

EARLY LEARNING COALITION  
OF MANATEE COUNTY, INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION AND VISION .....	3
COALITION AND STAFF INFORMATION.....	4
ELCMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	5
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR.....	7
OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS.....	8
VOLUNTARY PRE-K.....	10
SCHOOL READINESS.....	11
QUALITY INITIATIVES.....	16
COALITION ANALYSIS.....	20
FISCAL INFORMATION 2005-2006.....	22
PROGRAM SUMMARY.....	28

**Early Learning Coalition of  
Manatee County, Inc.**

# **Mission and Vision**

## **Our Mission...**

To Provide School Readiness Programs that help all children develop the skills needed to achieve future educational success and to support the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

## **Our Vision...**

Our community will support high quality early care and education opportunities for all children and their families, understanding that it is in the first years of life that a child's future educational success is determined.

## Coalition Contact Information

### EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MANATEE COUNTY, INC.

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## Coalition Staff

2005 - 2006

**Linda Jimenez**  
*Executive Director*

**Valerie Walton**  
*Program Manager*

**Jenifer Caccia**  
*VPK Specialist*

**Anna Huliveya**  
*Administrative Assistant*

# OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## JULY 2005 - JUNE 2006

### **Dr. J. Brian Murphy**

#### **Chair**

*The Eye Center*

*Gov. Appointment (August 2005)*

### **William Lee**

*Private Sector*

*Gov. Appointment*

### **Gary Bogart**

*Private Sector*

*Gov. Appointment*

### **Adam Mohammadbhoy**

#### **Vice Chair**

*Private Sector*

### **Peter Lear**

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

*Private Sector*

### **Mary Helen Kress**

*Regional Workforce Board Director*

*(July - April)*

### **Janice Mee**

*Regional Workforce Board Appointee*

*(April)*

### **Alice Gross**

*Designee, Dep't of Health*

*(July - April)*

### **Sandra Edmondson**

*Designee, Dep't of Health*

*(April)*

### **Dr. Marilyn Bartlett**

*Board of County Commissioners Appointee*

*(July - November)*

### **Jennifer Passmore**

*Board of County Commissioners Appointee*

*(March 2006)*

### **Dr. Cyndi Vensel**

*Manatee Community College*

*(August 2006)*

### **Ron Russell**

*School District Superintendent Designee*

### **Joyce West**

*Child Care Licensing Agency Head*

### **Peggy Connell**

*Children with Disabilities Program Rep.*

### **Irene Ingram**

*Head Start Director*

### **Kathy Ketterer**

#### **Children's Services Coordinator**

*Manatee County Government*

*(July - Sept. 2005)*

### **Paulette Pace**

#### **Interim Chair (July 2005)**

*Private Sector*

### **Michelle Detweiler**

*Private Sector*

*(July - September)*

### **Karen Magee**

*Private Sector*

*(November 2005)*

### **Annette Larkin**

*Private Child Care Representative*

### **Janet Hamstra**

*Faith Based Provider Representative*

### **Carol Hunt**

*Central Agency Director*

*Resource Connection for Kids*

### ***History of the Coalition***

The School Readiness Act of 1999 recognized that school readiness programs increase children's chances of success in school and in life. In keeping with the research that gave rise to the legislation, and recognizing the needs of the Manatee County community, the Manatee County Local School Readiness Coalition, a 501c(3) organization, was established in 2000. The initial purpose of the Coalition was to implement the provisions of the School Readiness Act: to establish integrated and quality service delivery of publicly funded early care and education programs in Manatee County.

In January 2005, with the enactment of HB1A, the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program, the scope and responsibilities of the Coalition were expanded. The Coalition made the transition from the procedures and philosophy of the Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Office of Early Learning.

The Coalition, now known as the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, has, in the years since its creation, continued to mature and evolve in many aspects: organization, fiscal management, visibility, and strength and involvement of board members.

## Letter from the Chair

This has been a year of transition for the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County. Not only did we implement all provisions of HB1A, including both the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program and required changes in composition of the Board, but we also undertook a strategic planning process to define our mission and goals.

Ongoing review of contracted expenditures resulted in the Board recognizing concerns with the existing fixed price contract model executed with our service provider. A decision was made to enter into future contracts on a cost reimbursement basis to improve the Board's ability to ensure accountability and oversight.

The Board also decided to provide innovative quality programming directly managed by Administrative staff.

VPK enrollments during the year were lower than projected, but as the fiscal year ended, new fall enrollments were already increasing.

Recognizing that the new method of contracting, as well as the management of quality projects, place additional responsibilities on coalition administrative staff, the Board approved the addition of two new staff positions. The additional staff will have the added benefit of directly providing the Board with the information needed for oversight. With the new year, the administrative staff will total six, which will be further recognition of the changes to the Coalition.

Health and safety concerns in family child care homes became a concern for the Board, which decided to explore the development of a county ordinance requiring licensing of all home providers, with the goal of passage and implementation occurring by the spring of 2007.

The Early Learning Coalition continues to look for innovative programs to improve the early learning experience of the children of Manatee County.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Brian Murphy

# Overview of Programs

During fiscal year 2005-2006, the Coalition experienced the transition to the new Board membership requirements. Three gubernatorial appointees were announced in August, and during the following months, additional private sector board members were seated on the Board. The addition of those representatives from the business community meant a learning period was required to educate a young board on early care and education, the coalition's administrative staffing situation, the Coalition's funding, the relationship between the board and the contracted service provider, and all of the highly complex information required to ensure fiduciary and program oversight.

During the course of the year, as a result of the addition of the business representation, there was increased accountability regarding funds and program outcomes. It was decided that a strategic planning process would benefit the organization. Board members as well as community partners and recipients of child care services were part of the visioning process. In addition to developing priorities and goals for the Board, the strategic planning development meetings provided the added benefit of serving as an ongoing training mechanism for the board.

The Board of Directors and collaborating community partners met monthly to implement the approved operating plan. New Board committees were established.

As the Board looked at service delivery, it was decided that offering new quality projects to enhance early learning would be a good use of available funding. As a result, funding in the amount of \$100,000 for three programs new to the Coalition was approved. The programs were implemented in January, and as a result of the short time frame remaining in the fiscal year, a total of \$70,000 of the allocation was expended. The programs were deemed to be successful, with the decision made to continue funding in the next fiscal year. The approved quality initiatives were:

- ▶ WAGE\$ Florida: The Coalition began offering education-based salary supplements to child care teachers in programs receiving school readiness funding.
- ▶ Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Through this program, children ages birth through 5 receive a new book each month, with the goal of encouraging reading and literacy within the family. The book is sent directly to the child, in his or her home. The Manatee Coalition is the only early learning coalition in Florida to fund this program and is offering the program to children born since July 1, 2005.
- ▶ Born Learning Campaign: The program, which is under the auspices of the United Way of America and Success by 6, provides research-based educational materials designed to help parents, creating quality early learning tools for young children, assisting parents in making learning fun and taking advantage of everyday activities. The Coalition purchased materials in both English and Spanish.

The Coalition collaborated with many community agencies and sites to present and distribute the Imagination Library and Born Learning programs and materials. The effort not only expanded the emphasis on Quality in the community, but it also enhanced the Coalition's intent to further the existing collaborative relationships in the community, which remains a primary focus of the Coalition.

During the year, all requirements were met. The Cost Allocation Plan was submitted and approved, new Articles of Incorporation were filed, changing the Coalition's name to the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, an amendment to the Coalition's Plan for the bylaws and board membership was submitted and approved, the VPK Plan addendum was submitted and approved, and the Coalition Plan for the period 2006-2009 was submitted in April, 2006.

A new Coalition web site was developed.

The Coalition executed a contract with one sub-recipient, Manatee Opportunity Council - Resource Connection for Kids (RC4K) in fiscal year 2005-2006 in the amounts of \$ 9,730,433 for School Readiness and \$5,890,800 for VPK Services. The School Readiness contract included nine (9) general areas including subsidized childcare, childcare purchasing pool, non-direct program support, eligibility and enrollment services, quality assurance, Project Safety Net, infant and toddler services, childcare resource and referral services and inclusion services. In addition, the contract included an attachment addressing the Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program and contractual requirements. In accordance with the approved Coalition Plan, the service provider's agreement with local early education and care providers required that school readiness programs were to include:

- Research-based school readiness activities and instruction
- Developmentally appropriate curricula
- Early literacy programs
- Character development programs
- Healthy and safe environments
- Appropriate staff-to-child ratios
- Personnel with required qualifications
- Parent support services

Coalition monitoring of RC4K for school readiness was completed in phases during the year. Administrative and fiscal monitoring occurred in January and February, 2006 and program monitoring occurred in March 2006. An array of monthly and quarterly reports provided by the subcontractor and used in conjunction with the Coalition Plan provided a vehicle for the Board to review and monitor in detail performance objectives and outcome measures, noting strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of service delivery: resource and referral, wait list, enrollment, parent co pay, and quality initiatives. These monitorings revealed no substantial findings requiring significant corrective action, but were very helpful in assessing policies and procedures, and led to changes in contract provisions for the new fiscal year.

The central agency secured \$720,667 in local match dollars in fiscal year 2005-2006 from the United Way of Manatee County, Manatee County Government General Revenue, and Manatee County Government Children's Services. Manatee County Government Children's Services also provided \$350,000 to match the Child Care Purchasing Pool Program.

The Coalition continued its relationship with Fontana CPAs for bookkeeping services during the year.

In July 2005, the Coalition's audit plan was accepted by the Inspector General's office. The audit was completed in January 2006 and revealed no material weaknesses or findings of non-compliance.

As the Board examined existing staffing in the Coalition administrative office, it recognized that the existing structure did not meet the growing operational demands. As a result, the Board approved two new positions, a Finance Manager and an Outreach and Quality Initiatives Coordinator. Interviewing for successful candidates began in June.

### *Voluntary Prekindergarten Services*

Activities focused on implementation continued in July 2005, with round ups and provider meetings. VPK services began successfully in Manatee County on August 8, 2005. The Coalition added a new staff member, a Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Specialist, on August 8, 2005. Her presence enhanced the successful beginning of the program. During 2005-2006, 77 providers, including the Manatee County School Board, faith-based, family child care, and private centers, participated in the program. Regularly scheduled provider meetings were held to assist them in understanding the requirements of the new program. A provider handbook was developed by Coalition staff.

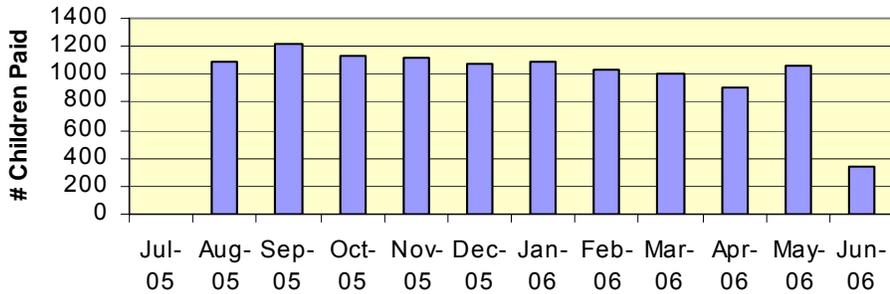
Enrollment fell short of the State projection, with 1282 children enrolled during the academic year and 277 enrolled during the summer session, for a total enrollment of 1559 for the fiscal year. The lower than expected enrollment presented a challenge, resulting in severely limited funds being available to support the administrative requirements of the program.

The support of Department of Education Regional VPK Facilitator was instrumental in making VPK implementation successful, and she continued to serve as a resource of support to the Coalition during the entire year, delivering Performance Standards training and ensuring that the VPK Specialist had current and accurate information from the Department of Education.

Through the use of two Outreach and Public Awareness grants totaling \$20,000, efforts were made to market the VPK program in the community. 6455 post cards were sent to all households in the county with 4 year old children; posters developed in English and Spanish and placed in 63 sites in the county, including libraries, health clinics, pediatricians offices, community agencies, and Chamber of Commerce sites. The program was also marketed via newspaper ads.

# Voluntary Pre - K Statistics

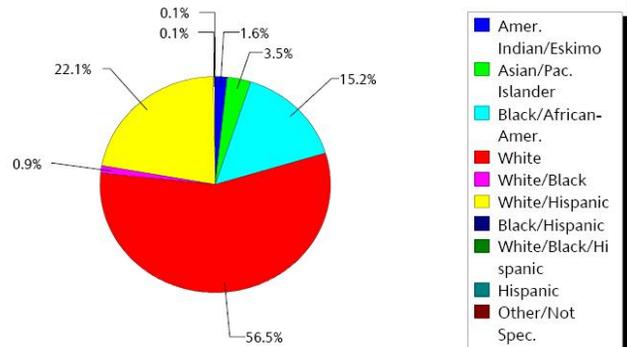
VPK Enrollment by Month



Ethnicity Counts

American Indian / Eskimo: 26  
 Asian / Pacific Islander: 55  
 Black / African-American: 240  
 White / Caucasian: 892  
 White / Black: 15  
 White / Hispanic: 349  
 Black / Hispanic: 2  
 White / Black / Hispanic: 0  
 Hispanic: 1  
 Other / Not Specified: 0

Ethnicities Served



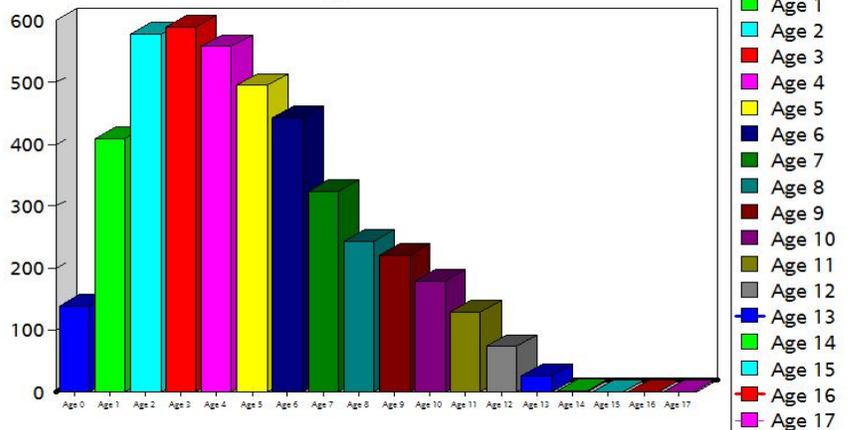
## School Readiness/Childcare Services

Resource Connection for Kids provided school readiness/childcare services to eligible children between the ages of birth through twelve years of age, and special needs children between the ages of birth through seventeen years of age. At the end of the contract year ended the Coalition had served a total of 4,441 children. The percentage of total enrollment by age was: 3% infants, 9% toddlers, 13% 2 year olds, 37% preschoolers, 37% school age and 1% special needs children (13-17 years old).

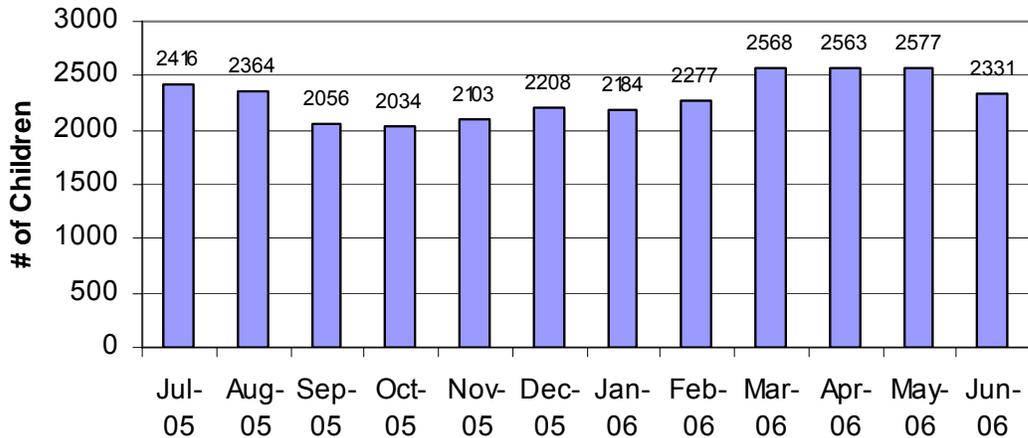
Child Age Counts

Age 0: 139      Age 10: 179  
 Age 1: 409      Age 11: 129  
 Age 2: 578      Age 12: 74  
 Age 3: 590      Special Needs  
 Age 4: 558      Age 13: 26  
 Age 5: 495      Age 14: 2  
 Age 6: 443      Age 15: 1  
 Age 7: 324      Age 16: 0  
 Age 8: 243      Age 17: 0  
 Age 9: 221

Ages Served



### Total Enrollment by Month



### Provider Agreements

Resource Connection for Kids entered into Purchase of Service Agreements with 36 child care providers and Voucher Certificate Agreements with 159 child care providers. The agreements were entered into with providers meeting one of the following criteria:

- Licensed child care center or family child care home
- Registered family child care home
- Licensed exempt child care centers including faith-based providers
- Public schools with school readiness classrooms

The average number of families accessing services each month through a child care provider with a Purchase of Service Agreement exceeded those accessing services through a child care provider with a Voucher Certificate Agreement.

Provider Type	# of Providers	Average # of Children	Average # of children by Provider
POS Provider	36	974	27
Voucher Provider	159	1,333	8.4

A total of twenty (20) child care providers received a gold seal rate for school readiness services. Eleven (11) providers entered into a Purchase of Service Agreement with Resource Connection for Kids, and nine (9) providers used a Voucher Certificate for payment. All gold seal providers were child care centers or public school sites.

School readiness services were most frequently delivered in licensed child care centers. Informal care was the least used delivery system selected by families.

Provider Type	Average # Children per month
Child Care Center	2,141
Family Child Care Home	159

## Childcare Resource and Referral and Single Point of Entry

Resource Connection for Kids is the single point of entry for families seeking preschool services in Manatee County. Families contacted the child care resource and referral program by phone, walked-in, connected through the statewide SPW website or the RC4K website, to set up an office appointment. Information was obtained from the family to determine their need for services. Parent counselors were available to educate families on available programs including those that provide financial assistance for child care.

Families received information about all early childhood services in the community including scholarships available through the Coalition. In addition, written information was provided on topics such as quality indicators, checklist for quality, access to child care program licensing files and other items that supported the family as they made their child care decisions. Families seeking financial assistance were placed on a central waiting list which was shared with other early childhood programs in the community.

Through the use of the single point of entry, all community resources were considered as families were assisted with their child care needs, increasing the availability of support and eliminating the duplication of efforts by community organizations.

During the contract period the following services were provided to families:

- ✚ 1,258 families requested and received child care CCRR services;
- ✚ 39 new providers were added to the database including 11 registered family child care homes, 7 licensed family child care homes, 16 licensed child care centers, 2 licensed exempt child care centers and 3 licensed exempt school-age only programs;
- ✚ 100% of all providers were updated in the CCRR database; and
- ✚ 19.7% of families receiving CCRR services responded to a follow-up survey administered by staff with 100% stating satisfaction with the services.

Child Care Providers and Actual Child Capacity (June 2006)

Type of Provider	# Providers	Actual Capacity
Family Child Care –Registered	71	494
Family Child Care—Licensed	26	219
Licensed Exempt Child Care Center	17	1,879
Licensed Child Care Center	87	7,106
Licensed School-age only	11	1,737
Licensed Exempt School-age only	33	4,568
School Based School Readiness	15	186
Head Start	9	620
Total	269	16,809

## Eligibility and Enrollment Services

Resource Connection for Kids provided eligibility and enrollment services to families on a daily basis, during routine office hours with families accessing services as a walk in or by appointment. The Childcare Resource Specialists provided both resource & referral and eligibility & enrollment services as needed. During the fiscal year, the staff determined eligibility, enrolled or re-certified families for a total of 6,285 children. Re-certification occurs at a minimum every six months or more frequently based on changes to family size, employment or school, marital status, or other factors affecting income. During the contract year 1,642 families reported an income change.

General Statistics	
Enrollment/Re-enrollment	4,230
Recertification	2,045
Families requesting transfer	1,054
Miscellaneous family updates	2,714
Families signed in for service	11,903
Families seen for service	11,459

Childcare Monthly Enrollment by Category												
Billing Group	July 05	Aug. 05	Sept. 05	Oct. 05	Nov. 05	Dec. 05	Jan. 06	Feb. 06	March 06	April 06	May 06	June 06
BG3W	35	53	36	30	31	20	17	16	23	37	22	19
BG5	235	244	240	238	256	266	276	299	281	251	279	258
BG3R	9	9	10	10	10	10	5	7	7	6	6	7
BG3T	18	19	28	38	40	28	34	21	24	33	35	36
BG3	84	102	111	95	121	108	93	89	73	77	85	107
BG8	1611	1396	1216	1210	1273	1378	1384	1382	1680	1711	1778	1542
BG8OP	0	2	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	2	0
CCPP	185	200	188	178	170	164	151	146	171	168	147	201
BG1	197	202	193	192	197	203	201	191	199	200	223	198

BG1 - At Risk Eligibility      BG3W - Welfare Transition Working      BG5 - Transitional      BG3R - TANF At-Risk (Relative)  
 BG3T - Welfare Transition Diversion      BG3 - Welfare Transition (Non-working)      BG8- Working Poor  
 CCPP - Child Care Purchasing Pool

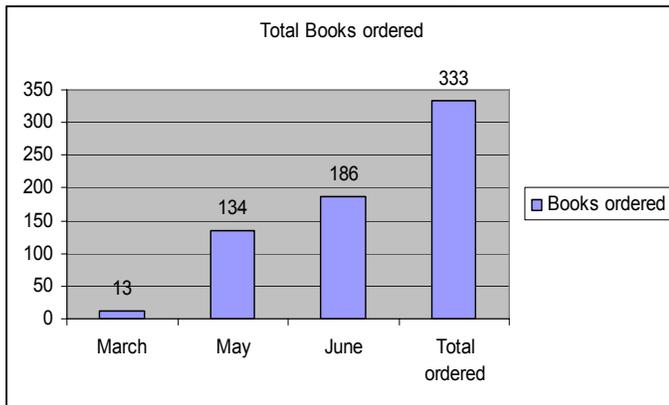
Families received information and assistance in accessing developmental screening services, Healthy Kids health insurance, health screenings (vision, hearing, speech, and mental health), crisis intervention services and the Whole Child Project Manatee profile.

# Coalition Quality Initiatives Overview

## Directly Managed Quality Initiative Services

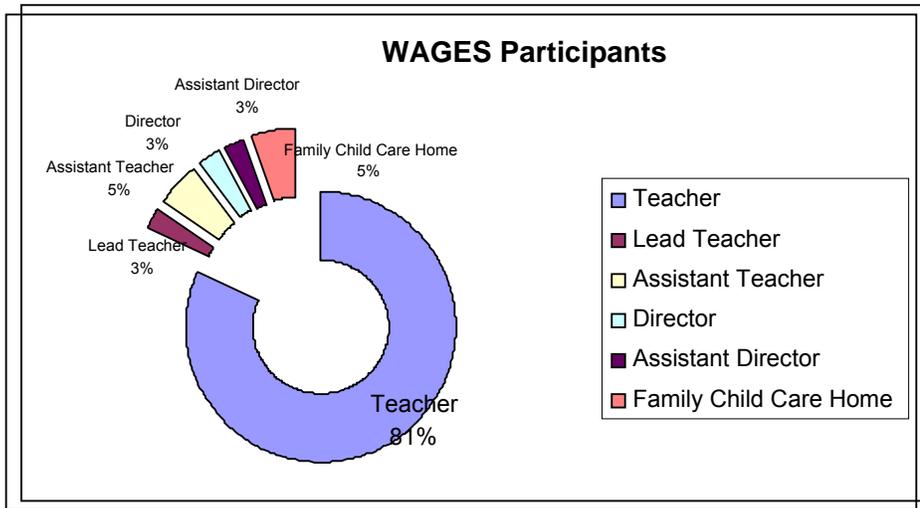
In addition to other changes to Coalition operations during the fiscal year, for the first time in the Coalition's history, the Board voted to initiate several Quality Initiative projects to be managed directly by the Coalition Administration office. In January 2006, the Board approved the allocation of additional funding to Quality and approved three programs new to Manatee County.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:** This is a national program that is active in 3 communities in Florida, but the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee is the first Coalition to fund the program. This program allows children from birth to age 5 to receive a new book each month, sent in their names directly to their home, to encourage reading and literacy within the family. The Board determined that the program would be offered to newborns born after July 1, 2005. Coalition staff presented the program to many sites and agencies in the County that work directly with the eligible population including: local hospitals, Healthy Start, Healthy Families, Early Intervention Program, Resource Connection for Kids, local parenting and other social service programs. A total of 17 agencies received information. Program information was also posted on the *What's Happening Manatee* web site. At the conclusion of the fiscal year, 210 children were enrolled in the program. The Coalition expended \$5,022.71 for the Imagination Library.



**WAGE\$ FLORIDA:** This program is focused toward child care teachers and encourages them to continue their education. It provides education-based salary supplements to low-paid child care teachers / instructors in programs receiving school readiness funding as they obtain further education and remain employed at the same center. Currently, Manatee is one of five Coalitions funding this program. At the conclusion of the year, there were 38 teachers enrolled in the program, and there was a waiting list of 18. The Coalition expended \$19,192.00 in the WAGE\$ Florida Program.

WAGE\$ Participation	
Number enrolled	38
# received supplement	30
Centers Participating	13



**The Born Learning Campaign:** This program provided material designed to help parents create quality early learning for their young children. Materials purchased provided research based tools and tips in the context of early learning, to assist parents in making learning fun and take advantage of everyday activities. Materials were purchased both in English and Spanish. Coalition staff presented the program and distributed materials to many sites and agencies in the County that work directly with the eligible population including: local hospitals, Manatee Children's Services, Resource Connection for Kids, Healthy Start, Healthy Families and local parenting programs. The Coalition expended \$10,285.15 for the Born Learning Campaign.

**Contracted Quality Initiative Services**

**Behavioral Training Services**

- 44 Centers/Homes participated in the training service
- 377 children participated
- 1 parent training activity was conducted
- 11 parents attended training

**Early Literacy Services**

- 40 classroom participated in the early literacy program
- 3008 children participated in the program
- 256 classroom visits/training provided

**Caring for Kids/Library Services**

- 288 family child care homes were visited
- 564 child care centers were visited
- 164 persons visited the resource library onsite
- 1835 curriculum packets were distributed

- 11 training activities were conducted
- 6 child care provider recruitment activities were conducted
- 51 unduplicated adults participated in the Morning of Music and Literacy program
- 148 unduplicated children participated in the Morning of Music and Literacy program

### **Infant and Toddler Services**

- 16 training hours provided
- 97 technical assistance visits conducted
- 13 recruitment visits conducted
- 52 provider infant and toddler assessments were conducted
- 180 on-site visits were conducted
- 18 articles for the curriculum packets were developed
- 10 community outreach meetings were attended

### **School Readiness Resource Specialist – Manatee County School District**

- 18 classrooms received on-going mentoring services
- 15 trainings were provided
- 393 on site visits were conducted

### **Inclusion Services**

- 353 training contacts were made
- 703 technical assistance contacts were conducted
- 41 Early childhood professionals participated in the Second step trainings.

### ***Project Safety Net Services***

Families that entered into the subsidized childcare system through protective services were provided an opportunity to meet with a Parent Support Specialist to work out any barrier to childcare that may exist for the family. During the contract year, the Parent Support Specialist met in person or by phone with 42 families and provided 117 referrals for services. Fifty five families declined services. Transportation through bus passes was available if needed for the child to access early learning services. During the contract year, 3 bus passes were provided. Project Safety Net services were offered to families upon enrollment, re-certification or when making any changes to their eligibility information.

### ***School Readiness Performance Data***

The most recent data received from the Department of Education for the DIBELS kindergarten screening revealed that 3,013 children in Manatee County were tested. They were scored in the moderate risk level for initial sounds and high risk for letter naming fluency.

**New Parent Packs**

Through collaboration between local hospitals, the Early Learning Coalition and the Coalition's service provider, Resource Connection for Kids, packets of information on early learning resources and services were distributed to parents of newborn children. The packets included a variety of information on early literacy and the parent's role in supporting the development of pre-reading skills, a developmental screening to be completed at four months and then on-going for the first 60 months with a report with resources for the family to support the child's next stage of development, immunization information, information on locating and choosing child care and family support services. The Coalition purchased board books appropriate for infants and included a brochure for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in each book. All families went home with a bag of resources and the statement, "Every hug, every lullaby, every kiss, every peek-a-boo, every word, every touch, every giggle, every smile, everything you do in the first three years becomes a part of me."

## Coalition Analysis

The Coalition was represented in a wide range of community organizations and collaborative activities, including the Parenting Education Coalition, the Whole Child Project Manatee, and Infant and Young Child Mental Health Task Force, the Children's Summit, Early Steps, and Children's Day.

By engaging community partners into the Strategic Planning Initiative, the Coalition furthered coordination with other agencies, including the Family Partnership Center, Manatee Glens, and Manatee Children's Services. Their representation provided those agencies with increased understanding of the Coalition's mission.

Additionally, through the service provider, there was coordination with other community services, including the Healthy Start Coalition, the CEO Roundtable, the Teen pregnancy Task Force, and the Safe Kids Coalition that complemented the Coalition's Quality Initiative WAGE\$ Program. The coalition service provider established an annual training calendar that identified a variety of training opportunities available to School Readiness providers. The trainings were designed to provide in-service opportunities to child care teachers to meet their annual training requirements and to support the training activities of other training organizations in the community. Other community, state and national training opportunities were forwarded to providers.

A variety of educational opportunities were available providing continuing education units (CEU's) through the coalition service provider such as Beyond Centers and Circle Time, Beyond Cribs and Rattles, Beyond ABS's and 123's, Beyond Disabilities and Diagnoses, and HeadsUp! Reading. Other community providers who offer CEU training include the Department of Children and Families child care training unit, Manatee Technical Institute, Nova Southeastern University and Manatee Community College. The CEU's support the required training requirements for CDA and CDAE credentials and renewals.

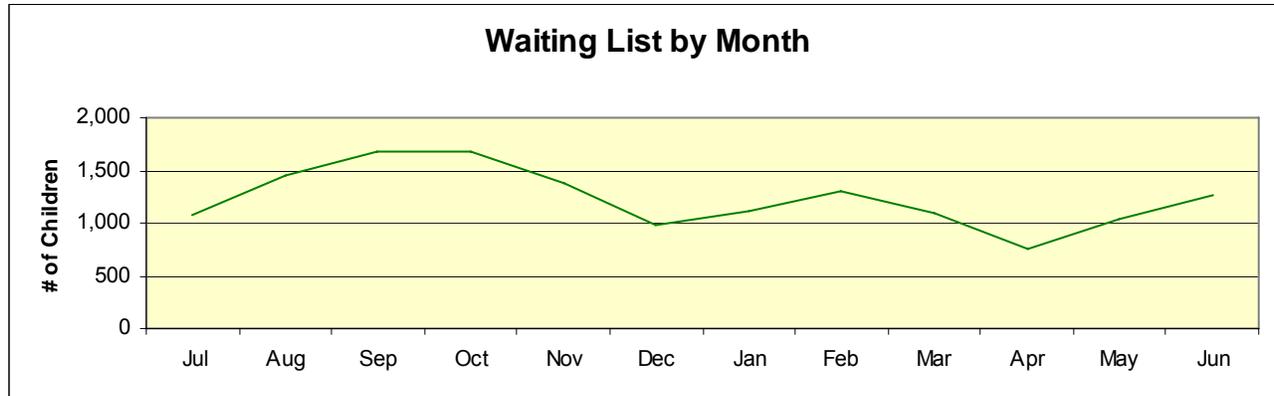
A bi-county early childhood conference was conducted and included a variety of local community organizations in the planning and implementation process. These organizations included the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc, Resource Connection for Kids, Manatee County Head Start and Early Head Start, Manatee County School District, Sarasota County School District, Sarasota Child Care Connection and Children First.

During the fiscal year, the Coalition's Finance Committee met regularly, receiving reports from both staff and the service provider. That ongoing fiscal monitoring resulted in strong accountability regarding expenditures. Underutilized administrative school readiness funds were reallocated to the service provider for direct services. The Coalition faced no projected deficit in school readiness funding during the year; no consideration of dis-enrollment or re-prioritizing of children to be served was necessary.

VPK administrative funding was of significant concern during the year, and the Coalition did exceed the 5% administrative threshold by .66%.

## Waiting List for Childcare Subsidies

An income eligible waiting list for child care subsidies existed throughout the entire contract year although placement from the waiting list continued for eleven months ending in June 2006.



## Child Placement from the Waiting List

581 income eligible children were placed from the waiting list in 05-06.

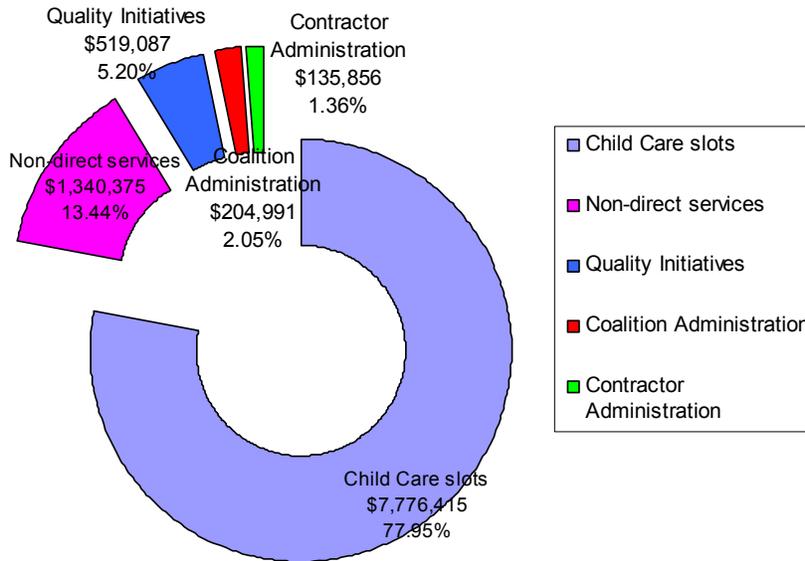
## Fiscal Information 2005 - 2006

On July 1, 2005, the Manatee County Local School Readiness Coalition, Inc. received a grant award in the amount of \$9,976,724 for School Readiness and \$ 5,973,000 for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program from the Agency for Workforce Innovation/ Office of Early Learning.

The Coalition executed an agreement with one sub recipient, Resource Connection for Kids in the amount of \$9,730,433 for School Readiness Services. The budget to manage school readiness administration of the Coalition was held to \$204,991 or 2.05%.

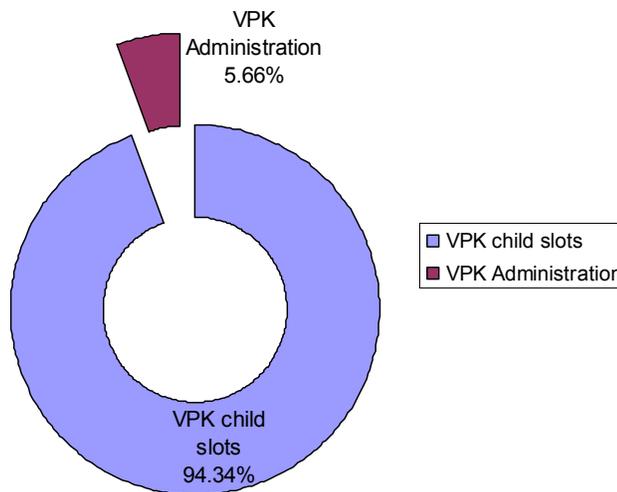
As a result of diligent review of utilization throughout the year to ensure that neither a surplus or deficit situation would occur, no preventive measures or local policy changes were needed. As noted in the chart below, Coalition expenditures for the year matched the budget, with neither a surplus nor deficit occurring.

**Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006  
School Readiness  
Total Budget \$9,976,724  
Total Expenses \$9,976,724**



The Coalition executed an agreement with one sub recipient, Resource Connection for Kids in the amount of \$5,890,800 for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Services. The grant agreement was based on the state's projected enrollment. As a result of actual enrollment, the Coalition exceeded the 5% threshold for administrative services. A total of \$171,554 was expended in administrative services, with \$40,189 spent in Enrollment services, \$21,293 in Monitoring services and \$110,072 in Administration. The total expended in child care slots was \$2,859,923. The total VPK expenses were \$3,031,477.

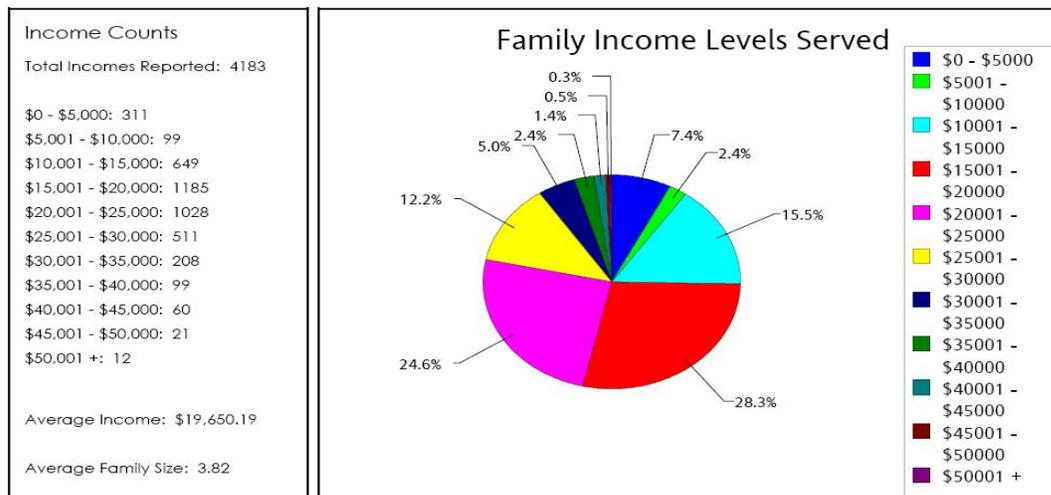
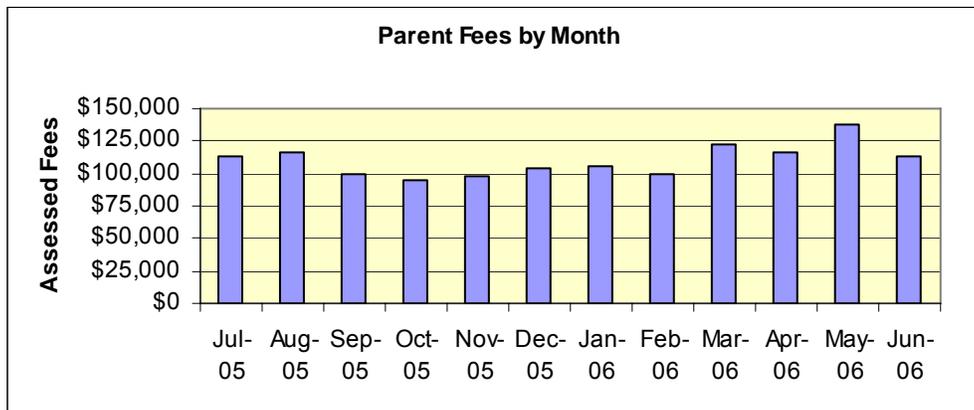
**Fiscal Year 2005-2006  
Voluntary Pre - Kindergarten  
Total Expenses \$3,031,477**



## Parent Co-payment

Families receiving school readiness services are assessed a co-payment at the time of enrollment, re-certification or other changes to income and/or family size. The co-payment is paid directly to the childcare provider with the balance of the daily expense paid by Resource Connection for Kids directly to the provider.

A total of \$1,340,073 was assessed for the period July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. The 2005-2006 assessed fees represents 11.4% of all funding available for school readiness services including all federal, state and local sources.



## Parent Fees Facts and Figures

- The average annual fee paid by a parent for one child in care during the contract year was \$ 356.47.
- The average daily fee paid by a parent for one child in care during the contract year was \$ 2.80.
- The average number of days paid by a parent for one child in care during the contract year was 127.1.
- Of the total parent fees assessed, 90.3% were paid by parents receiving subsidies through the school readiness funding and 9.7% from the child care purchasing pool funding.

**Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc  
Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2006**

	<u>Jun 30, 06</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 · Checking Acct - Gold Bank	385,372.61
1001 · Checking Acct - Wachovia	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	385,472.61
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1500 · Accounts receivable	<u>1,004,462.07</u>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	1,004,462.07
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1550 · Prepaid assets	<u>6,096.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>6,096.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	1,396,030.68
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1600 · Fixed Assets	5,449.57
1601 · Accumulated depreciation	<u>-3,472.04</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>1,977.53</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>1,398,008.21</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
2000 · Accounts payable	<u>940,166.85</u>
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	940,166.85
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2005 · Advance payable to OEL-VPK	335,937.32
2003 · Interest payable	1,457.89
2002 · Advance payable to OEL - SR	12,848.08
2004 · Deferred revenue	<u>18,608.02</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>368,851.31</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,309,018.16</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,309,018.16
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 · Opening balance net assets	84,322.15
3100 · Retained earnings	2,621.38
Net Income	<u>2,046.52</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>88,990.05</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>1,398,008.21</u></u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>1,398,008.21</u></u>

**Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.  
Profit & Loss by Class  
July 2005 through June 2006**

	Service	Coalition				TOTAL
	Provider	Administration	Unfunded	VPK	VPK O&A	
<b>Income</b>						
4005 - VPK	-	-	-	3,031,476.92	17,092.65	3,048,569.57
4004 - School Readiness - OEL	9,723,256.77	240,619.03	-	-	-	9,963,875.80
4006 - Donations	-	-	50.00	-	-	50.00
4500 - Interest income	-	1,996.52	-	-	-	1,996.52
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,723,256.77</b>	<b>242,615.55</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>3,031,476.92</b>	<b>17,092.65</b>	<b>13,014,491.89</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>Direct Svcs-Child care slots</b>						
97GSD - Gold Seal Rate Bonus	85,793.34	-	-	-	-	85,793.34
97P00 - Working Poor	5,079,230.80	-	-	-	-	5,079,230.80
97R00 - At risk abuse & neglect	818,727.85	-	-	-	-	818,727.85
97G00 - Working TANF recipients	1,040,471.99	-	-	-	-	1,040,471.99
97GNW - Non-working TANF recip	433,720.91	-	-	-	-	433,720.91
97PP0 - Purchasing Pool (CCEP)	300,170.41	-	-	-	-	300,170.41
97COO - One parent working	3,599.08	-	-	-	-	3,599.08
89J00 - Project safety net	24,040.10	-	-	-	-	24,040.10
<b>Total Direct Svcs-Child care slots</b>	<b>7,785,754.48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,785,754.48</b>
<b>Non-direct / CA Adm services</b>						
97BBA - Administration	145,159.08	206,119.17	-	-	-	351,278.25
97 PPD - Admn & Prgrm mgmt PPO	37,677.00	-	-	-	-	37,677.00
97BBD - Admin & Program Mgmt	860,950.13	-	-	-	-	860,950.13
97BDE - Eligibility Determinatn	170,332.83	-	-	-	-	170,332.83
97QI4 - Resource and Referral	151,068.33	-	-	-	-	151,068.33
97QIN - Inclusion Services	45,663.32	-	-	-	-	45,663.32
97INT - Infant and Toddlers	58,688.27	-	-	-	-	58,688.27
<b>Total Non-direct / CA Adm services</b>	<b>1,469,538.96</b>	<b>206,119.17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,675,658.13</b>
<b>VPK</b>						
VPK - Outreach & awareness	-	-	-	-	17,092.65	17,092.65
VPKADM - VPK Admin	-	-	-	110,072.59	-	110,072.59
VPKENR - Enrollment	-	-	-	40,189.26	-	40,189.26
VPMON - Monitoring	-	-	-	21,292.57	-	21,292.57

VPPRP - Prepayment	-	-	-	-	-	-
VPPRS - Payment slots	-	-	-	2,859,922.50	-	2,859,922.50
<b>Total VPK</b>	-	-	-	3,031,476.92	17,092.65	3,048,569.57
<b>Quality Initiatives</b>						
97Q00 - Quality Initiatives	467,963.33	34,499.86	-	-	-	502,463.19
<b>Total Quality Initiatives</b>	467,963.33	34,499.86	-	-	-	502,463.19
<b>Total Expense</b>	9,723,256.77	240,619.03	-	3,031,476.92	17,092.65	13,012,445.37
	-	<b>1,996.52</b>	<b>50.00</b>	-	-	<b>2,046.52</b>

## Program Summary

The 2005-2006 fiscal year brought changes to the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee: new board members, a new service program, a strategic planning initiative, and VPK and Quality services being delivered directly by the Administrative office. These changes were exciting and the challenges were met successfully, perhaps laying the groundwork for more changes in the future.

The new board members have brought new vitality and a strong business sense to the board. The VPK program, despite the enrollment being lower than expected, has been a success. Through direct involvement of staff as well as ongoing meetings, providers are eager to participate in the program. Even before the year ended in June, parents started enrolling children for the fall, clearly an indication that outreach efforts have been successful and that parents see the benefit of early education.

For the first time, the Coalition entered into a strategic planning process, which engaged not only the Board, but members of the community. Frank and extensive discussion addressed the Coalition's mission, history, priorities, and goals, and from the process, the board has renewed energy and a sense of purpose as it looks to the future.

The new quality initiative projects managed at the administrative level complement the quality services contracted to the service provider. The new projects are clearly a success, as measured by response from applicants or feedback from the community. Within just a few months, 210 children had been enrolled in the Imagination Library, 38 teachers were enrolled in the WAGE\$ Florida program, and agencies frequently contacted the coalition office requesting more Born Learning materials. Community partners recognize the role and leadership of the coalition in the community.

### *2005 – 2006 Success Stories*

#### **Provider Success**

A VPK provider who has completed the performance standards training has incorporated the standards into her lesson plans. As the Director and also one of the Lead VPK teachers, she has recognized the importance of the standards. Not only has she written each applicable standard onto her actual lesson plans, she also incorporated them throughout her daily activities.

#### **Family Success**

E. G., a low-income single mom with two children completed Manatee Community College with a two year degree in nursing. She received assistance with child care during her college career as she worked part time and attended nursing classes. She is no longer eligible for services as her new employment increased her income well above the threshold for financial support.

Bill, a resident of Parrish, moved into town and was unable to locate child care services for his daughter. He contacted CCR&R and received information and referrals which resulted in a great placement for his child. He recently requested to volunteer at RC4K through his employer's United Way Day of Giving program. He asked to personally meet the CCR&R worker and relayed his appreciation for the wonderful service she provided to his family.

### **Quality Initiatives Success**

The Family Partnership Center has incorporated Born Learning materials and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library registration information into all of their preschool parenting programs. This included two home visitation programs as well as five weekly Preschool Parent/Child play groups and Teen Age Parenting Program classes at Harlee Middle School, the Community High School and three other local High Schools. Both the parents and the Parenting Educators have found great value in these programs' materials and services.