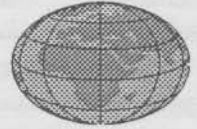




RCMA HOY

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



DECEMBER 1994

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



Photo By LESLIE MOGUIL

Esther Garcia, Senior Teacher at Immokalee Child Development Center Pre, proudly bathes Rodrigo Perez, 2 years old. Esther has been a dedicated employee since 1979. She is still setting goals; one of them is to improve her English.

FROM THE DESK OF OLGA

TEAMWORK is a word that is heard a lot these days. But what does it mean?

To me it means working together to reach a common goal. Working together does not mean that one person just gives orders and the others carry them out.

For example, in our centers the Center Coordinator and all the staff are a team. Only if we work

together can we carry out the mission of RCMA.

In other words, we need to share ideas, opinions, help one another, and always be alert to dangerous situations that can cause accidents. We must also respect and look out for each other.

Everyone must look out for one another, not just one or two people. It starts with the Center Coordinator that, to be fair, needs to look out for everyone.

Working as a team makes everyone's load lighter.

When the children and staff in the center are happy, healthy and successful, then everybody shines like a precious diamond.

I encourage you to become more united as a team. We are all important and necessary in seeing that the children have a brighter future.

DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

TRABAJO EN EQUIPO son palabras que escuchamos a menudo en estos días. ¿Pero cual es su significado?

Para mí ésto quiere decir que debemos trabajar unidos para alcanzar una meta en común.

Trabajando unidos no significa que una persona solamente da las ordenes y las otras las llevan acabo.

Por ejemplo, en nuestros centros, la Coordinadora del Centro y todo el personal forman un equipo. Solamente trabajando unidos podemos llevar acabo la misión de RCMA.

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En otras palabras, debemos compartir ideas y opiniones, ayudándonos unos a otros, y estando siempre alertos a situaciones peligrosas que pudiesen causar accidentes. También debemos respetarnos y cuidarnos unos a otros. TODOS no solamente una o dos personas.

Empezando con la Coordinadora del Centro, que a todo momento tiene que observar todo movimiento para ser justa con todos. Trabajando en equipo hace la carga menos pesada.

Cuando los niños del centro y nosotros estamos contentos, saludables y exitosos, entonces TODOS brillamos como diamantes preciosos.

Les invito a unirse a su equipo. Todos somos importantes y necesarios para que los niños tengan una vida mejor.

APPLAUSE

Highlands/Hardee Area

Avon Park Center Coordinator, Edna Carter, is proud of her son, Joseph.

Joseph is a Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class and an aircraft fueling supervisor. Thousands of miles from home, he could be found recently stationed aboard the USS Tripoli—a huge ship which carries 1,300 Sailors and Marines—off the coast of Kuwait.

Joseph was part of the show of force that Saddam Hussein had to face when he moved approximately 80,000 troops to within a few miles of Iraq's southern border with Kuwait.

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DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

Program Coordinator Peggy Lawson's daughter, Amy Surratt brought new life into the world with the birth of a boy, Nicholas Blaine on December 3. Congratulations to the whole family on this miraculous event.

Congratulations to Ana Alicia Hernandez, the Outreach Worker at Bonita Migrant Head Start, who is the proud mother of her second child, Isidro Jr., born October 20. Miracles happen every day.

R BE ON THE LOOKOUT...
Day is coming
February 15th!!
An exciting day of reading for
every parent, child, and staff.
More news to follow.

HAPPENINGS

SOUTH REGION

Highlands/Hardee Area

Marjorie Thomas, Teacher at Avon Park Head Start recently received her Child Development Associate credential. Congratulations go to Marjorie on this proud accomplishment.

Homestead Area

Kathy Bradley, the Ounce of Prevention Program Director, is leaving after nearly two years of dedicated service to the children and families in the South Dade area. Kathy will continue serving farmworkers in New Jersey where she is relocating. We wish her the best with her future plans and thank her for making a difference in the lives of many children and families.

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A big welcome to Wendy Lee, the new Education Coordinator of Redlands Child Development Center.

Florida City

A congratulatory welcome goes to Claudia Romero, the new Pre-K Education Coordinator at the Andrew Center and Everglades Child Development Center II.

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Gladys Chirinos is a new Education Coordinator at Everglades Child Development Center II. Gladys was previously the Education Coordinator in the Ounce of



Photo By GERARD LAMBERT

Irma Chappa, the Center Coordinator of Ruskin Migrant Head Start, at a recent training. Irma began as a Teacher Trainee in Immokalee in 1979 and soon after became an Assistant Center Director. Her wide experience also included being Center Director in Immokalee and Palmetto.

Prevention Program in Homestead. We wish her luck in this new challenge.

DeSoto/Glades/Hendry/Lee Area

Welcome and congratulations go out to the following new staff in this area: Sonia Joshua, Family Support Assistant, Bonita Springs Migrant Head Start; Ermelinda Rios, Family Support Assistant, and Betty Barton, Health/Disability Coordinator, both of Nocatee Migrant Head Start.

NORTH REGION

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area

Wimauma Child Development Center got a lot of the community involved in its ceremony to recognize its proud achievement of NAEYC accreditation. Twenty-five community members attended including the elementary school principal and vice principal, a Sheriff Office Community staff, HRS Licensing staff, growers and the parent president. Two newspapers covered the event.

Practice Random Acts of Kindness!

Avon Park Teacher Helps Parent Reunite With Sister After 16 Years of Separation

It had been 16 years since two sisters had not only seen each other but had any contact at all. Denita Prather, a parent at Avon Park Head Start, was nine years old when their parents' divorce had caused them to separate. Denita was raised by one parent and her sister by the other.

When Denita came to this center one day, Bernie Clarke, a Teacher, noticed that she had been crying. Denita confided to Bernie that she had located her sister through a missing persons agency.

Denita felt unsure about how to make initial contact with her sister. Bernie offered to write a letter for her, which she did.

The result is that Denita was visited by her sister from Ohio for two weeks in December and the sister has plans to move to Florida.



From left to right: Fred Dennis Child Development Center Teachers Emma Malcolm, Lou Ann Thompkins, Lydia Gutierrez, Alma Vargas, Vera Trevino, Maria Gomez, Ramona Matthew, and Ida Mendoza. In front: Lucy Garcia, Center Coordinator. Photo By GERARD LAMBERT.

Safety News

Congratulations to the following accident-free centers in November:

Mascotte Migrant Head Start Center, Ruskin Migrant

Head Start Center, Ragsdale Child Development Center, Gadsden County Migrant Head Start Center, Everglades Child Development Center II, LaBelle Child Development Center, and South

Highlands Child Development Center.

Keep up the good work and remember to **THINK SAFETY** and **ACT SAFELY!**

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A special concern for our staff who got hurt on

the job in November and have returned to work: Earline Williams, Maria L. Vasquez and Frances Cuellar.

We send get-well-soon greetings to Zenaida Quesada who is recovering from surgery.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hoy,

My family and some friends were having an eighth birthday party for my daughter, Hilda, at Simmons Park recently.

My husband was giving boat rides. He got tired and we went to sit at the table. A friend of ours asked if he could take the boat out again. He couldn't get the boat started.

I went to see what was wrong. The boat had begun to drift away and the friend was paddling back towards the dock where my son, Eric, and two other children were standing at the edge of the dock.

Then one of the children, a four-year-old boy, fell in the water right where the boat was headed. Everyone started yelling to get him out. Eric, 12, jumped in, pushed the boy back onto the pier and got himself out of the way in time.

I am very proud of my son for saving the little boy from a potentially very dangerous situation.

Signed,

Alicia Martinez Coronado

Eligibility Specialist

Ruskin/Wimauma/Palmetto Area



Photo By LESLIE MOGUIL

Irma Arevalo, a Senior Teacher at Immokalee Child Development Center Pre, observes Senator Bob Graham. Bob, a Teacher's Aide during a November 'work day' at the center, is seen here learning and having fun with the children at the water table.

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 6 - Family Literacy/Career Development Council meeting.

Jan. 11-12 - North Region Training, all Center Coordinators, Assistant Center Coordinators and Education Coordinators.

Jan. 18 - South Region Cooks Meeting.

Jan. 25 - Migrant Head Start Parent Policy Committee meeting.

Jan. 26 - North Region Cooks Meeting.

Jan. 30 - Board of Directors Meeting, Tampa Airport Marriot.

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Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:

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