

*****Important News for Miami-Dade and Monroe Providers*****

Provider Focus Groups: Get Involved!

The Florida State Legislature directed the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a review of early education programs. As part of the review, OPPAGA will be conducting focus groups with early care and education providers. The provider focus groups are intended to gather information on local-level governance, examine collaboration efforts and accountability mechanisms, and identify potential alternatives. **We request that as many providers as possible participate in the following scheduled focus groups** (registration is **not** required):

- *In Monroe:*
Monday, October 29th, 2007, 1 – 2:30 PM
Wesley House Family Services, 1304 Truman Avenue, Key West
*Providers may participate via conference call at 1-888-813-8477 (pass code: 143130)
- *In Miami-Dade:*
Tuesday, October 30th, 2007, 5 – 6:30 PM (English)
Miami Dade College, North Campus, Pre-School Lab
(11380 NW 27 Avenue)

Wednesday, October 31st, 2007, 5 - 6:30 PM (Spanish)
South Dade Government Center, Suite 201
(10710 SW 211 Street)

New Additions to VPK Readiness Rate Web Site

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey** – In an effort to ascertain customer satisfaction with the VPK Provider Readiness Rate web site, an online survey has been developed which may be accessed from the readiness rate site at www.vpk.fldoe.org. Under Visitor Links, just click on User Satisfaction Survey “New.”
- **Password Retrieval** – A new feature has been developed to assist all users with a method to retrieve forgotten passwords automatically. In order to do this, the site is now set up to collect e-mail addresses from all users who log on. If a password is forgotten, the new process will be to input the e-mail address, and the password will then be forwarded.
- **Low Performing Providers Period Progress Reports** – A template is now available and the first progress report is due in November. To download the template, or for more information, please visit: <http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/documents/File530.01VPK%20ImprovementPlanProcess.pdf>

VPK Providers: REMINDER TO UPDATE IMPORTANT FORMS

If you are a VPK provider, please be sure to **update all of your forms to reflect those listed on the www.vpkhelp.org** web site. Any outdated forms still being used tend to slow down the processing of important information, so **please** be so kind as to update the forms accordingly. Thanks for your cooperation!

Pre-K Now Conference to be Held at ELC: Raising the Profile of Pre-K

Plan to participate in the Pre-K Now national strategy session, “Raising the Profile of Pre-K,” hosted by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. The event will take place at **ELCMDM office** (2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, 5th Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134) on **Wednesday, October 17, 2007 from 12 until 2:30 PM**. Come be a part of the pre-k advocacy effort! For more information, visit <http://www.preknow.org>.

Distinguished Literacy Specialists to Speak at Local Event

We encourage all providers to attend the “**Reflective Practices: Learning from Research**” event on **November 2, 2007 from 9 AM to 12:30 PM at the Miami Children’s Museum** (980 MacArthur Causeway, Miami). The event, sponsored by the Early Reading First program, will feature Dr. Christopher Lonigan and Dr. Beth Phillips from Literacy Express and Dr. Susan Gunnewig from CIRCLE.

Early Reading First is Looking for New Providers!

The Early Reading First (ERF) program works with selected early care and education centers to increase literacy-rich environments, as well as teacher knowledge, skills and abilities. ELCMDM intends to submit a proposal for the next ERF grant, and **needs 10 more centers of excellence to participate**. Please contact **Nidia Grissom at 305-646-7220, ext. 232** for more information.

Congratulations to Conference Giveaway Winners!

Jean Mondestin from the Early Learning Center will attend the 37th Annual Conference for the National Black Child Development Institute from October 21st to 23rd in Chicago, Illinois.

Esther Mir from Academir Preschool will attend the 2007 Annual Conference and Expo for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) from November 7th to 10th also in Chicago, Illinois.

*****MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS*****

Updated CDS Eligibility Sites

As of **October 1st, 2007**, the following sites within Miami-Dade County will provide eligibility services to families.

West Dade (Kendall)	Joseph Caleb Center	Culmer / Overtown Neighborhood Service Center	Miami Lakes	South Dade Government Center
111025 SW 84 Street Admin. Building Miami, FL 33173 Ph: 305-271-7281	5400 NW 22 Avenue Suite 306 Miami, FL 33142 Ph: 305-636-2270	1600 NW 3 Avenue Miami, FL 33136 Ph: 305-438-4170	15910 NW 57 Avenue Miami, FL 33014 Ph: 305-908-7300	10710 SW 211 Street Suite 201 Miami, FL 33189 Ph: 305-234-1457

Child Care WAGE\$® Florida Project Re-cap

We are pleased to inform you that staff at the following early care and education centers met the eligibility requirements for the WAGE\$® Florida Project supported by The Children’s Trust and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. Participating staff at these centers received a salary supplement for a six month period of eligible time worked in the same center or home. Participating centers are:

Children’s Resources, Gilbert’s Angels Nursery & Day Care Center, South Miami Lutheran Preschool, Creative Child Day Care, Granada Day School, Bola Child Care & Learning Center, Discovery Days, Giving Tree Christian Learning Center, First Discovery Links Learning Center, Lakeview Baptist Day Care Center, Happy Hippo Daycare& Learning, Young Children in Action, Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center Glen Greenstein

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Early Childhood Development Center, Discovery Years Child Care Center, Play 'n Learn Preschool at Temple Samu-El Or Olom, Little Cruisers Child Development Center, Happy Hippo Too Preschool, Miami Gardens Infant Preschool, William Lehman Child Day Care Center, Discovery Me Preschool, FPL Child Development Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center Young President's Club Child Care Center, and Children's Hour Day School

We congratulate you and your staff for your **continued** dedication to the field of early care and education!

*****MONROE COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS*****

Monroe County VPK Program Update

- The 2007-2008 School Year officially started on August 20th with a total of **9 school district sites** and **11 private provider sites** offering VPK.
- A total of **364 Certificates of Eligibility** have been issued to date, with a total of **327 children** currently enrolled.
- Providers whose VPK programs are **full** should **continue to refer parents** on their waiting lists, and/or any new inquiries, to their local Wesley House office.
- Parents **may still** register their children and receive an updated VPK provider list for current openings.
- We are pleased to welcome our **newest VPK providers** this program year:

Poinciana Elementary in Key West, The Learning Center of Key West, Wesley House CDC – Downtown in Key West, Kind to Kids Learning Center in Big Pine Key and St. Justin Martyr Preschool in Key Largo.

*With our new and returning providers and the increased capacity, **our 3rd year of VPK is off to a great start!**

Show Your Support: Upcoming Afterschool Rally

The event, **Lights On Afterschool**, will take place **Thursday, October 18th at 3:00 PM** and is sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and Wesley House. Join parents and local public officials for the rally at the **Harvey Government Center in Key West** to show your support for the need for after school programs. Following the rally, the children will march to Bayview Park where there will be games, prizes, refreshments, arts and crafts and a bounce house. Conch Country and US1 Radio will have a live remote. **For more information regarding "Lights On," contact 292-7150 ext. 236.**

SAVE THE DATE: 1st Annual Upper Keys Health Fair

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, in conjunction with other local partners, is sponsoring a **FREE** health services fair on **Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Coral Shores High School, Mile Marker 89 in Tavernier.** For more information, contact **305-243-4898** or visit **www.umdocs.org**.

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*****Providers, please review the following Provider Services Committee by-laws draft in anticipation of the next Provider Services Committee meeting (date TBD):***

Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe

PROVIDER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bylaws

Policies and Procedures

Section 1: Responsibilities of the [Provider Services Committee:](#)

The Provider Services Committee (PSC) is responsible for addressing the issues and concerns of both School Readiness and Voluntary Pre- kindergarten (VPK) early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.

Section 2: Membership of the [Provider Services Committee:](#)

The Provider Services Committee shall be composed of five (5) members of the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

Section 3: Duties:

The following outlines the duties, action steps and timelines that the Provider Services Committee has established to evaluate the effectiveness of services and programs. The committee will:

- 3.1 Address and provide resolution, whenever possible, to concerns, requests or ideas brought forth by early child care and education providers (ECCEP).
- 3.2 Report matters to the Board of Directors requiring Board action and provide feedback to providers regarding Board responses at subsequent PSC meetings and, or/via Provider News Alerts as needed.
- 3.3 Review unresolved matters of grievance submitted to the coalition by early child care education providers.

Section 4: Quorum:

Presence of at least three (3) of the five (5) committee members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Meetings:

The Provider Services Committee shall meet six (6) times per year throughout the county and engage in dialogue with early child education providers regarding their ideas, needs, and concerns.

Section 6: Reporting structure:

The Chair of the committee or his/her designee shall report at the Board of Directors as appropriate and necessary, actions and or issues pertaining to early care and education providers.

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