

Brunch Bunch Network

SAC News & Happenings

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Recipe for a Successful School Year



Serves all staff, children, families and hosts. For best results practice consistently each day throughout the year.

2 cups of close connections with all children
1 cup of excellent communication with parents
1 cup of collaboration with hosts (school principal and support staff, church board and members, etc.)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of fun, creative activities
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of commitment to quality care
1 tablespoon of preparation and organization
1 teaspoon of humor

Mix ingredients. Fold in teamwork and outgoing staff. Add a pinch of excitement and enthusiasm. Sprinkle over the program throughout the year.

Yields happy children and a great program!



"The Dog Ate My Homework"

You probably remember the old saying. With more and more pressure on afterschool programs to provide homework assistance, this excuse has become harder for children to use. Just how far do programs have to go to make sure that children are completing their work? Now is the time to review your policies and to voice your expectations to parents and children. Clear communication will help to relieve the burden placed on afterschool staff and reduce tears.



Handbook Helper

One of the most important elements in providing school-age care is the relationship between staff and children. Try some of these ideas to help define staff expectations:

- Prepare projects ahead of time and have older children help with busy work so that time can be focused on talking with the children.
- Take a short break to "recharge" when needed. Always clear it with a supervisor first.
- Sit and eat with the children.
- Take care of personal issues before work so that full attention can be focused on the children.
- Learn the names of all the children and greet every child by name.
- Be aware of body language. Be approachable and smile!

Back to School Fun Activities

Make back to school fun with these imaginative activity ideas:



- Create backpack I.D. tags with heavy card stock and decorate them.
- Make school supplies like bookmarks and pencil boxes.
- Have the children write their goals for the year and then compare them.
- Put together yarn pompoms in school colors.



Hurricane Preparedness

This season is predicted to be the most active storm season on record. According to the National Weather service, this season is likely to yield 18 to 21 tropical storms, with 9 to 11 becoming hurricanes, including 5 to 7 major hurricanes. Now is the time to develop your preparedness plan. Be sure to include information for parents and staff on how they can find out about closings; what will happen if unpredictable weather occurs while children are in care; and, how to get information concerning operations should the area get hit. Another important issue to address is how to talk to children about a possible crisis. With a lot of information from the media and others they will have a lot of questions and anxiety. This is a good time to prepare staff and parents on what and how they should share information with the children since caregiver responses are important in helping children to cope.

Some helpful resources:

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/childtrauma.html

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/disastercomm.htm

National Child Care Information Center at

www.nccic.org/pubs/emergenc.html

It's That Time Again



Lights On Afterschool-October 20th

Lights On Afterschool is a nationwide event sponsored to celebrate afterschool programs across the nation. All afterschool programs are being encouraged to host an event. This is a great opportunity to highlight your programs and show the great things that you do for children.

To get ideas and an event planning kit go to www.afterschoolalliance.org or contact the Afterschool Alliance at (202) 347-1002.

Training Opportunities

The Florida Children's Forum presents:

After-School Solutions Seminars-October 8th in Orlando

After-School Administrator's Seminars-November 5th in Ft. Myers

After-School Solutions Community Collaboration Training-October 1st in Ft. Myers

After-School Solutions Mini-Conference-October 15th in Orlando

You can get more information at www.flchild/trainingevents.com or by contacting Jenn Faber at (239) 489-4386.

The Florida After School Alliance has announced their **2005 FASA State Conference for After School Professionals** October 27th-29th in Orlando. Go to www.floridaafterschool.org/upcoming.htm for further information.

Plan ahead...

National AfterSchool Conference 2006-February 23rd-25th, 2006, in Louisville, Kentucky.
www.naaconference.org

Brunch Bunch Network Meeting

Topic: Science Activities that are Fun for Kids and Easy for Staff

Date: September 21, 2005

Time: 10-11:30 a.m.

Place: Venice Gold Seal Project office

Questions or comments? Contact Trish Youssef at 492-9005 ext. 0.

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars."

-Lester Louis Brown

