



# Caring for Kids



A Quarterly Newsletter from Child Care Resource & Referral

## VPK News Update

'07-'08 Kindergarten Readiness Rates are now available! They can be found on the Kindergarten Readiness Rate website, <http://vpk.fldoe.org>, simply click on 'Readiness Rate Search' box on the left hand column.

### Important Changes for '09-'10 VPK Program Year

1. Director's Level II background clearances (as defined by OEL) are requested for submission when applying for VPK.
2. During the January 2009 Special Session, the Florida Legislature passed the Pre-K 09A-1 Bill. Contained in this bill were revisions to various VPK policies including the uniform attendance policy. The bill called for the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to revise the current VPK attendance policy. Revisions of this policy are currently under way but have not yet been promulgated into rule. When the policy is promulgated into rule, ECS will immediately share the policy, procedures and guidance as applicable.
3. Per OEL policy, every VPK provider must verify the annual cumulative attendance of each child enrolled in their VPK program, which certifies the paid hours of attendance of each child enrolled for the program year. ECS may NOT pay any VPK provider their final payment of the program until this final verification is received.

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### Points of Interest:

- VPK News Update
- Children's Week
- Sign up for the *Helping Hands* Newsletter!
- Warm Line Services
- Scholarships
- Provider Appreciation Day!
- Training Tidbits
- CDA Information
- ECS Provider Open Registration Meetings



## Children's Week

The Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns, along with Episcopal Children's Services would like to thank everyone that participated in the *Reading with Ronald* Children's Week events. It was a huge success! Look for pictures of the Hanging of the Hands event in Tallahassee in our upcoming *Helping Hands* Newsletter.



### Helping Hands e-Newsletter

Did you know that the education staff prepares a monthly newsletter for directors and teachers? It is called the *Helping Hands* newsletter. It is full of the latest training updates, helpful hints, lesson plan ideas, and much, much more.

E-mail the Editor at: [hdunn@ecs4kids.org](mailto:hdunn@ecs4kids.org) with your Name, E-mail Address, Center Name, and the County you are located in, to be placed on our distribution list today!

### Warm Line (800) 238-3463

Do you have a concern about the health, development, disability, and special needs of a child? If so, please call the Warm Line. The purpose of the Warm Line is to provide advice to childcare personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and environmental adaptations that allow a child to derive maximum benefit from the childcare experience.

### Questions/Comments?

Contact *Caring for Kids*  
Editor, Heather Dunn, at  
hdunn@ecs4kids.org



### Looking for Training Scholarships?

Contact Linda Hockenberry, Director of  
Training and Professional Development:  
904.726.1500 ext. 237 or  
[lhockenberry@ecs4kids.org](mailto:lhockenberry@ecs4kids.org)

## **Provider Appreciation Day**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

A big **THANK YOU** for all of your hard work...



**We Appreciate you!!!**

For more details, go to: [www.providerappreciationday.org](http://www.providerappreciationday.org)

## Training Tidbits ECS Regional Training Institute

Great news! You can now register and pay for ECS classes online. Visit our website at [www.ecs4kids.org](http://www.ecs4kids.org) and click on "Training". A complete listing of our quarterly training calendar is available by county. Click on any training you are interested in and register and pay, if applicable. CEU forms are also available on this website. Please be sure to register and pay at least 3 business days prior to training event. Enjoy your training opportunities!

**Hello out there!** Do you currently have a CDAE, and would like to obtain a National CDA? If so, do we have news for you! Attend an information session to learn more about this great opportunity.

**When:** Monday, April 6, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Episcopal Children's Services - Training Room

100 Bell Tel Way, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32216

**RSVP by April 1, 2009**

To register visit: [www.ecs4kids.org](http://www.ecs4kids.org). Click training-calendar listing, then click Event # 409-1401 CDA Information Session, and register. For additional information contact: EJ Jones @ 726-1500 x282 or E-mail: [ejones@ecs4kids.org](mailto:ejones@ecs4kids.org).

## Mandatory Provider Open Registration Meeting Options

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Please RSVP* by:</u>
Thursday 4/16/09	4:30pm-7:30pm	Turning Point Academy 3500 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092	4/13/09
Saturday 4/18/09	10am-2pm	IFAS University of FL 111 Yelvington Road, E. Palatka, FL 32131	4/15/09
Tuesday 4/21/09	4pm-7pm	Ridgewood Baptist Church 939 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL 32065	4/17/09
Monday 04/27/09	11am-2pm	Southeast Library 6670 US 1 South, St Augustine, FL 32086	4/23/09
Thursday 4/30/09	4:30pm-7:30pm	IFAS University of FL 111 Yelvington Road, E. Palatka, FL 32131	4/27/09
Saturday 5/2/09	9am-12noon	Episcopal Children's Services 100 Bell Tel Way, Jacksonville, FL 32216	4/29/09

\***RSVP** to: 904-726-1500 ext. 210, or 800-238-3463 ext. 210 -OR- [providerregistration@ecs4kids.org](mailto:providerregistration@ecs4kids.org).\*