



Reaching Out

Ramsey County Supplement

Volume 10, Issue 1
Winter 2009

Helping Families Get High-Quality Child Care and Early Education

Research shows that children who participate in high-quality early childhood education have greater success in kindergarten and early elementary grades. The Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program was designed to give families who cannot afford high quality care the opportunity to experience it.

The partners of this project are actively recruiting families to participate for the next cohort of three year olds. Children should be three as of September 1, 2009, and live in the North End or Frogtown neighborhoods of St Paul.

Families must use their scholarship at a child care or early education program that has been rated as high quality through Parent Aware, Minnesota's voluntary Rating tool. Early childhood care and education programs in St Paul, and particularly those in these two neighborhoods are encouraged to participate. in Parent Aware. For more information please visit www.parentawareratings.org.

Brochures are available to early childhood programs and caregivers to give to families at 651-290-9704. Please direct families to call 651-641-6604 to receive an application.

Persons wishing to speak with someone about the program in Hmong, Somali, or Spanish should call the Language Access Line at 651-665-0150.

Quality Initiatives in Ramsey County

Project Early Kindergarten

Project Early Kindergarten is a collaboration between St. Paul Public Schools and Resources for Child Caring. The goal of this project is to help caregivers create environments that promote reading and literacy. PEK works to reach this goal through regular training and coaching. For more information, call 651-641-6628.

Launching Early Learners

Launching Early Learners incorporates academically focused early childhood programming as well as committing into the services of licensed family child care providers and child care centers caring for three to five year old pre kindergarten children. Launching Early Learner's is designed to align with school district kindergarten standards and targets at risk preschoolers in suburban Ramsey County, serving to help close the achievement gap. For more information call 651-641-6642.

ERS

A limited number of child care providers may receive Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) consultation. You and the consultant will work together to identify the strengths and needs of your program through discussion and joint use of the environmental rating tool, work to develop a plan of action to address the goals that you identify, implement strategies to accomplish the goals, and jointly evaluate the changes that take place in your program's environment. For more information call 651-641-6610.

BUSINESSWISE

Business Wise is a project to improve the stability and accessibility of child care by introducing and/or building on business management skills and enhancing professional development of individuals working in family and center based child care programs.

Early Childhood Directors Group: RCC to Partner with First Children's Finance

At the December 11, 2009 Directors Meeting, it was finalized to try the following schedule, with twice monthly meetings-same agenda, at different times of the day and month, but the most centrally located venue was determined to be the RCC West office, at 2021 East Hennepin Ave in Minneapolis. We also determined that 4 times a year there would be an early a.m. breakfast Directors Training, at off site locations, hosted by one of the Centers participating in the group. Both the monthly meetings and the quarterly breakfast Directors training will be co-sponsored by Resources for Child Caring and First Children's Finance.

Here is the schedule, at this time for 2009:

2nd Thursday's 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Resources for Child Caring 2021 E Hennepin Ave suite 250

4th Tuesday's 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Resources for Child Caring 2021 E Hennepin Ave suite 250

Agenda will consist of Introductions, brief announcements from the field, occasional special speakers, 30 minute hot topic Business training by First Children's Finance, and the remainder of the time will be spent on networking and discussing issues of interest brought forth by the members of the group. The announcements may be similar, and the Hot Topic Business Training will be the same at each of the two monthly meetings. You are welcome to come for either, or both, for the whole meeting or only for the training or networking period. Light refreshments will be available, and brown bag lunch is welcome. Reminder e-mails will be sent with any updates, and the training topic of the month, prior to the 2nd Thursday meeting.

Quarterly Training (dates and locations to be determined) 8:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.

Please contact Sandy Myers, smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org or 651-641-6635 with questions, or if you would like to host one of the quarterly breakfast meetings. We ask that you have parking for 30-40+ cars, and adult size chairs. While there have been a couple meetings to discuss the most frequently requested business topics, if you have specific requests, or ideas, please contact Sue Dion at First Children's Finance, sue@firstchildrensfinance.org or 612-279-6510.

Family Child Care

RCC will be continuing efforts to work with newly licensed family child care providers in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Components for family child care providers include business training and coaching on marketing, contracts and policies, and record keeping. Training opportunities and selected print resources will be available to help get your business started on the right foot. Contact Theresa Fountain at tfountain@resourcesforchildcare.org or 651-641-6610 for more information.

Ramsey County Family Child Care Association

Whether you're new to child care or you've experienced many years of child care, consider becoming a member of RCFCCA. We all have unique expertise and knowledge to share. Take this easy step forward and care to share. To learn more about membership, activities, and how to be involved, please visit the RCFCCA website <http://www.rcfcca.net/index.htm>

Save the Date

The Ramsey County Family Child Care Recognition Dinner is scheduled 2009 at DiGidio's for Thursday, October 8, 2009. this event is a collaboration of Ramsey County Human Services, Resources for Child Caring, and the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association.