

ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS

Paint and Finishes

Indoor air can be more polluted than outdoor air. Off-gassing from paint and finishes is one of the main sources of poor indoor air quality. For years after paint is applied, low-level toxic fumes are released into the air. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are the source of these toxic emissions, and until recently, these chemicals were always used in paint and finish. Low-VOC paints can now easily be found in local stores. Be sure to purchase "low-VOC" paints to protect your health and the environment.

Bleach and Bleach Alternatives

Chlorine bleach is highly caustic (it can burn the skin and eyes), and it can be fatal if swallowed. After it leaves your skin, it can release organochlorines into the environment. Organochlorines are suspected carcinogens, as well as neurological, reproductive, and immune system toxins. Keep in mind that there are safe, effective alternatives to chlorine bleach. Healthier options are peroxide based bleach or quaternary ammonia. Borax is also a great alternative to bleach.

Try out these alternative homemade cleaning recipes!

All Purpose Cleaner

1/4 cup white vinegar
2 tsp. Borax
3 1/2 cups of hot water
20 drops of antibacterial essential oil (lemon, eucalyptus, peppermint) cup
1/4 liquid dish Soap

Mix ingredients in a 32 oz. spray bottle, add dish soap last. Wash surfaces. The vinegar smell will dissipate.

Window Cleaner

1/4 cup white vinegar
1/2 tsp. liquid soap or detergent
2 cups water

Mold & Mildew Cleaner

Mix equal parts vinegar and water. Spray and wipe clean.

Carpet Spot Remover

Blot spot immediately with water. Sprinkle with baking soda, cornstarch, or borax and let dry. Rinse with club soda and vacuum.

Eco-friendly Chemical Resources

How to Clean Your House without Hurting the Planet

www.grist.org/advice/possessions/2003/03/18possessions-cleaning

Alternative Cleaning Recipes

www.ecologycenter.org/factsheets/cleaning.html

Green Cleaners

www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id/1400

Low-VOC Paint

www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_paints.htm



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care®**

Try This!

MAKE A LIVE BLOOMING NECKLACE!

Materials Needed:

1. Clear Soufflé Cups w/Lids
2. Cotton Balls
3. Yarn
4. Bird Seed
5. Water

Instructions:

Hole punch both sides of container. Thread yarn through holes and tie off to make necklace. Put two-four cotton balls into the container. Tuck in a few seeds between the cotton balls and the outside of the container, so that you can see them. Add a few drops of water, just until cotton balls are damp, but not

soaked and not enough to puddle water on bottom of container. Place lid on container. Wear your necklace and watch it grow!

Point 2 Ponder

A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart.

-Anonymous

Trivia Challenge

Congratulations to Tracey L. Durharte, Palm Bay Christian Preschool, winner of the July September Coalition Connection Trivia Challenge!!!



Trivia Challenge

Based on information provided by Eco-Healthy Child Care, what is the leading source of poor indoor air quality?

- Organochlorines
- Bleach Alternatives
- Smoke
- Paint and finishes

Please submit entries to: CoalitionConnection@elcbrevard.org. The winner will be announced in the next edition of our newsletter. Submission deadline is January 31, 2014.



October - December 2013

Coalition Connection

Quarterly Newsletter presented by the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County to promote quality services, professional development and awareness within the child care and early childhood education community.

Welcome

The holiday season is quickly approaching and I am sure your programs, and your children, are buzzing with excitement. The work in early childhood education also continues to be lively as progress continues on the State's implementation of HB 7165, Florida's Office of Early Learning should soon be releasing a draft of the anticipated Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract. This document will be used by all 30 ELCs around the state when contracting with early childhood programs that offer the School Readiness program. There will be an opportunity for public input on the requirements established in the contract. When it is released, I encourage you to review it and participate in the public hearings so that your feedback can be considered as the document is finalized. The Early Learning Coalition has some exciting activities occurring this holiday season to share!

Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive
The Coalition is grateful to have been selected as this year's recipient of the Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive! All of the books donated through the book drive at the Melbourne location (across from the Melbourne Square Mall) will be given to children receiving services from ELC. If you or any business that you know is interested in supporting the book drive, please let me know.

Holiday Toy Drive
Due to the graciousness of The Beach 98.5 FM, the Coalition will once again this year be able to provide toys to children participating in the School Readiness program. Through partnerships with Two Men and a Truck, The Avenue Viera and other businesses, this year's toy drive is sure to be a success. Watch your email for more information about how you can nominate a family to receive new toys for their children this holiday!

Grimaldi's Chocolates
If you are interested in purchasing delicious chocolates while at the same time supporting ELC, please let me know by December 1! Grimaldi's chocolates make great holiday gifts!

Best Wishes,
Sky Beard

Provider Services Update

Greetings Early Education Providers! The Provider Services Team is excited for our 5th Annual Provider Conference coming this February 21 & 22, 2014. This year's conference theme focuses on the connection between quality early learning and brain development. We expose children to daily experiences

and opportunities for growth. Therefore, it is essential that these experiences maximize the strength of the connections in the brain for optimal development. I would love for you to take time from your busy schedules to join us, as we learn about how we can give our children the most meaningful experiences by

gaining a better understanding of how the young brains operate! Be on the lookout for emails for further particulars about the conference. We are eager to offer you many significant workshops centered on the theme. Hope to see you there!

Jennifer Shields,
Provider Services
Administrator

Dates to Remember

Child Care Chats

Tuesday, December 3, 2013
at 6:30 pm
Dairy Road Discovery Center
2200 Dairy Road
W. Melbourne, FL 32922

Child Care Chats

Thursday, December 5, 2013
at 6:30 pm
KinderCare Learning Center
55 Catalina Isle
Merritt Island, FL 32953

Child Care Provider Roundtable

ELCB Rockledge
Conference RM
January 8th, 6:30pm-8:00pm

2014 Annual Provider Conference

Friday, February 21: 8:00am-6:30pm
Saturday, February 22: 8:00am-5:00pm
Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place
200 Rialto Place Melbourne, FL
32901

★ Please view the online calendar for upcoming trainings★



Child Care Resource & Referral(CCR&R)

CCR&R staff is committed to providing resources and assistance to the families and child care providers in your community. CCR&R staff do not only play a vital role in educating families on how to select quality early learning programs and child care, they also assist child care providers with resources to improve the quality of their services. We invite you to contact our CCR&R Line at (321) 637-7272 for additional resources!

The following are useful websites designed for families and child care providers to read about tips, strategies, employee relations, trainings, etc.:

Child Care Aware
www.childcareaware.org/child-care-providers
 Office of Early Learning
<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com>
 Birth to Five
<http://www.flbt5.com>
 TEACH Scholarships
http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/OEL_Providers_Teach.html
 Child Care Training Information Center

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare/training.shtml>
 Center on the Social & Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>
 USDA Child & Adult Care Food Program
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/>
 Early Childhood Accreditations
<http://www.faccm.org>
 Council for Professional Recognition
<http://www.cdacouncil.org>
 National Association for the Education of Young Children
<http://www.naeyc.org>
 National After School Association <http://www.naaweb.org>
 Florida Association for Child Care Management <http://www.faccm.org>
 Child Care Exchange <http://www.childcareexchange.com>
 Child Care Exchange Conference Calendar http://www.childcareexchange.com/conference_calendar/

The Stranger Danger Drill

The Spring 2013 Provider Conference sponsored by the ELC offered a workshop on how to respond to an active shooter and how to be prepared. The presenters were a team from the Brevard County Sheriff's office. In response to the Sandy Hook tragedy, this practical training gave sobering information, resources, and tactical tips on responding to an active shooter in preschool setting. I left that workshop emotional determined to put a plan into action. I contacted our local Satellite Beach police department and they responded in two tangible ways. An officer visited our preschool and offered specific tips on improving the security of our facility. The thought that "It couldn't happen here" was dismissed as we chose instead to prepare our staff and children. It was challenging to explain the Stranger Danger drill without frightening the kids, but I sensed they grasped the seriousness of this issue.

These are the logistics of our drill:

The bell rings and we spring into action. The lights are turned off, blinds closed, doors locked, and the children hide behind furniture with a teacher in 2 different locations and become silent. A new awareness has been implemented in our preschool world in a tangible manner with the help of a bell. I pray for all of us that we never have to experience this reality. On the very first fire drill, as I turned around after turning off all the lights, the room was still, quiet, and appeared empty of people. Success! Linda Boothe, Director Weekday Preschool-Our Father's House

-Linda Boothe, Director
 Weekday Preschool Our Father's House

Monthly Child Care Roundtable Coming Soon!

Let's Get Connected!

Do you as a director or teacher sometimes feel like you are "out there" all by your self? Do you wish that you could vent or share or get input from someone else in your field? Well, wish no more. The Coalition is going to sponsor a monthly early learning roundtable starting in January. Those attending the January meeting will help plan and facilitate future monthly meetings. The roundtable table is for all staff working in local child care centers. The initial meeting format will consist of some networking, a brief meeting, and then a training (either 1 hour or 1/2 hour depending on the topic). You will leave each meeting with a certificate for the training that was given and some new friends/constituents. So watch your emails for information on the first meeting in January 2014 and "Let's Get Connected". Any questions or ideas contact Mariel at ELC or Janice EverSon. Contact info posted below.

Janice EverSon, Director
 Merritt Island Presbyterian
 Church Childcare Center and Preschool
 321-453-1640
 Mariel Hicks
 Administrative Coordinator
 Early Learning Coalition
 321-637-1800 ext. 2047



Provider Spotlight



Leonard Christian Child Development Center

We have held two great events to sponsor a Disney trip for our 2014 VPK graduates! Our annual Fall catalog sale raised over \$500- one of our parents sold over \$400 in items! On October 19th, we held our "Harvest Fest" where we had cake walks with lots of yummy cakes and brownies, a bouncy house, raffles, food, and a non-hay hay ride. Yes a non-hay hay ride....this was done with a trailer being pulled behind a 4 wheeler and blankets for the children to sit on! We are off to a great start, our goal is to pay for the whole trip so that parents do not have to worry about the cost. We would like to give a BIG shout out to our parents for all the hard work they have done to help us achieve this goal!!!!

Wellington Academy

Congratulations to Wellington Academy for being voted #1 daycare center by the readers of Palm Bay!!!

Got Books?

AGES 0 - 2

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
 by Eric Carle

On the Night You Were Born
 by Nancy Tillman

Goodnight Moon (Board Book)
 by Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd

Daddy Kisses
 by Anne Gutman, George Hallensleben

AGES 3 - 5

Llama Llama and the Bully Goat
 Anna Dewdney

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
 Mo Willems

My Five Senses
 Alike



Ann's Biz Quiz

Guidance from the Department of Labor regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):

The 1972 Amendments to the FLSA specifically extended FLSA coverage to preschools as covered "enterprises," regardless of whether public or private or operated for profit or not for profit, and without regard to the annual dollar volume of the business. As a result, all such enterprises are required to comply with applicable provisions of the FLSA.

Requirements

The FLSA requires covered employers to:

1. Establish the workweek for pay purposes (7 consecutive 24-hour periods), which may begin on any day of the week in the employer's discretion (but remains fixed once established).
2. Maintain complete and accurate records of each employee's daily and weekly hours worked each week.
3. Pay at least the federal minimum wage to all nonexempt employees of not less than \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009, for all hours actually worked.
4. Pay at least one-and-one-half times each employee's regular rate of pay as overtime compensation to each nonexempt employee for all hours worked over 40 in each workweek.
5. Comply with all youth employment standards, such as restrictions on working hours, operating certain equipment, or performing work in certain occupations for minors under age 16 and, if under age 18, restrictions against performing certain hazardous occupations (which include driving a school bus, among others).

Preschool Teachers: Bona fide teachers in preschool and kindergarten settings may qualify for exemption from the minimum wage and overtime pay requirements as "professionals" under the same conditions as a teacher in an elementary or secondary school. Teachers are exempt if their primary duty is teaching, tutoring, instructing or lecturing in this activity as a teacher in educational establishment. It should be noted that, although a preschools may engage in some educational activities, preschool employees whose primary duty is to care for the physical needs for the facility's children would ordinarily not meet the requirements for exception as teachers under the applicable regulations.

Rest and Meal Periods: Employers that authorize short breaks or rest periods must count them as hours worked. Rest periods of short duration, usually 20 minutes or less, are common in industry (and promote employee efficiency) and are customarily paid for as working time. Bona fide meal periods (typically 30 minutes or more) generally need not be compensated as work time as long as the employee is completely relieved from duty for the entire meal period for the purpose of eating a regular meal. The employee is not relieved from duty if required to perform any duties, whether active or inactive, while eating. Thus, an employee is not considered "relieved" if required to continue to watch over children while they and the employee eat their meal.

Lectures, Meetings and Training Programs: Attendance at lectures, meetings, training programs, and similar activities must be counted as working time unless all four of the following criteria are met: (1) it occurs outside normal scheduled hours of work; (2) it is completely voluntary; (3) it is not job-related (unless the employee attends an independent school or college on his/her own initiative outside work hours); and (4) no other work is performed during the period. The time spent attending training that is required by the state for day care center licensing is working time for which employees must be compensated.

Please don't hesitate to email me at abeecham@elcbrevard.org if you have any questions!

