



Kids Korner Connection

A newsletter from the Children's Division of ARC

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Fifty Years of Enriching Lives...
























A Look Back on Some of Our Most Notable Milestones

By Shawn Preston, Director of Children's Division

As we excitedly prepare for our fiftieth birthday celebration, which you will hear a lot about in upcoming months, we look back on the tremendous journey that our founders began five decades and a different world ago.

In 1956 parents of children with special needs had little or no options available nor protections and guarantees under the law. So in May of 1956, with one teacher, provided by the School Board, in a rent-free store front on Las Olas Boulevard, our founding parents, wanting more for their children, established the Broward Training Center Foundation, Inc. By March 1957, fifteen students were enrolled. This began the legacy of ARC Broward, Inc., an organization committed to creating services and supports in response the needs of our community and families.

Over the years, we have seen tremendous growth and enhancement, including:

-  1961 - Adult Sheltered Workshop opens and ARC moves into building on Federal Highway
-  1965 - the School's Name changes to Association for Retarded Children
-  1976 - Excalibur Developmental Center Preschool merges with ARC Broward
-  1981 - BARC Housing, Adult Residential Program, opens
-  1984 - Parent Training Program, Project Touch, is established
-  1986 - Capital Campaign to raise money for state of art regional center is initiated
-  1989 - Preschool expands to include children ages birth through 3
-  1989 - ARC partners with University of Miami for Genetic Research Project (which identified the gene causing Fragile X Syndrome)
-  1989 - Supported Employment Program is established
-  1991 - ARC Regional Center opens in Sunrise, FL
-  1991 - Supported Living Program is established
-  1992 - ARC Broward receives first coveted 3-year national accreditation from CARF
-  1994 - The organization changes its name from Association for Retarded Citizens to Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers to reflect more progressive and diverse mission
-  1998 - ABLÉ program opens
-  1998 - Outpatient Mental Health Center opens
-  2000 - ARC Broward's Outpatient Rehabilitation (OT, PT, Speech) Therapy Program opens
-  2001 - ARC Broward Preschool receives NAEYC Accreditation
-  2001 - Two local advocacy organizations relocate to the ARC Broward main campus: Autism Society and Gold Coast Down Syndrome
-  2001 - ARC Broward begins to offer specialized Respite Care
-  2001 - ARC Broward establishes Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, the first time in the country that this national best practice model is applied to children with special needs
-  2002 - ARC Broward establishes Kamp Krayola. Summer Enrichment Program
-  2003 - ARC Broward establishes Youth Links Advocacy and Transition Program
-  2006 - ARC Broward launches Good to Great Strategic Plan

In addition to all the above, many group homes, adult day programs, nursing services, social services, entrepreneurial programs, senior programs, transportation services, staff training programs, and much more have also opened the doors to a world of opportunity and touched so many lives! Thanks for being a part of our phenomenal endeavors!

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November 2006

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Upcoming Special Events

- ◀ Preschool Parent Leadership Committee (PLC) Meeting: December 4 @ 9:15 am
- ◀ **Toy Drive:** Help make the holidays magical by donating a new unwrapped toy for the children in our programs; Donation boxes are located in Building One Lobby

Reminder:

- ☺ November 23 and 24 Happy Thanksgiving!! (Preschool and ABLÉ closed for holiday)

Our Shining Stars Students of the Month

Congratulations to our **Students of the Month** who are among our many students who are making notable gains this month:

Preschool:

Room 134 - Rory C.
Room 135 - Zachary R.
Room 136 - Alan B.
Room 137 - Sebastien B.
Room 138 - Hunter H

ABLE:

Room 132: Jalen R.
Room 133: Eddie B.
Room 325: Craig b.
Room 306: Clay W.
Room 307: Alexander C.
Room 308: Stephanie G.

Our hats off to All our students!!!

ABLE PLC — Making Great Things Happen!

We are proud to announce the ABLE Parent Leadership Committee recently had their first meeting on 10/17/06. The PLC Committee is excited to get busy planning our up coming events as well as fundraisers. Please join us for our next PLC Committee meeting on November 14, 2006 from 5-6 p.m. in the ARC Broward Board Room. ABLE has many holiday activities as the days come quickly upon us. During the holidays, our children will learn through a variety of hands on holiday theme based activities. On November 7 2006 we will have a Cultural Art educational show by Suzy Hammer, an entertainer who promotes laughter, learning, reading and many life enrichment skills. She will visit us as Corney Sue the Scarecrow celebrating the fall season, harvest, and Thanksgiving with stories and magic. Also, on Nov. 10 2006, we will be taking a trip to Anne Kolb Nature Center to learn about nature along with an exciting boat ride.

Other upcoming events to watch for will be our community outreach project. ABLE will adopt two of their families in need for this holiday season. We plan on giving them food, clothing and other items. Also, ABLE is looking forward to our annual toy drive. Please stop by ABLE in Building 3 to make any toy or Thanksgiving donations. Stay tuned for more news about ABLE events in our future edition of Kids Korner Connection.

ABLE Student Highlight

By: Audrey O'Neil, ABLE Team Leader &
Melissa Busillo, ABLE Behavior Specialist

The ABLE program has made a tremendous difference in the life of Clay W. Clay is an eleven year old boy who is diagnosed with Autism. He was enrolled in the ABLE program in May 2003 due to his severe maladaptive behaviors such as dropping to the ground on a continual basis, climbing, and aggression. Clay typically engaged in these behaviors in order to gain social attention. Clay also dropped to the ground whenever a demand was made of him or when he was transitioning to a non-preferred activity. In addition, Clay used to refuse to participate in the activities at the ABLE program. It has been a long process; however Clay is now able to follow a one-step command. Clay has mastered the goals in his behavior program such as decreasing his dropping, climbing, and aggression. Moreover, Clay participates in the activities with his classmates. He has increased his verbal skills and now states his wants and needs. Clay is able to tell you his first and last name as well as answering some simple questions. Clay makes eye contact, initiates interactions, and responds to others as opposed to resorting to dropping, climbing, and aggression. Clay has demonstrated extraordinary progress and is very proud of himself. His parents also express their deepest gratitude and pleasure in the support he has received through the program and the tremendous accomplishments he has made.

The ABLE program is made possible by generous funding from The Children's Services Council, the United Way, the Wasie Foundation, and family contributions.

Preschool PLC - Showing off our Littlest Artists in the Biggest Ways!

The Parent Leadership Committee (PLC) is off to a wonderful start this school year. Many special fundraisers are being planned and organized through the dedicated efforts of this wonderful group of volunteer parents.

The PLC is very excited about offering the opportunity to order products made from our children's artwork. Square 1 Art makes great gifts and keepsakes out of kids artwork while boosting their self-esteem. We hope to sell tiles made of the children's art to create a beautiful tile wall in our preschool halls showcasing the wonderful creations of our children! The PLC will raise approximately 33% profit of each product purchased to use to fund special events and items for our preschoolers!

Information has been sent home with the children and is also posted in parent information areas. We hope you will support this wonderful project. Orders will be placed between 11/9 and 11/16 and submitted on 11/17/06. Thank you for supporting our program and showcasing our children's artwork!

Puzzle Play - Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Simple puzzles offer opportunities for your child to develop skills and pathways in her brain that will lay a foundation for math and language learning to come.

When playing with a commercial (store-bought) puzzle or one made from items around your home, your child is learning important thinking skills.

Your Child is learning

- That a whole is made up of parts
- To solve simple problems
- To see and feel differences in shape, size, and color.
- To match or pair objects. She will need to understand that only one puzzle piece can fit into one matching hole before she can begin to pair one number with one object (counting)
- To control the small muscles in her hands
- To be successful and complete a task

Ways to help

- Cut a cereal box or a foam placement into 2 or 3 parts for them to put together
- Ask open-ended questions such as "Where could you put this piece?"
- Point out "clues" using words such as small, bumpy, round, blue, etc.
- Offer inset puzzles with simple shapes that are purchased or made from shoebox lids and containers
- Consider gluing knobs such as thread spools, Furniture handles or game pieces. Onto flat puzzle pieces to encourage your child to use her Fingers.
- Notice when your children struggle and simplify the task by giving her puzzles with less complicated shapes or fewer pieces. Praise all efforts!

Remember, as with any new items, your child needs to explore a puzzle in many ways to learn about it. Let her dump, stack, and rearrange the pieces any way she wants to. She may need to watch you put the puzzle together a few times. Later she will be ready to try fitting pieces into the matching spaces themselves.

The PAT program is made possible by the generous funding from The Children's Services Council, the United Way, the Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund, the City of Sunrise, and family contributions.

For more information about the Parents as Teachers Program, please contact Tonya Ricker at 954-577-4106



Parent Corner - How The Parents as Teachers Program Has Impacted Our Family

By Mrs. Annete Feuss

I was asked to write about what the PAT program has meant to our family and as I sit here writing this I realize more than ever what an instrumental part of our little girl's successes can be attributed to the PAT program.

Let me tell you how we came to the PAT program. My daughter, Lexie, was 1 year old at the time and she was beginning to exhibit some of the self-abusive behaviors associated with her syndrome. She had been receiving physical therapy since she was 3 months old and had yet to get through even 10 minutes without biting herself, pulling her hair out, screaming and/or inducing vomiting. It was a nightmare. Most days I cried all the way home from therapy. Yet, every day I took her back because I knew without it, like many of the children with her syndrome, she may never be able to walk independently. So, desperate for help and afraid for her future, I found the PAT program and into our lives came Tonya, our PAT educator. She came to therapy with us and assessed Lexie. We followed her suggestions, and, amazingly, within a few weeks I saw an improvement in her behaviors: within a few months she was getting through her therapy sessions without hurting herself at all.

Tonya has now been working with our family for 3 years. She has been there every step of way, giving assistance with virtually every challenge a family like ours faces when caring for a special needs child. From finding resources, giving support and advice, teaching her new cognitive skills and even helping to teach her sign language. She would always help me find creative ways of getting Lexie to learn new things like encouraging her to make up her own signs names for family members and other people in her life. One day I asked Lexie what sign name we should give Tonya and without hesitation she signed "best friend." Well, that pretty much says it all!



Lexie

211 First Call for Help

By: Susannah Lamb, Social Service Specialist

Having a child with special needs can often make a parent feel lost and alone. Finding activities for your child to participate in can sometimes be trying, and parents wonder where they can take their children that will be the most accepting, nurturing environment. Other parents simply have questions about their son or daughters disability, but don't know whom to turn to for answers about their child's disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome and other disabilities. Now Broward County has a place to turn to with your questions: 2-1-1, the 24-hour-crisis help line, has recently added a Special Needs Program. This program, supported by the Children Services Council of Broward, is the Hotline that provides comprehensive and relevant information and referral services to its callers. The program is designed to be a gateway to the array of services for children with special needs in Broward County, operating from 8:30- 4:30 pm. Are you having trouble advocating for school rights for your child? Dial 2-1-1. Have you exhausted all your resources trying to find an aftercare that will take your child, so that you may work to make a living and care for her? Dial 2-1-1. Or, visit the 2-1-1 Broward website at <http://www.211-broward.org> and click on the blue star for the Special Needs site. The special needs representatives at 2-1-1 First Call For Help are there to help you and give you the means to fight for the rights of yourself and your child. Please use the resource for any and all questions you have regarding your child. Your child deserves it.

Congratulations!!!

Welcome Aboard to Our Newest Members:

Linda Barnard: Preschool Utility Aide/Custodian

Somalia Pierre: ABLE Behavior Associate

Yanique Prosper: Preschool Teacher's Assistant

Congratulations also to the following team member on her promotion:

Fanny Salvador: ABLE Lead Behavior Associate

And The Award Goes To...

Congratulations to the following team players who had their PRIDE cards filled, signifying demonstration of every core value. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication toward the children and for being on our team:

Donna Ruddock: Preschool Teacher's Assistant

Tina Paul: Preschool Teacher's Assistant

In addition to their gift cards and entry for a chance to win the grand prize, Donna and Tina were treated to a lunch out as appreciation for their phenomenal initiative and performance in implementing the new Play and Learn curriculum and Assistive Technology Project!

Children's Services

Preschool
ABLE After-School Program
Respite Care
Youth Links Transition Support
Behavioral Analysis
Summer 'Kamp Krayola'
'PAT' Parent Training
Rehab Therapy (OT, PT, SLP)
Mental Health Counseling

Adult Habilitation

Supported and Community Living
Community and Center Day programs
Individualized Supports
Transportation Services

Workforce Development

Community and Self Employment
Skills Development
Culinary Arts
Calypso Grill
Electronics Recycling
Landscaping Services
Vehicle Washing

Advocacy & Social Services

Nursing Services

Information and Referral

Human Services Training Solutions



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*At ARC Broward, we take **PRIDE** in all that we do...*

*"We have a **Passion** for what we do, **Respect** for all of our stakeholders, **Integrity** for how we do our jobs, a **Drive** for excellence and an **Entrepreneurial spirit**."*

