

April 2008

Partnership celebrates Week of the Young Child

The Richmond County Partnership for Children will celebrate the "Week of the Young Child" April 14-18, 2008 to recognize the needs of young children and thank educators and others involved in building better futures for all children. The Week of the Young Child is celebrated annually across the country by hundreds of local organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children. It is part of the blue ribbon campaign denoting Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Young Child.

"Early learning experiences are crucial to the growth and development of young children", said Martha Vance Brown, executive director of the Partnership. "The Week of the Young Child provides opportunities for all of us to recognize the importance of the early years, and to work together to build better futures for all children."

In celebration of the week, the Richmond County Partnership for Children has coordinated with community leaders to participate in the festivities at each of the child care facilities in the county. This includes More at Four classrooms, Head Start classrooms, and the Even Start program as well as all child care homes and centers.

There are approximately 3,500 children in Richmond

County under the age of 5. Children will have stories read to them by community leaders including Rep. Melanie Wade Goodman, Partnership chairman Wiley Mabe. Additionally, the Partnership will provide refreshments to every child at every location in the county.

The Partnership is also helping to organize "Fun Day" today at Richmond Community College coordinated by Child Care Avenues, a resource and referral agency for children in the Partnership, and the Early Childhood Education Department at RCC. Activities include games, crafts, face and hand painting. The event will be from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

In honor of the Week of the Young Child, the Richmond County Partnership for Children is sponsoring a poster contest. All children ages 4 to 6 are eligible to submit entries. This year's theme for posters is "Childhood Lasts a Lifetime". The contest begins Monday and all posters should be submitted to the Partnership office by April 25. The Partnership is providing paper supplies free for all the posters to any participant. Two winners will be selected with the announcement in early May. Each winner will receive a new bicycle.