

By Pam Parmenter

Child care in Florida requires staff to have knowledge about sunscreens. Quality programs for young children include outdoor time daily. Staff in the child care centers must work with parents to protect the children from prolonged unprotected exposure to the sun.

First and foremost, sunscreen is considered a medication for which parental permission must be on file before a staff can apply the product to the child's skin. Make sure parents have indicated that they are aware of the type of sunscreen the program uses and that they permit application of this substance on their child.

Second, staff must be aware of the types of sunscreen and proper application methods. According to Rocky Mountain Sunscreen (www.rmsunscreen.com), there are three types of chemical sunscreen formulas. The formula base will determine how well the sunscreen will work. Wax-based sunscreens are lotions that are thick, sticky, and will block the skin's pores increasing children's body temperatures. On hot days, these also tend to melt, compromising the ability of the sunscreen to block the UV rays. Film-based sunscreens are lotions in which the UV absorbers are suspended on the skin's surface and not bonded to the skin. These wash off easily by swimming or sweating, and must be reapplied frequently to be effective. They may be

greasy and stain clothing and equipment. Bonding-based allow the UV absorbers to interlock with the upper layers of the skin without clogging pores. These do not sweat off, come off with plain water, or rub off onto clothing or towels. This type does not need frequent reapplication.

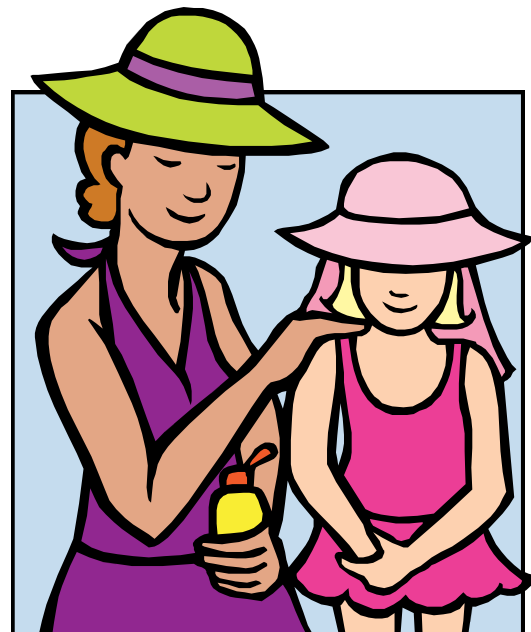
Patricia Treadwell, pediatric dermatologist, on www.babycenter.com in answering the question, "What kind of sunscreen is best for young children?" recommends choosing a "physical" or "chemical-free" sunscreen made with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide that sit on the skin. The protection with these products begins immediately, whereas most chemical-based solutions require application 30 minutes prior to the outdoor activity. She also recommends performing a patch test if chemical sunscreens are used. The sun protection factor (SPF) should be at least 15, but you should not need to go past 30. Dr. Treadwell also states that it is okay to use a "children's" sunscreen product, but that the adult versions are no different. She does caution to look for the term "PABA-free" on the label. PABA was once used widely but is now linked with skin irritation.

TIPS:

1. Apply the sunscreen 15-30 minutes in advance of the sun exposure to cool, dry skin.
2. Apply several "dots" and connect the dots. Lay this on thick, paying special attention to ears, nose, back of the neck and shoulders. Note any cautions about use around the eyes. You should see and feel the product on the child.
3. Reapply every two hours at a minimum. Reapply more often to rubbed areas (back of legs, on the back where a chair would rub, areas dried by a towel, etc.), and when around water or heavy sweating.
4. When reapplying, make sure the skin is dry. Most sunscreens are oil-based and water repels oil, making the sunscreen ineffective.

Sources: Rocky Mountain Sunscreen (www.rmsunscreen.com) and Baby Center

(www.babycenter.com)



Cooking with **KIDS**

Summer Fruit Kabobs

Recipe originally found at: <http://www.familycorner.com/family/kids/recipes/fruit-kabobs.shtml>

What You Need:

Assorted fruit pieces of your choice (choose from the following):

Watermelon, strawberries, grapes, pineapple, cantaloupe, honeydew

Deli turkey, cubed

Cheddar cheese, cubed

Bendable drinking straws

Wooden skewer



What You Do:

Cut fruit into bite-sized pieces. Use a wooden skewer to make a hole through the center of each piece of food before layering them onto the straw. *(This may be left to the adults.)*

Turn a drinking straw upside down and fold the bendable part of the straw around, creating a handle. Slide a piece of food onto the straw, pushing it to the bottom and onto the hooked part of the straw to secure the handle. Continue layering the meat, cheese, and fruit until the straw is full. Serve chilled alongside fruity cream cheese dip.

For Dip:

8oz. cream cheese, softened

1 pack Dream Whip Topping

1-2 tsp sugar free drink mix - strawberry or lemon work really well

Mix Dream Whip Topping and chill until needed. Beat cream cheese and drink mix until creamy and fluffy. Fold in Dream Whip. Refrigerate until ready to eat.

C.C.R. & R.

There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the Child Care Resource & Referral database or for referrals to your program. If you are asked to provide a payment for a referral or listing in the Child Care Resource & Referral database, please call the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning at 1-866-357-3239. The information reported about a provider's program is objective program information that is based on standards that are attainable for providers based on their type of care.