

## events

- The CDA-E renewal deadline is December 31, 2008. To renew, a practitioner will need one 3-credit class or 4.5 CEUs taken within the past five years. For further information contact your career advisor at 561-868-3662 or visit [www.myflorida.com/childcare/training](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare/training).

- In 2008, Family Child Care providers in the QIS will be assessed with the new Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition. A FCCERS-R course will be scheduled for late spring. In related news, Early Care and Education welcomes new Program Assessor Maria Abrams. Maria is trained on the ECERS scale through the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute in North Carolina. Assessors will begin working with the revised FCCERS scale this year. If you have any questions regarding the implementation of the new tool or future training dates, contact Alina Walker at 514-3340.

- QIS Family Child Care provider meetings are May 3, 2008 and August 9, 2008, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Locations TBA. Training hours and/or CEUs are offered at every meeting.

## The New Buzz Word... CURRICULUM

Over the last year, there has been a tremendous wave of support at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of early care and education. Through diverse partnerships, stakeholders are coming together to identify those components essential in building early childhood quality that will positively impact the lives of young children.

Through professional development opportunities, the QIS System, the Registry and other initiatives, our community is taking the lead in enhancing school readiness. The Agency for Workforce Innovation/Office of Early Learning, as directed by the Florida Legislature, has determined specific expectations for School Readiness programs. These expectations will be administered and implemented through the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County. To insure all children enter school ready to learn, the Early Learning Coalition will require programs to declare a curriculum that has been either identified by our local Curriculum Committee as developmentally appropriate or approved by the local curriculum review committee. Currently, the Coalition has pre-approved the following as developmentally appropriate curricula:

- Beyond Centers and Circle Time
- Beyond Cribs and Rattles
- Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies Inc.
- DLM Early Childhood Express
- Doors to Discovery
- High/Scope
- Montessori
- Scholastic Early Childhood Program
- Houghton Mifflin Curriculum

The curriculum includes the goals for the knowledge and skills to be acquired by children and the plans for learning experiences, through which such knowledge and skills will be achieved. A curriculum that draws on research assists teachers in identifying important concepts and skills as well as effective methods for fostering children's learning and development. When informed by teachers' knowledge of individual children, a well-articulated curriculum guides teachers so they can provide children with experiences that foster growth across a broad range of developmental and content areas. A curriculum also helps ensure that the teacher is intentional in planning a daily schedule that (a) maximizes children's learning through effective use of time, materials used for play,



self-initiated learning, and creative expression as well as (b) offers opportunities for children to learn individually and in groups according to their developmental needs and interests.

Here is how we are going to help you help children. There will be an additional emphasis on supporting curriculum through training in the county beginning in May 2008. We have the supports to offer training to child care providers in the following curricula: High/Scope, Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies Inc., Montessori, Beyond Centers and Circle Time, and Programs for Infant/Toddler Care (West/Ed.) through Palm Beach Community College, credit and non credit courses. Summer registration begins in April and practitioners can register online. The Early Learning Coalition will provide multiple opportunities for providers to be exposed to the various pre-approved curricula. A review process is also in place for those programs choosing to use their own curriculum. In addition providers will have opportunities to attend workshops that are designed to:

- Assist a provider in choosing a curriculum
- Assist a provider in completing the process for submitting a curriculum
- Assist a provider through technical assistance with implementation of their chosen curriculum.

Our community is very excited about this venture and has put together a system of supports to ensure the success of providers in meeting the requirements now and as we move forward. We are preparing children to enter school eager and ready to learn and are excited to continue the trend in Palm Beach County of setting the standards of excellence in quality of care. Stay tuned as there will be more information forthcoming! For additional information, please contact the Early Learning Coalition at 561-214-8000 or visit our website at [www.elcpalmbeach.org](http://www.elcpalmbeach.org).

special feature

# professional development



Left to right is Laura McCadden, PBCC; Magdala Ray, PBCC; and Sadiq Hamidani, Garden of the Sahaba Academy

In November, **Dr. Magdala Ray**, PBCC Academic Affairs Dean for the Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education, visited three QIS centers to gain feedback from Directors about the QIS system. Dr. Ray's visits included discussion with Directors, introductions to center staff, and review of curriculum at Teddy Bear Day Care-Director Deborah Fraser; Trinity Christian Academy - Director Ann Marletta; and Garden of the Sahaba Academy - Director Sadiq Hamidani.

## celebrations



Congratulations to **Rosa Pupko**, a practitioner of Florence Fuller Child Development Center in West Boca Raton since 1991. In December 2007, she obtained her Preschool Track Certificate from Palm Beach Community College. At the age of 75, her love of learning and her dedication to children inspire her to continue her education.

Congratulations to all practitioners on the road of continuous improvement! Recent accomplishments of QIS practitioners include:

### College Credit Certificates:

Rosa Pupko, Florence Fuller  
Carolyn Warren, RCMA New Hope  
Claudette Courtney, Royal Palm YWCA  
Janice Morgan, Family Child Care Provider  
Cindy Craig, Tiny Tykes Beech

### AS Degree in ECE:

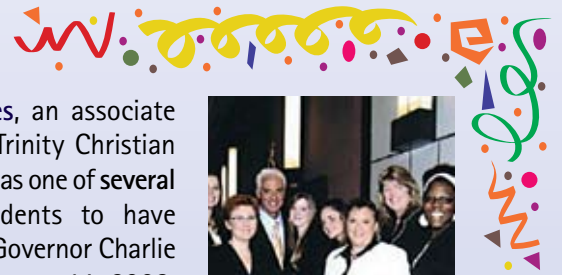
Connie Williams, Family Child Care Provider  
Kala Dent, Treehouse Learning Center  
Nora Huspek, Tiny Tykes Beech  
Alisha Patterson, Future Stars  
Martha Rudgles, RCMA New Hope  
Patricia Bartley, Redemptive Life

If we missed you, please let us know. Call your Career Advisor today at 561-868-3662.

Congratulations to all graduates of PBCC Institute of Excellence's Training Approval Series pilot! Approximately 85 local trainers and child care center directors completed the Series in 2007. The Training Approval Series continues in 2008, with one series to be held at the PBCC Palm Beach Gardens campus beginning in April, and a second series on the PBCC Boca Raton campus beginning in September. For detailed information about dates, locations and how to register, please contact Natasha Silva at 561-868-3669.

Congratulations to the following QIS programs that achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): Achievement Centers for Children and Families, FAU Karen Slattery Center, Kidstop Early Learning Center, Florence Fuller West.

Congratulations to Beeline Child Development Center for launching their new website: [www.beelinecdc.com](http://www.beelinecdc.com).



**Joann Jones**, an associate teacher at Trinity Christian Preschool, was one of several college students to have lunch with Governor Charlie Crist on January 14, 2008. At the luncheon, Governor Crist addressed the property tax issue, green schools, and education. Joann is a student in the AS degree in early childhood at PBCC. She has used SEEK for classes and books, and receives WAGE\$ and Educational Incentive Awards. *Pictured: Joann is in the white suit.*



The most wonderful present awaited the staff at Achievement Center for Children and Families in January 2008. The e-mail reading: "CONGRATULATIONS! Your program has achieved Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children." This Accreditation, or rather re-accreditation process, has taken the best efforts of all administrators, teaching staff, support staff, parents and children. They worked diligently for two years on this massive project and achieved their goals! Every person who played a role in this journey is to be congratulated.



**Connie Williams** graduated in December 2007 with an AS Degree in Child Development and Education with Academic Distinction. Connie is a dedicated family child care home provider in Delray Beach and a long time participant of the QIS Program. She is an inspiration to anyone who is struggling to balance work, family and professional development. She has persevered with what seemed to be insurmountable circumstances; her husband has undergone a bone transplant and is under constant medical supervision. Her quest has been a long one; she has attended Palm Beach Community College since 2003. Connie aspires to continue her education and obtain a Doctorate in Education. She is grateful for the support received from the QIS system partners and plans to give back to the community by advocating for children and their families.