



# Duval Directors Network

## Our Beginnings

The Duval Directors Network was developed two years ago out of the heart of a few directors who sought to connect and improve the quality and communication among other directors in Duval County. This collaborative effort has been very successful for Duval County directors and the Early Learning Coalition of Duval. In the beginning we made sure the lines of communication were open. We held strategic planning meetings and continually touched base with each other to iron out the difficulties. Was it difficult? Yes! Did it work? Yes! Was it worth the extra time and effort? Very much so!!!! Because of our collaboration we were and are able to offer opportunities to other directors that we could not offer before. Because of your sacrifices of time, space and money we have seen lives changed. But more important, we have seen center directors change and we have seen a renewed sense of desire to improve the centers in which they serve. They also have a desire to work cooperatively with other directors. This in turn has had a strong spiraling effect and we are seeing the quality of child care in Duval change. Lives of children are being changed for the better because of you. For this I am eternally grateful. It is such a joy to know that together we can make a difference and be a voice and a safe place for all center directors in Duval. Thank you for believing in the dream of a Directors Network...it has truly been great and I look forward to our planning for the future. It will be so bright we will all have to wear shades!!!!!!

**Darlene Gore**