

Brunch Bunch Network

SAC News & Happenings

Volume I, October 2004. Brought to you by the Gold Seal Project.

Dear Friends,

Because so many of you have busy schedules and a lot happening with your programs, I thought a newsletter might be a great way of continuing communication and support to our Gold Seal Project school-age community. I know this school year has started out with many bumps in the road due to storms and school closings, and, I hope that everyone is well and safe. Currently, there are many things happening in the field and it is my hope to be able to share those things with you through this bulletin. I also hope that you will continue to attend our network meetings. This is the only group of it's kind that is specific to school-age care in our area. These meetings are a great way to share new information, to connect with others in programs around our community, and to get training on different topics each time we meet. I am eager to meet your needs and would love to have your input on topics to be covered in future meetings and newsletters. Please feel free to contact me anytime at 492-9005 ext. 2 or pyoussef@sarasotaymca.org.

Have a happy Fall!



Trish Youssef
Accreditation Mentor

Training Opportunities

The Florida Children's Forum is putting on an "After-School Symposium: 2004" November 11th-13th in Tampa. There will be a pre-conference training program called S.P.A.R.K. (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids). This year's theme of the Symposium is "How to Play with Kids". This is a great opportunity to take advantage of training that is specifically directed at school-age care providers. You can get more information on their website at www.flchild.com or by contacting Jen Faber at (239) 489-4386.

Forty Carrots Family Center is presenting it's second annual FREE Community Education Event on Monday, November 15, 2004, at the Hyatt Sarasota. Featured author, Barbara Coloroso, will present "The Bully, The Bullied & The Bystander: from Preschool to High School". It is open to ALL professionals & families (4-6 p.m. for professionals and 7-9 p.m. for families). You can access more information and register by going to www.fortycarrots.com/spevents.cfm or contacting Forty Carrots at 365-7716.

The Florida After School Alliance (formerly known as FSACCC) will be presenting it's 2004 conference December 2-4, in Orlando. The pre-conference will focus on professional development and the conference itself will offer over 50 workshop choices. For more information and to download a registration form go to www.FloridaAfterSchool.org

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following programs with school-age components, that recently received NAEYC accreditation:



Lakeside Lutheran
Englewood United Methodist
St. Paul's

✓ Licensing News

The new licensing standards recently came out for both the county and the state that affect school-age care programs. You can access this information on the internet or by contacting Jill Jacoby at the Sarasota County Health Department at 861-3317. Some of the new rules relate to training, definitions of school age child care, indoor and outdoor space, food preparation, inspections of playgrounds, medication and more.

**To access the new county ordinances you can go to www.sgov.net and put in key words child care ordinance.

**For the new state standards you can go to www.dcf.state.fl.us/childcare/ProviderGuide.smtl. This site also has fact sheets, forms and resources.



FROM PAUSE TO PLAY

The NAA (National Afterschool Association), formerly known as NSACA (National School-Age Care Alliance), has lifted its pause on accreditation and is moving forward. They have also made some changes to the process which include:

- An electronic application
- Accepting applications at anytime of the year
- Accreditation period of 4 years
- New program improvement resources
- Regional endorsers

NAA is the only accrediting organization geared specifically towards the care of school-age children.

Check out their new website at www.naaweb.org.

Lights On Afterschool!

Lights On Afterschool! is on October 14th this year. It is a nationwide event which celebrates afterschool programs and focuses on their importance to children, families and communities. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the spokesperson and chair of this national event.

Last year, many of our Gold Seal Project sites sponsored events, which ranged from ice cream socials to talent shows for the parents. Most of those who participated have stated that their events were successful and plan to take part in it again this year.

All afterschool programs are being encouraged to host an event at your sites. This is a great opportunity to highlight your program and show the great things that you do for children.

You can get ideas and an event planning kit by going to www.afterschoolalliance.org or by contacting the Afterschool Alliance at (202) 347-1002.



Fall into Fun-filled Activities

Press leaf shaped cookie cutters into prepared piecrusts. Bake, then cover with butter, cinnamon and sugar. Serve to parents as they arrive to pick up children.



Yummy Turkeys-Fill a clean latex glove with softened ice cream. Knot the open end as you would a balloon. Place glove knot side down in the freezer. When frozen, remove the glove, coat with chocolate sauce, and decorate with mini M&M's.

Borrowed from School-Age Notes, October 2003.