

# QIS QUARTERLY

Summer 2007

## events

upcoming

### Dates To Remember:

- Preschool Math, June 2, June 30, 2007
- QIS Family Child Care Provider Meeting, August 4, 2007.
- Outcome Driven Training Series, September 10, 24, October 8, October 22
- Core Competencies, "Score with the Core" August 8, September 26
- For additional information, contact Natasha Rodriquez, 561-868-3669 or [rodrigun@pbcc.edu](mailto:rodrigun@pbcc.edu).
- PBCC Fall registration begins July 5. Classes start the week of August 23. Call 868-3662 for more information.

### Infant/Toddler Training Kick-Off Event, August 2007

The Exploring Infant and Toddler Caregiving Initiative invites infant and toddler providers and their directors to a kick-off event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in August. A Save the Date will be arriving soon. Learn more about the upcoming series of workshops in Personal and Professional Development, Child Development, and Curriculum.

### High/Scope Regional Conference, Convention Center, August 17-18

Plan to attend the Fourth High/Scope Regional Conference in West Palm Beach. Topics will be in Leadership/Management, Infant/Toddler Language Activities, Preschool, Elementary Education, Youth Programs and High/Scope updates. Many sessions will be offered in Spanish. SEEK Scholarships are available for qualified applicants. Contact Darcy Russo at [russod@pbcc.edu](mailto:russod@pbcc.edu) for more information.

special feature

## An Open Letter from Brandi Lezcano, owner/director of Treehouse Learning Center

*Dear Center directors and owners who may be thinking about participating in Palm Beach County's Quality Improvement System (QIS),*

I write this letter as an experienced center owner/director who has participated in the QIS since its inception. Making the decision to voluntarily improve the quality of your childcare center is a time-consuming task that takes commitment and cooperation.

You must be ready to accept the fact that your center, staff, classroom environment and director are not perfect. No center is. In addition, you must be prepared:

- to open your doors to constructive criticism that will eventually lead to positive change.
- to have an Early Learning Coach offer technical support to the director and staff.
- to make changes that at first may seem insignificant, but will prove invaluable.
- to have program assessors come into your center classrooms and assess your classrooms and center environment.

Improving the quality of childcare in centers is a monumental task that must be taken seriously by all who are involved. Staff must commit to continuously updating their knowledge of early child development and learning through professional development.

Once you have made the decision to participate, be aware that achieving and maintaining high quality – while at the

same time being responsible for the business aspects of a center – can be challenging. However, if you choose to participate in the 4-Star QIS, invaluable resources and supports will be made available. An Early Learning Career Coach will be assigned to your center; they are one of the most significant quality supports offered in the QIS. You will be eligible for the mini-grant program that helps pay for costs associated with improving quality.

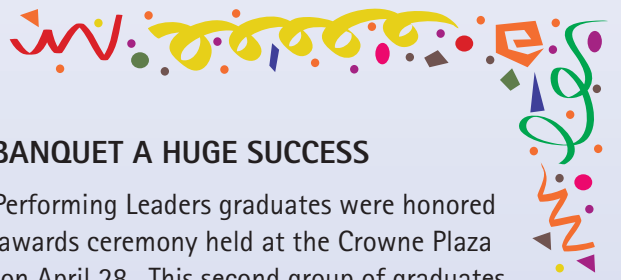
Your center director and staff will be eligible for several professional development supports and enhancements to participants in the QIS. The S.E.E.K. scholarship has become an invaluable resource for my staff; it provides professional development opportunities by covering the cost of Palm Beach Community College credit and non-credit courses, college preparatory courses and books. S.E.E.K. also pays for workshops and conferences. Another great benefit from participation in the QIS is the Quality Enhancement Payments. The amount of payment is based upon the center's star rating (level of quality) and attendance counts. These payments are designed to help with the costs associated with providing care that goes beyond basic licensing requirements.

Our experience has been positive all the way around. My staff and director have benefited tremendously by being exposed to the opportunities, and so will you.

## policy updates

We are pleased to announce that the Children's Services Council and Family Central have been working on improving the Quality Enhancement Payment Process for QIS Providers. We will be getting payments to providers more rapidly than in the past with payments scheduled to be released the first month of each quarter. Further information will be forthcoming.

**QIS Quality Enhancement Payments:** In order to ensure timely payment of your quarterly quality enhancement payment, it is important that you sign and submit your quarterly Quality Enhancement Payment Agreement within five days of receipt.



### TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PREPS FOR ASSESSMENT

The staff and administration of Trinity Christian Academy is scheduled for their first assessment in May 2007, and thanks to their hard work, they are ready. The center has used the ABEKA curriculum, which is very teacher-directed and structured, and the center had no interest centers. During the past year, the staff and administration have embraced developmentally appropriate practices, shifting their focus to active learning. They have participated in all aspects of QIS Professional Development offerings. The director and assistant director have been inspired by their coursework and have worked with the Early Learning Coach to implement interest-based learning centers, change daily schedules and routines, offer USDA meal plans, and embrace QIS mission and goals. The seed that was initially planted at Trinity Christian Academy has blossomed into a beautiful flower, which will hopefully continue to grow in the years ahead.

### ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT, SEPT. 14

The Palm Beach County Early Childhood Registry has 1,045 active practitioners, which includes 794 QIS practitioners and 83 approved trainers. In recognition of the growth, the Registry is hosting its Annual Recognition Event on September 14, 2007, 6:30 pm – 9:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel; save the date!

### GET READY FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

Career Advisors will be making site visits prior to the upcoming 13-month assessments to assure that the professional development binders are ready for review. Please make the most of this visit with your Career Advisor. If you have questions, call 868-3662.



*Kina Macedo, Director, RCMA Farmworker Delray, meets with Career Advisor Evelyn Gomez and Professional Development Coordinator Laura McCadden to finalize the professional development binder logging the achievements of the center's proud practitioners.*

### EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE AWARDS (EIA)

Your hard work and commitment to ongoing professional improvement may have earned you one or more Education Incentive Awards. Your Professional Development team is excited to announce that TWO NEW AWARDS have been added to the Education Incentive Award program! If you have earned a Foundation Director Credential\* or if you have completed 6 College Credits of College Prep Courses, you may qualify. Please keep an eye out for this year's NEW EIA information/application packet to arrive at your center this June. Remember: EIA application deadline is August 31! For further information, please contact your Career Advisor at 868-3662.

*\*The Foundation Director Credential award is available to staff other than the QIS designated center director.*

### HPL BANQUET A HUGE SUCCESS

High Performing Leaders graduates were honored at an awards ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on April 28. This second group of graduates joins the growing ranks of Early Childhood leaders, who advocate for high quality in early care and education programs. Eighteen of the 23 graduating program administrators are QIS participants; they are Ann Marletta, Shirley Bryant, Maria Gonzalez, Janice Cummins, Priscilla Gardner, Ann Chester, April Kies, Lethara Millner, Faith Green, Ellen Saposnik, Shirley Moorer, April Brown, Maria Wainz, Kathy Knudston, Deborah Sutton, Sheryl Benveniste, Lori Cermeno, and Essie Mae Snipe.

Congratulations to Ariel Wingard, Catherine Stafano, Nicole Fulton, Lethara Millner, Debra Cave Rudolph, Abbie Wright Bill, Alisha Patterson, Sharon Smith and Kala Dent. All completed the AS Degree at PBCC. If we missed you, please let us know. We want to recognize you! Call 868-3662.

Congratulations to Patricia Bartley on Completion of her AA Degree.

Congratulations to the following Pre-K classroom teachers who have become High/Scope Certified: Johnette Burden of *Pahokee Elementary*, Luanne Mathis of *Lantana Elementary* and Vilma Salas of *Village Elementary*.

**Newly hired assessors:** Melissa Acevedo, Sharena Hayes and Beatriz Pillier attended the In-Depth Training on the ITERS-R and ECERS-R, June 4-8. The training was held at the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. For the past 40 years, FPG research and outreach has shaped how the nation cares for and educates young children.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Family Central and the School District of Palm Beach County are happy to announce that additional technical assistance is now available for those sites seeking accreditation and are in QIS maintenance. If interested in receiving this additional assistance please contact your coach or Gail Kressal at 514-3349.