

2009 Osceola County Provider Appreciation Awards Dinner May 8, 2009



Child care organizations and parents across the globe joined together on May 8, 2009 to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers, school-age program staff, child care center directors and staff, and all those who work with children in a variety of ways and are responsible for their education and care. Locally, the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County welcomed providers to our 2nd Annual Provider Appreciation Awards Dinner on Friday, May 8, 2009 at the Ramada Orlando Celebration Resort and Convention Center.



First, our Coalition recognized our agency partners, Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc. (4C) and the School District of Osceola County's Pre-K Department for everything that they do for the early educators in Osceola County.



The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County welcomed providers to their new licensing status and presented each of them with a "Making the Difference" lapel pin to represent the difference that they make in the lives of a children every day.

2008-09 Newly Licensed Child Care Programs

1. Carmen Rios (7/15/2008)
2. Diana Luque (8/20/2008)
3. Luz Rodriquez (11/6/2008)
4. Maria Perez (2/25/2009)
5. Little Steps Academy (10/08/2008)
6. Foreign Language Immersion Early Childhood Center (10/15/2008)
7. Tiny Tots Christian Academy (10/20/2008)
8. Community Presbyterian Preschool (10/21/2008)
9. Heavenly Kids Preschool (11/26/2008)



2008-09 Newly Licensed Large Family Child Care Homes

1. Lucia Santiago, Kings Kids Family Day Care
2. Jacqueline Hurtado, Abby's Day Care Center

Both programs were presented with a Certificate of Achievement, recognizing them for their accomplishments of becoming a Large Family Child Care Home in Osceola County.

2008-09 Newly Accredited Child Care Providers

1. Maria Garcia, Garcia Family Day Care Home
2. Central Florida YMCA Family Center @ Walt Disney World

Highest 2007-08 VPK Provider Readiness Rate

1. Community Presbyterian, Religious Exempt (292)
2. Hickory Tree Elementary, Public School (278)
3. Freedom Land Christian Academy, Private Provider (275)

Most Improved VPK Provider Readiness Rate

Hansel & Gretel 2 (+46)

Highest 2008-09 ECERS Score

KinderCare Learning Center (6.12)

Highest 2008-09 FCCERS Score

Lucia Santiago (5.51)

Highest 2008-09 ITERS Score

Kindercare Learning Center (5.46)

2008-09 ERS Improvement Award

Poinciana 247 Preschool ECERS (+51%)

Mayra Marquez-Marquez Family Day Care Home FCCERS (+46%)



Provider Representatives



Nancy Ryan – Nancy has served as the Coalition Provider Representative since July 1, 2008. This is her second term as serving in this capacity. Her first term was from July 1, 2004- 2007. Nancy acts as the liaison between all licensed centers in Osceola County and the Coalition.



Maribel Mercado – Maribel has served as the Coalition Family Child Care Representative since July 1, 2008. Maribel acts as the liaison between all family child care homes in Osceola County and the Coalition.

Susan More – Susan has served as the Coalition Faith Based Representative since July 1, 2007. Susan acts as the liaison between all faith based child care settings and the Coalition.



We are honored to work with each of our Provider Representatives and proud to present them with a Community Excellence Award for inspiring others through your dedication and commitment to increasing the quality of care for children and for contributing to the success of the early learning community in Osceola County.

Professional Development Program Supporters

Lee y serás® is a national campaign designed to empower and support Latino parents and other important family members as their children's first and most important teachers and role models. The initiative provides care providers, educators and other community members that touch Latino families with the resources and tools to help create literacy-rich environments for Latino children in their

homes and neighborhoods. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the **Gingerbread House** for supporting their staff in providing a literacy-rich environment for Latino children through their participation in the *Lee y serás®* program.

The **SOS Inclusion Coach Program** is a year-long training program designed to create an on-site inclusion expert for each child care center in Osceola County, with the goal of creating an environment where all children regardless of their developmental level can learn and play together. This training is based on the latest research and will offer up to date practices on inclusion strategies. The curriculum is designed to provide educators with information on how to include young children with disabilities in regular child care programs. Each participating program received a Certificate of Appreciation for supporting their staff in providing an environment where all children, regardless of their developmental level, can learn and play together through their participation in the Inclusion Coach Program.



The **Wee Read Program** is a year-long program designed to equip preschool providers with the skills necessary to provide young children with rich literacy experiences during their preschool years with the goal of helping children start school ready to learn and read. This literacy training is based on the latest and most comprehensive research of reading readiness and the skills identified which correlate with the ability for children to be successful readers. We were very excited to present each Wee Read graduate with a custom Wee Read lapel pin designating their completion of this year-long early literacy training program.

Last, but not least... Program of the Year Awards were designated in areas that reflect the dedication and commitment and have resulted in maximum improvements that support program excellence. These areas include, but are not limited to, overall participation in Coalition initiatives, leadership, credentialing, curriculum implementation, improved classroom environment, consistent staff development and more.

2008-09 Program of the Year Awards

- Inclusion Program of the Year
Kids Academy Child Care
- VPK Program of the Year
Community Presbyterian Preschool
- SR CENTER Program of the Year
Shady Oaks Private School
- SR FAITH Program of the Year
Trinity Lutheran Church of Kissimmee
- SR FCCH Program of the Year
Mercado Family Child Care Home

