



Suggestions for a New Years Resolution...



Think of your employment working with children as a gift NOT just a job.

Stoop to the children's level, you may be surprised in what you may see.

Be more compassionate... put yourself in their shoes.

Tell your children EVERY day that you love them, and mean it.

Don't sweat the small stuff, remember children are supposed to ACT like children.

Guide the children in the right direction by example, they learn from what they see and hear.

Loosen up and have FUN, make your world a place "Where the Fun Never Ends".

Public Policy / Advocacy ~ Jenifer McKee

By now, my hope is that everyone has joined with the Children's Movement and the Milk Party rallies. If you have not, take time now to visit their website,

www.childrensmovementflorida.org/

The movement is being led by David Lawrence, an early childhood advocate, who helped bring us our current VPK program. His latest efforts are focusing on children's health insurance, special needs children, the pre-kindergarten program, parent skill-building and mentoring. There will be a hearing in support of the Children's Movement on Friday, January 7, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the St. Petersburg College in Seminole. Please make every effort to attend or at least send a representative from your agency. The news regarding funding for early childhood programs (and others) from Congress is that deep cuts are coming. We must band together to have our voices heard!!

The Department of Children and Families is proposing rule changes to the Gold Seal Accreditation process. The proposals, as well as contact information, are on the DCF website. One significant proposed change is that all centers must be licensed to be Gold Seal. Currently, Religious Exempt programs are able to participate in the benefits that accreditation brings.

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Pinellas Early Childhood Association.

2010 Tour of Centers

First let me say a resounding thank you to our 3 participating centers this year.

Our 1st stop ~ Bright Beginnings – our Anchor School who provided food

Our 2nd Stop was ~ New Horizons Country Day School who was generous enough to open up their center to us at the last minute.

And our final stop was at ~ Lil Nonnie's Pre-school

It takes a lot of work to prepare for this event, also great dedication from their staff to come in on a Saturday and to share their rooms and ideas. I, for one had a great time and it appeared as if everyone who attended had a good time as well. I believe we walked away from that day with many new ideas and perhaps a bit more enthusiasm. We did have a great turnout and the people who rode the bus had a lot of fun. If your center may be interested for next year, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. There is an application process to be chosen for such an honor to host this event. We will hold the Tour of Centers in either South County or Mid-County. I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Conference.

Vicki Conolly, Vice President of PinellasECA vickic@northwoodpc.org

Directors Did You Know:

At the end of a licensing inspection you should be asked if you would like to add a comment at the end of report before signing. You have that right! That way when the inspection report is posted on line at least you can state what the actual infraction was. For example If you are found in non compliance for toxics. You can put under comments that a bottle of white out was found dried up in a drawer in the director's office away from children. This is for our protection and should be utilized when needed.

Save the date ~ **November 3- 5, 2011**

NAEYC National Association for the Education of Young Children

2011 Annual national conference will be coming to Florida. Here is your chance to attend a national conference right in your own backyard. Join other Floridians in Orlando. There will be no state conference that year. Plan your fund raisers NOW! Plan your calendar so your center / school is closed.

Educate parents on the value of your staff attending a national conference:

~ Hearing what is new in research, ~ Learn from renowned speakers,

~ Network and connect with other early childhood professionals. Email Barbara Backus at backusb@pcsb.org to tell her what you are doing to help finance your teachers and close your schools to make sure that they attend this perhaps once in a decade opportunity to attend the national conference. We would like to share in the next newsletter.

What can Pinellas ECA do for you?

Pinellas ECA is always looking for members, but do you know that we are always looking for new leaders for our Board? Every spring we are looking for volunteers to step up and become part of our wonderful group to assist in our Association. Being on the Board holds many advantages, such as networking, advocating and friendships. Our next meeting will be held at PTEC-Clearwater on January 20 from 12:30-2:00 in Room 32. If you are interested in learning about what we do and possibly serving, please e-mail webers@pcbs.org or call Susan Weber at 727-588-6343. Volunteering for our association is a gift that you can give to your professional community and can make you a part of something great!

Volunteering

In general terms, **volunteering** is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life, but people also volunteer for their own skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, to have fun, and a variety of other reasons that could be considered self-serving.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Directors Corner

Tc : Rosie's Playschool II

Here is a little tip for you that works for me, most of the time but just remember nothing is a guarantee. We know how challenging it can be to keep up with all the records we need to be accountable for, so I use a binder with dividers labeled for 24 months. On each page is a list of rows with spaces for the child's name, it also includes columns for due dates, ex: shot record and physical, emergency release. I also have a column for CCC dates. You can add anything you need to a column that suits your center. By doing this at my center it helps to keep me on top of things, it also helps me to get my notices out to the parents and the date the note went home.

Director and Staff Corner

Tc : Rosie's Playschool II

Here is a GREAT little tip for you. We have found the best way to label your Toddlers "sippy cups". We have tried the tape scene and the permanent marker. You know as we do these methods do not last and it is a constant battle to keep the cups labeled. You must use a labeler. This is a basic necessity for every center. You can print a smaller one for the lid and a larger one for the cup its self. I also print out labels for all the children's cots and also for the bags that hold their cot sheets and blankets. They are easy to replace when it is necessary to do so and it does NOT leave a mess. Did I mention how nice the labels really do look?

**PINELLAS EARLY CHILDHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

**130 RIVIERE ROAD
PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA 33683**



WWW.PINELLASECA.ORG

PCLB News - Fingerprinting

Background screening is required for all child care providers.

LIVE SCAN is available at Department of Health, 205 Dr. MLK Street North, St. Petersburg, FL at a cost of \$43.25 per card.

Checks should be made out to: Pinellas County Health Department and are by appointment only.

Please call 727-820-4213 for further details.

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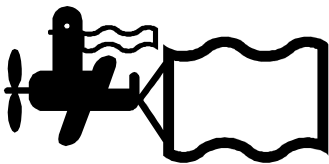
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St. Petersburg, FL

Books for Sale

Pinellas ECA is now selling mini licensing regulation manuals for centers. We will have them available at all of our workshops and trainings for \$10 each. A discount will be offered for purchases of five books or more at \$7 each. For additional information or to purchase a manual now call Judi Bruckner at 521-6931.



Advertising Opportunity

Pinellas ECA'S Newsletter will soon provide child care centers a resource for child and family friendly vendors throughout Pinellas County

Pinellas ECA is opening it's quarterly newsletter for advertising. Vendors that cater to child care centers, family homes, teachers, Directors and Owners can contact Lori Cole for more details. Those within the child care community will soon be able to find enrichment program providers, fundraising companies, food delivery services, printing companies and more in the newsletter.

This is a way for the Pinellas Early Childhood Association newsletter to be even more of a resource to our child care community here in Pinellas County.

For more information on how to advertise in the next Caring newsletter, send a rate card request to lcole@ywcaoftampabay.org.