

May 2013

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Center Manager



FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC & LEARNING RESOURCE SYSTEM - SOUTH

FDLRS-South Child Find A Year in Review 2012-13

What is FDLRS Child Find?

FDLRS Child Find is the first step in locating children who are potentially eligible for special education and linking them with needed services. FDLRS Child Find's mission is to search for children, ages birth through 21, with emphasis on children ages 3 to 5 (preschool age), who may need special education services and are not currently being served by the public school system. Through our public awareness and outreach efforts, we inform the community about our services. This year, our Child Find department has processed over 2,000 cases.

Child Find Preschool Screenings

In an effort to locate children ages 3 to 5 (preschool age) who exhibit delays in development or may have a disability, FDLRS-South Child Find staff provides pre-school screenings. Screenings are conducted in the areas of vision, hearing, speech/language, development, and behavior. Child Find has conducted 1,695 screenings, to date, for the 2012-13 fiscal year.



Collaboration with the Heiken Children's Vision Program

This year, FDLRS-South Child Find has been very fortunate to work with the Heiken Children's Vision Program through collaboration initiated by Ms. Ava Goldman, Administrative Director for the Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student Support, for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Thanks to this collaboration, children whose vision were screened by FDLRS Child Find and were found to be in need of follow-up services have been able to receive vision exams and eye glasses at no cost to families. This service was provided to families who otherwise would not have been able to address their young child's vision concerns.

Featured to the right: Mr. Oscar Godoy, Heiken Program Outreach Specialist, and Dr. Vicky Fischer, Pediatric Optometrist.



FDLRS-South Child Find Staff

The FDLRS-South Child Find Staff responds to information and referral requests, ensures case-management, conducts public awareness and community outreach, provides professional development, coordinates and conducts preschool screenings, and provides service coordination for evaluations.

If you know of a child who may benefit from a Child Find screening, please call:
Child Find Main Office: 305.274.3501
North Satellite Center: 305.626.3970
Monroe County: 305.293.1646



The Child Finders left to right: Rebeca Pacheco, Kathy Suarez Espinosa, Lilly Lorenzo-Luaces, Martha Garmendia, Martine Coustard, Mary Troup, Victor Tejera, Lori Reece

2nd Annual Social Emotional Development Awareness Day

The Social Emotional Workgroup of the Young Children with Special Needs and Disabilities Council (YCSNDC) is engaged in an interagency initiative to build the capacity of the early childhood community to support the social-emotional development of infants, toddlers, and preschool children in natural environments and inclusive pre-kindergarten (PreK) settings. The YCSNDC Social Emotional Workgroup was developed to assist in providing ongoing support to ensure that trainers are able to deliver the Pyramid Model training effectively and efficiently.

As part of this mission, the committee provided a four hour overview of the Pyramid Model at different locations throughout the community. Participants included early care and education teachers, directors and agencies' personnel. During the past 2 years, the Social Emotional Committee has provided the *Overview of the Pyramid Model* training to **795** members of our Early Childhood and Education Community in Miami-Dade County during our Social Emotional Development Awareness (SEDA) events. This group is on an exciting path to building a more responsive community around young children's social and emotional competence. This interagency collaborative is comprised of members from the Early Learning Coalition, Miami-Dade County Child Development Services, Community Action Agency Head Start, Citrus Health Network, Family Central, United Way, FDLRS-South, any many more.



Upper right: Pyramid Model: Center for the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

Lower left: City of Miami Proclamation: Proclaiming Saturday, 22, 2012 as Social Emotion Development Awareness Day



Jumpstart's Read for the Record

Imagine all children reading the same book on the same day. Well you don't have to imagine because it happens once a year and you can actually participate. FDLRS-South has participated in this early literacy celebration for the past four years. On October 4th, 2012, a total of 2,385,305 children took part in reading the *Ladybug*

Girl and the Bug Squad by David Soman.

Next school year's book is *Otis* Loren Long. Mark your calendar for October 3, 2013 and consider signing in on the Read for the Record website <http://www.jstart.org/campaigns/read-record>

To the right: Katherine S. Espinosa reading to children at the Redland Christian Migrant Association preschool. She was accompanied by Cecilia Nieto, FDLRS Parent Services (not pictured).



Monroe County

As the Child Find Specialist for all of Monroe County, Lori Reece, FDLRS-South Child Find Specialist, has the privilege of traveling up and down the Florida Keys to offer Child Find services for preschool children, parents and providers. She provides developmental screenings for children ages 3 to 5,

training and technical assistance for parents and teachers, and resources and materials for anyone who is interested. She conducted 143 screenings this school year. Some days she spends a lot of time traveling, but the view is magnificent!



Thank you, Susana Cossio, for your 22 years of service to FDLRS!

Susana Cossio retired this year after 22 years of service to FDLRS-South. She worked at FDLRS-South as a school psychologist and Child Find Specialist. During her years at FDLRS-South she spent countless hours assisting children and families. She also worked very closely with the Children's Registry and Information System Project with the University of Miami. We extend our deepest gratitude for her dedication and commitment and wish her well in her well-earned retirement.



Congratulations! Happy Retirement!

Holiday Adopt-a-Center Initiative

For the past five years, FDLRS-South Staff has adopted a community early care and education center during the holiday season. The FDLRS staff makes a special visit to provide services that represent its four functions: Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resources Development and Technology. The learning center staff received children's books to build their classroom libraries and training in the area of Early Literacy. Parents received information, guidance and resources. Children received vision, hearing, speech & language, and developmental screenings. Children also had the opportunity to explore fun educational software applications. Best of all, the children received a special surprise visit from Santa!

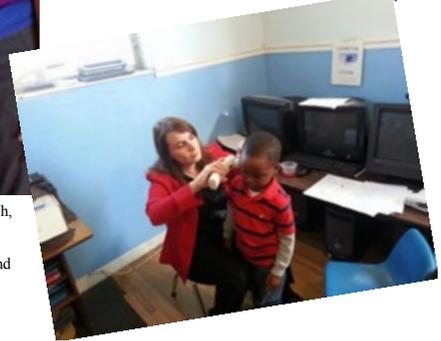
FDLRS-South reaches out and serves the community



Top left: Victor Tejera, Nd'jamena Hines, Ajayi Johnson, Deborah Karch, Cecilia Nieto.



Top right: Lilly Lorenzo-Luaces, Victor Tejera with Preschool teacher and children.



Bottom right: Kathy Suarez Espinosa with preschool child.

Holiday Book Drive

FDLRS-South Promotes Early Literacy!

FDLRS-South has collected thousands of new and used children's books throughout the years to distribute to children in underprivileged communities of Miami- Dade County. This year 1,879 children's books have been collected through the FDLRS book drive. Books have been received from schools and organizations who have adopted the concept and hold collections at their sites and then provide the books to FDLRS-South for distribution. We have also received books from numerous individual donors.

We want to thank everyone who has donated books to this worthwhile endeavor.

FDLRS is now collecting children's books all year round. If you would like to help us promote early literacy:

Please send new or gently used children's books, appropriate for children ages 3-5, to
FDLRS- S Main Office 5555 SW 93rd Ave.,
Miami, FL, 33165 Main Line: 305.274.3501

Give the Gift of Literacy for the Holidays



Annual Child Find Mail Out

Through its annual mail out, FDLRS promotes public awareness of services for children and youth who may have disabilities. This year, 600 letters explaining FDLRS services along with brochures were mailed out to pediatricians, pediatric specialists, private preschools and early care and education centers.

It is essential for the community to know that young children who may benefit from special education services may be referred to Child Find.

Additionally, over 500 letters were sent out to local private schools promoting free audiological services for students in need.

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