



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact

Matt Leachman, *Director of Marketing & Development*
Tel (954) 746-9400, Fax (954) 746-2954
mleachman@arcbroward.com
www.arcbroward.com

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ARC Broward Celebrates Preschool Graduation



Family Central's Vice President Howard Bakalar, left, joined Florida Senator Nan Rich, ARC Broward's President/CEO Dennis Haas, Children's Services Council of Broward member Mariza Cobb, and ARC Broward's Vice President of Programs Julie Price at the 2008 ceremony.

Sunrise, FL, June 6, 2008—Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers, Inc. (ARC Broward) celebrated the graduation of 22 children enrolled in its Early Intervention Preschool Program on June 3, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the ARC Broward Campus.

The Preschool at ARC Broward serves children with varying physical, cognitive and behavioral challenges ages 18 months to 5 years.

“This is one of the most moving experiences that I am fortunate to experience each year,” said Dennis Haas, President and CEO. “There are very few things that cause such pause and reflection as witnessing these children and their families celebrate their successes.”

Many of the children graduating from the Preschool Program will enter the public school system next year either in a Kindergarten or an ESE (Exceptional Student Education) program. The Preschool at ARC Broward eases that transition through year-round instructional curriculum and a full range of activities and therapies designed to facilitate growth for children with special needs. There are currently 75 children in the preschool program.

The Preschool Program emphasizes that the 2008 graduation ceremony is especially significant as ARC Broward is celebrating 51 years of serving the community. Established in 1956 by a handful of concerned parents, the organization has grown to provide supports and services to more than 1,200 children and adult with developmental disabilities.

The graduation ceremony highlighted the skills of the children as well as provided for an entertaining and fun event. Diplomas were awarded to the graduates and the “Class of 2008” was presented to their parents and invited guests.

“We’ve worked very hard for this moment,” said Preschool ESE Specialist Jane Moreno. “We’re so proud of them and happy to see their accomplishments, but at the same time it’s a little sad to know these children won’t be ours to love and nurture on an everyday basis.”

ARC Broward is a private, not-for-profit organization providing supports and assistance primarily to children and adults with mental retardation, autism, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other developmental disabilities. Incorporated in 1956 and celebrating 50 years serving the community, ARC Broward provides a continuum of supports to more than 1,200 children and adults with disabilities and employs a caring team of more than 450 health-care, educational, and other professionals. Visit www.arcbroward.com for additional information.



Preschool student Howard wore a cap and gown with the other graduates as he proudly walked to the event stage.