



## WC Connecting for Kids Newsletter

### Last of School Year Community Developmental Screenings

Oneco Elementary and Mary Simpson Strong were the sites for the last two developmental screenings for the year, which took place on March 24<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> respectively. The first screening was in November at Samoset.

The total number of children screened for the whole year was 47. Out of that number there were 21 referrals, predominantly for speech and language.

Whole Child Manatee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated, school staff, principals, volunteers and community partners, for making these series of events so successful. We look forward to working with you all in the fall.



Whole Child Screening Partners include: Angela Bokelmann, Pediatric Speech Language Therapy, Child Find/FDLRS, Community Haven for Children & Adults with Disabilities, Early Learning Coalition of Manatee, Florida KidCare, Gulf Central Early Steps Program, Hands on Manatee, Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee, Latino Women's Self Empowerment Group, Manatee County School Board, Manatee Glens, Inc., Whole Child Manatee

## *Data from Profile Questions Directing Families to Developmental Screening*

Questions	2007-2010		
	% Prob.	Prob. Resp	Total Resp
Experiencing family loss or trauma due to divorce, separation, death, domestic violence, etc.	27%	307	1107
Has concerns about the physical, emotional, social or intellectual development of his/her children under the age of 6	29%	307	1048
Has concerns about the behavior of his/her children under age 6	24%	257	1051
Has concerns about hearing for his/her children under age 6	13%	141	1071
Has concern about vision for his/her children under age 6	14%	150	1071
Does not feel his/her children are mentally, physically and emotionally ready to begin kindergarten	18%	194	1028
Has concerns about speech for his/her children under 6 years old	13%	141	1064
His/Her child does not like to be hugged and comforted.	4%	47	1052
Has concerns about balance for his/her children under age 6	5%	61	1064
Caring for a child with Special Needs	7%	84	1076
His/Her children under age 6 do not get along with other children.	4%	47	1037



### New KidCare VISTA Volunteer for Whole Child



Through Florida KidCare, the state of Florida offers low or no cost health insurance for children from birth through age 18, even if one or both parents are working. Online at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) or <http://insurekidsnow.gov>

**Whole Child Manatee** is pleased to announce the hiring of a new KidCare VISTA volunteer, Anyelle (Ellie) DeLeon. Ellie will be working closely with Whole Child to bring together a KidCare Coalition among those organizations and individuals interested in getting the word out about the benefits of this low or no cost insurance.

Ellie is a graduate of New College and will, in the future, be pursuing a degree in Family Law. Lucky for us she is interested in working with families through this project. She is fluent in French, Spanish and English.



## Parental Involvement in Early Learning Benefits Kids & Teachers



It is well established that providing children with quality early learning is essential in developing the language, cognitive, and social skills they need to succeed in school and in life. This is

why early learning teachers play a significant role in nurturing young children's growth and fostering a love of learning.

Here are some tips to help support teachers and providers in their goal to support healthy development and help kids build a solid foundation for success from FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County, California.

### Get Involved

Teachers and providers always appreciate when parents are actively involved in their kids' education.

- Talk to your children every day about their day at school and what they learned.
- Attend open houses, PTA meetings, and parent-teacher conferences to build a strong relationship with your child's teacher.

### Communicate Often

It can be challenging for busy parents to speak with teachers often, but there are other ways to maintain regular contact.

- Introduce yourself at least once in person and check in when you can through e-mail, written notes, or phone calls, depending on the teacher's preferences.
- Keep track of your children's progress, even if they are performing well. Teachers like to hear from parents and know they are engaged in their child's education.

### Read Daily

Reading aloud to your children every day helps them develop skills for school success.

- Encourage your children's interest in books by talking about stories that they like and providing books they will enjoy.
- Take time to enjoy a book yourself. Kids learn by example, so if they see you reading, they will want to read, too!



## Summer Prevention Tips

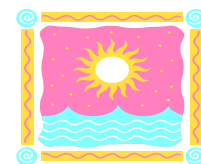
(Back by popular demand)

### Don't forget the baby!

- The inside of a car can become very hot, even on days that seem cool or overcast. NEVER leave a child in a car, even if it is sleeping or you are just running "in for a second."
- Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to make sure no child has been left behind.
- Put something you'll need like your cell phone, handbag, lunch or brief case, etc. on the floor of the back seat.

### Watch Out for Water Danger

- Swim with your child in calm water without waves, and always know where the nearest lifeguard is before getting in the water.
- Don't rely on flotation devices such as arm floaties or floating baby seats to keep children safe; they can shift position, lose air or slip out from under a child. They also give children a false sense of security.
- Never leave children unattended near water as kids can drown in just a few seconds, even if they know how to swim.



- Accidents happen more often when adults are talking and not watching. So be sure to assign each child to a specific adult who stays within arm's reach, providing "touch supervision."
- Never allow children who are not licensed lifeguards to watch your small children.
- Remember to supervise your child near bathtubs, toilets and buckets of water too.