

School Readiness & VPK Provider Information

Changes for the New Year!

July 1, 2008 begins a new fiscal year for the Early Learning Coalition and Childhood Development Services. Updates will be provided to you in the near future concerning the provider and training schedule for next fiscal year.

Additionally, Marion County providers will continue to receive this informational flyer from the Coalition, however, we will use a different method of distribution. Beginning with this issue, flyers will be distributed at the provider meetings and through your monthly school readiness attendance rolls mailed by CDS. Copies will no longer be included in the Children's Alliance newsletter.

In the meantime, please note that there will not be a provider meeting or any trainings scheduled for the month of July 2008.

Stay tuned for more information as we plan for another great year serving the children and families of our community!

A special thank you to each of the providers who responded to our 2008-09 training topics survey which was distributed in May. Your input is very important to us and will assist the Coalition staff in providing trainings that are pertinent and valuable to you!

Coalition staff directory

Elizabeth Moore, Operations Director, ext. 23

Michelle Roberts, VPK Provider Coordinator, ext. 19

Carla Hardee, VPK Administrative Assistant, ext. 10

Nasseam McPherson, Quality Assurance Dir., ext. 14

Ali Chamchil, Records Verification Coordinator, ext. 24
Or CDS ext. 266

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Tips For Saving Money On A Child Care Budget

Reprinted in part from article by Robin McClure, at
www.childcare.about.com

A provider on the Child Care Forum posted to ask for Childcare Budget Tips. Providers have shared the following ideas for enhancing those dollars and finding ways for rewarding and enriching activities for children without spending a fortune.

- Buy supplies in bulk (non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, etc.)
- Ask parents or even businesses for donations (toys, books, art supplies, extra clothing, bottles, even some furniture). Just be sure it is safe and in good condition.
- Plan activities early and set a specific dollar amount that can be used—and DO NOT go over it.
- Find a great children’s consignment store, and rotate items and trade them in.
- Consider making certain items mandatory for parents to bring. Schools require certain supplies, and it is not unreasonable to have some expectations in childcare settings.
- Ask parents to rotate snacks or implement a take-home “snack basket.” The concept is that the basket goes home on a Friday, the parent and child “shop” for some acceptable snacks, and then the basket is brought in filled on Monday.
- Consider a “helping hands” request. Teachers periodically post hands with above-and-beyond supplies that are being requested (such as glitter). There is no pressure; parents can opt to pick up a “hand” and return the item on their own schedule. Since providers don’t plan on these items, they can continue without them; if Someone brings something in, such as the glitter, it will be quite obvious with the bring-home craft project.

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