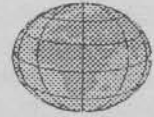


# RCMA HOY

We Can Make A World Of  
Difference

## Helping Our Youth



September 1993      OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

### FROM THE DESK OF BARBARA

Parent involvement is going to be given a renewed emphasis in our programs this season.

Everybody knows lasting changes cannot be made in the family by just giving the children a Head Start or good preschool experience.

Parents themselves need to be involved in their child's education starting with our centers and continuing on later.

Improved parent involvement begins by talking about it and thus raising awareness. But it can only be accomplished by dedicated and committed staff willing to go the extra mile to be sure that parents are welcome and invited to participate. We need to think of creative ways to hold the parents' interest.

We need to help them build the strength to be more actively involved in their child's public school education.

Parents have tremendous potential to make a real difference for their children.

And most of you are parents too. Think about it!

### COMING EVENTS

Sept. 22 and 23 - AC/PC Leadership Retreat. Cedarkirk. Lithia

Sept. 27 - State Board of Directors meeting. Tampa Airport Marriott

### APPLAUSE

#### South Region

##### Palm Beach Area

The staff of Belle Glade Child Development Center were puzzled when Betty Nelson, Center Director, used a different approach to practice the monthly fire drill in August.

The staff were programmed to react to the fire bell sound. Betty Nelson used a sign of blazing fire, and baby powder for smoke puffs.

The staff was slow in reacting to the fire drill. But the creative skit did arouse the curiosity of the staff and children, and made them ask questions.

The staff gave feedback about the new approach for practicing fire drills and agreed that fires do not always make sounds.

Importantly, the staff showed a positive attitude and flexibility to change as Betty Nelson was left smelling good and was white from head to toe from the smoke puffs.

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area LaBelle Child Development Center, Glades Early Learning Center, and Smith Brown Child Development Center have all started this season off right for the children.

Health screenings were done for all children coming into the Head Start and Pre-K programs. The

Health, Safety And Wellness  
News

*Have you ever . . .*

. . . Felt sad because you always make the wrong decisions?

. . . Thought you can't seem to communicate with your spouse or children?

. . . Felt alone and isolated even though you were surrounded by children?

. . . Had the feeling you were being choked by bills?

. . . Wanted someone else's idea about how to handle a problem you are experiencing with a parent?

. . . Called a friend for support, only to hear - "I have to wash the dog right now, can I call you later?" And your friend hates washing the dog.

. . . Looked at the clock and found out it was only 20 minutes since the last time you looked?

. . . Had a friend tell you she wished she could stay home and watch Soap Operas all day too?

You may be depressed.

Depression is treatable with support groups and/or therapy and in severe cases with prescription drugs as well.

The next step is only a free phone call away.

Contact the **Employee Assistance Resource (EAR)** at 1(800) 328-5000 where help is available in English or Spanish. The EAR is available 24 hours a day.

**Una "A" Para Los Padres . . .**

Que muestran interes por la educacion de sus hijos tomando un papel activo en la misma y en su escuela.

Que dan un buen ejemplo en el hogar, impartiendo respeto a la lectura y al estudio desde antes de que los ninos empiezan en la escuela.

Que le dan tanta importancia al aspecto academico en la vida de sus hijos como le dan a los deportes, la musica y otras actividades extracurriculares.

Que se comunican con los maestros de sus hijos y van a la escuela cuando reconocen las primeras senales de que puede haber algun problema serio.

Que toman responsabilidad como padres y que no esperan que la escuela y los maestros asuman todo el trabajo de criar a sus hijos.

Que motivan a los ninos a dar el 100% en sus estudios, ensenandoles que los beneficios de una educacion son realmente incalculables.

*Reprinted from the August/September 1993 issue of Ser Padres.*

**The entire object of  
TRUE EDUCATION**

**is to make people . . .**

not merely to do the right things, but enjoy them;

not merely industrious, but to love industry;

not merely learned, but to love knowledge;

not merely pure, but to love purity;

not merely just, but to hunger and thirst after justice.

*John Ruskin*

screenings included height, weight, vision, hearing, developmental and tuberculosis, as well as immunizations.

Parents had an opportunity to meet the teachers who all volunteered for the day.

\*\*

In a sign of dedication to the children of the program, the **LaBelle Child Development Center** staff started volunteering August 23, two weeks before being hired on September 7.

They began early in preparing the center for its opening and doing recruitment, as well as holding the health fare.

The center has many new staff which include teachers Sylvia Stansley, Elvia Rodriguez, and Lisa Colding; Cindy Burley, Cook, and Sherry Shupp. Health Coordinator. Congratulations and welcome are extended to them.

Teacher Maria Gomez and Lead Teacher Patricia King have transferred from other centers.

Outreach Worker Lynn Russ and Senior Teacher Becky Delgado are returning.

In special recognition of the staff, Center Director Viola Esquivel, who has been with RCMA for ten years, said "Through the years I have never seen such commitment from staff!"

\*\*

Welcome and congratulations go out to Sherry Serven, the new

Health Coordinator for **Smith Brown Child Development Center** in Arcadia.

\*\*

#### **Highlands/Hardee Area**

The Head Start center teams in Highlands and Hardee Counties were involved in late August and early September in preparing for the opening of the Head Start centers on September 13.

With a well organized team approach, they made much preparation for health screenings to get the children ready to enter the Head Start and Pre-K programs.

Centers held pre-screening orientation for parents on August 30, which was attended by 135 parents.

One hundred ninety-two children were screened that week.

Staff worked hard on enrollment as well.

In addition, parent orientation was held at each center on September 9.

Special recognition goes to Lynn Gibson, Health Coordinator, for taking a leadership role in preparing the format for the pre-screening days.

Recognition also goes to members of the center teams for a job well done: Teresa Robinson, Nancy Zachary, Isabel Nunez, Edna Carter, Samantha Welsh, Penney Cobb, Lisa Pough, LuBertha Shuler, Tonda

Armstrong, and Hilaria Cuevas.

\*\*

Congratulations and welcome to Carol Clark, the new Outreach Worker, and Margarita Ortiz, whose child was in Head Start last year, as a new Teacher, both at **South Highlands Child Development Center**.

\*\*

### **North Region**

#### **Pasco County**

During the 1992-93 season, RCMA's **Child Care Resource and Referral** in Pasco County assisted 852 parents in finding child care. Fifty-nine children had special needs.

Resource and Referral will begin working in October with United Cerebral Palsy to provide training to licensed child care providers! This training will focus on mainstreaming children with special needs.

Resource and Referral will also be offering workshops on choosing quality child care to the community. Participants will learn about the different types of child care available and tips on choosing child care.

This service also provides start up packets for potential child care providers with information on becoming registered or licensed, accreditation, the Child Development Associate credential, food programs, developmentally appropriate practice, and additional topics that help encourage quality child care.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

Another season beckons as we begin to prepare for the children and families who will make their way into our many centers.

Each of us has individual, center, area, and organizational goals that we carry with us throughout the year. We look forward to achieving some of our goals through all of our efforts.

We have focused on "choice," "empowerment," and "leadership" to help guide us toward higher expectations.

Adopting a modified High/Scope curriculum, carried out through staff commitment, has led to a good grade in the area of "choice" for the children.

Empowerment of our parents is a challenge we are trying to fulfill as change brings new expectations for improved parent involvement, both within the program and in the community.

Finally, we strive toward leadership, the primary ingredient necessary to carry out any and all of our goals. We are listening and learning.

An improved combination of choice, empowerment and leadership will lead RCMA to become a place where all

children learn through choice, where all parents will discover how they may better help their children and themselves, and where all staff realize and recognize their value through guiding children, parents, and co-workers forward while challenging themselves.

Finally, staff need to believe that no matter what position they hold, their ideas and concerns must be voiced in order to improve their individual centers, areas, and the whole of RCMA.

I look forward to seeing the thoughts of Cooks, maintenance help, Teachers, Center Directors and volunteers on the pages of upcoming RCMA Hoy editions.

Don't worry about grammar and spelling, which will be corrected by the editor. Your ideas are what is important!

Signed,

Leslie Moguil  
Special Projects Coordinator,  
State Office

Dear Hoy,

It is with great sadness that I am writing you to let you know that Bobby Tuthill, son of Catherine Heinritz (former resource coordinator at Nocatee Migrant Head Start Center), passed away Sunday, September 5, at the age of eight.

As you know, Bobby battled with Leukemia over the past several years. With generous gifts from RCMA employees and others, Bobby was able to get the transplant which was hoped would make the difference for him.

Catherine expressed to me how much Bobby and she appreciated our help and all the concern shown for Bobby. RCMA has truly been an extended family for them.

Bobby was sent home from All Children's Hospital two weeks before he passed away. Catherine told me that Bobby was prepared.

Catherine also informed me that the Make-A-Wish Foundation visited Bobby a few days before he died and was able to give Bobby some new toys which he thoroughly enjoyed. These toys brought joy not only to Bobby but to his Mom as well.

We mourn Catherine's great loss and want her to know that we will always remember Bobby.

Signed,

Judy Brill  
Office Manager,  
State Office

Editor: Gerard Lambert  
Contributing Writer: Jean Eklund

Please send suggestions, comments, and letters to the editor to the following address:

RCMA Hoy Editor, 219 N. First St., Immokalee, FL 33934

