



Character Development Information for School Readiness Providers

Character Education Rationale:

School Readiness Statute 411.01(5)(c)2b requires that early learning coalitions must implement a comprehensive program of school readiness services that enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of children to achieve the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. At a minimum, the programs must contain a character development program to develop basic values.

The coalition will implement the following plan to meet the requirements of the S. 411.01(5)(c)2b:

1. A character development plan will be presented and approved by the board in December 2009.
2. The plan includes having the coalition to provide training on what character development is, information on criteria of a comprehensive character development component, and a list of resources that providers can purchase on character development.
3. If a provider chooses not to attend the character development training, resource information mentioned in the training will be available on the ELC of Duval website.
4. The training by the coalition will occur between February and May. The training will be three-hours and a total of .3 CEUs will be awarded after completion of the training.
5. Providers will document how a character development component is embedded within the curriculum they are currently using.
6. The coalition will begin monitoring in August 2010 the use of the character development component in 100 school readiness child care centers.
7. The 2010-11 provider agreement will be amended to address the character development component.

Criteria for Character Development

- Caregivers are trained in relationship-based care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- Intentional, proactive and effective approaches to character developments are prevalent in all activities.
- Children are given multiple opportunities to see how their behavior, actions and words affect others to think about ways to solve problems.
- Engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort.
- Respects the uniqueness of each family's composition, cultures and values as they engage them in shared activities to promote character-building.
- Encourages resiliency which enables children to cope with daily stress factors in a positive way.
- Provides children with activities that encourage working together, sharing, cooperation and language that expresses feelings.

How to Document or Show Evidence

- Written lesson plans that highlight character education traits
- Written daily schedule that highlight character education traits
- Individualized student checklists that reflect goals and progress in character trait development
- Written documentation (parent conferences, daily reports, weekly reports) that documents character trait development
- Center newsletters or calendar that highlight character education trait(s)
- Parent/community bulletin boards that highlight character education trait(s)
- Center website that highlight character education trait(s)
- Character education materials located in the parent resource area which are available for use and check out
- Photos of character education activities that occur in the center

List of Websites on Character Education

www.goodcharacter.com

www.education-world.com

www.cbv.ns.ca

www.kidsource.com

www.ericdigests.org/pre-9213/cooperative.htm

<http://www.elcmdm.org/Providers/curriculum/Curriculum.html>