

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends

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For questions about child abuse, contact: tiffanys@gacfca.org or visit: www.georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org



Early Life Experiences and Its Rewards

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

As the new school year begins, we are reminded the most important goal we have as advocates of young children is to provide every child with the resources available to prepare them to enter Kindergarten ready to learn. This can be accomplished by providing high quality early learning centers which provide quality programs allowing these young children the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education has recently published a report, *The Economics of Education*, in which they stress the importance of early education in a child's life. Early education programs ensure that children will be ready to enter Kindergarten with an advantage that is necessary for future academic success.

Some key points featured in the report are:

- Children whose early years are spent in an environment that meets their basic physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs are better prepared for the school experience.”
- Parents remain the best and most consistent source of rich early learning experiences. Young children who are read to regularly by their parents develop better literacy skills, are better readers when they reach elementary school and are more likely to succeed academically.
- High-quality early education programs can benefit children at risk and help close the early achievement gap for disadvantaged students.
- The benefits of a quality preschool education extend throughout a child's life. Preschool is also linked to lower rates of delinquency and crime.

The Economics of Education report highlights the first segment of a child's education process. The complete report can be downloaded on GPEE's website: www.gpee.org

Kara Portnell
Executive Director

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News Around the Block

PREMIER ACADEMY, INC—MINNIE HOWELL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EARNS **NAEYC** REACCREDITATION



Premier Academy, Inc - Minnie Howell Child Development Center located at 399 Macedonia Road, SE, Atlanta, GA announced that it has achieved reaccreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC (NAEYC). Ms. Cindra Taylor, Executive Director, Premier Academy, Inc. received the exciting news on August 18, 2010. Reaccreditation places Premier Academy, Inc. – Minnie Howell Child Development Center among the top 8% of all child care centers nationwide. Premier Academy has been earning this distinctive status since 1996 with one of its centers located downtown while Minnie Howell received its first accreditation after operating only one year in 2005. To earn NAEYC accreditation, Minnie Howell Child Development conducted an extensive self-study, measuring the program and its services against 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. Programs must meet all required criteria; meet at least 80% of assessed criteria for each program standard and meet at least 70% of assessed criteria for each classroom/group observed. The program was visited by NAEYC Assessors to assure program standards were being met. The center did exceptionally well exceeding a score of 100 in 6 out of 10 Early Childhood Program Standards for meeting existing and emerging criteria.

Ms. Taylor shared that this type of achievement can only happen with a dedicated team that consist of the Teaching staff and the Administrators whose purpose is to create quality learning opportunities for children. For more information on Premier Academy, Inc.—Minnie Howell Child Development Center, please visit: www.premier-academy.org and/or www.naeyc.org

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR GEORGIA CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCACY



The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy is a private, non-profit agency that was established in 1987. The Center’s mission is to champion the needs of sexually and severely physically abused children through prevention, intervention, therapy, and collaboration.

The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy was recently awarded \$15,000 from Hedge Funds Care towards training 100 percent of certified staff and 80 percent of non-certified staff at Atlanta Public Schools over the next three and a half years. The Georgia Center’s prevention staff and facilitators have already trained over 100 Atlanta Public School principals and over 40 facilitators among APS counselors, social workers and psychologists, in the Stewards of Children curriculum. The partnership with Atlanta Public Schools is a multiphase project which began with a pilot program in 2007, during which eight facilitators and 410 APS employees were successfully trained.

GCCA is making great strides in accomplishing their goal of training one million adults in Georgia by 2020 on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. To learn more about GCCA, please visit: www.georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Congratulations to Mindy Binderman, newly appointed Executive Director for the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS). GEEARS was created to promote school readiness for children from birth through age 5. Leveraging strategies informed by research, policy and practice, the organization will enable success in school. GEEARS will accomplish this goal by focusing on academic, emotional, communication, and physical developmental skills.

Georgia now ranks 48th in nationwide student test scores and currently, only fifty percent of 4-year-olds are enrolled in Georgia Pre-K Program. More than 7,000 children across the state are on the Georgia Pre-K program waiting list.

GEEARS will reverse this trend by:

- Increasing quality, accessibility and affordability of early care and education to all Georgia children.
- Establishing higher standards of excellence for childcare that helps Georgia's children enter kindergarten ready to learn and on a path to "read to learn" by 3rd grade.
- Providing resources for parents.
- Driving public awareness emphasizing the importance of learning from birth to age 5.

To read full article on GEEARS, please visit: www.prnewswire.com

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THE FERST FOUNDATION FOR CHILDHOOD LITERACY, is a Georgia based non-profit organization that provides, at no cost, one book per month to the home of registered children under the age of 5. The books are theirs to keep for a lifetime. Ferst's mission statement is: "Provide books for local communities to prepare all Georgia preschool children for reading and learning success".



Robin Ferst, Founder and President, states, "We give books to Georgia children to give our State an educated, competitive and productive workforce".

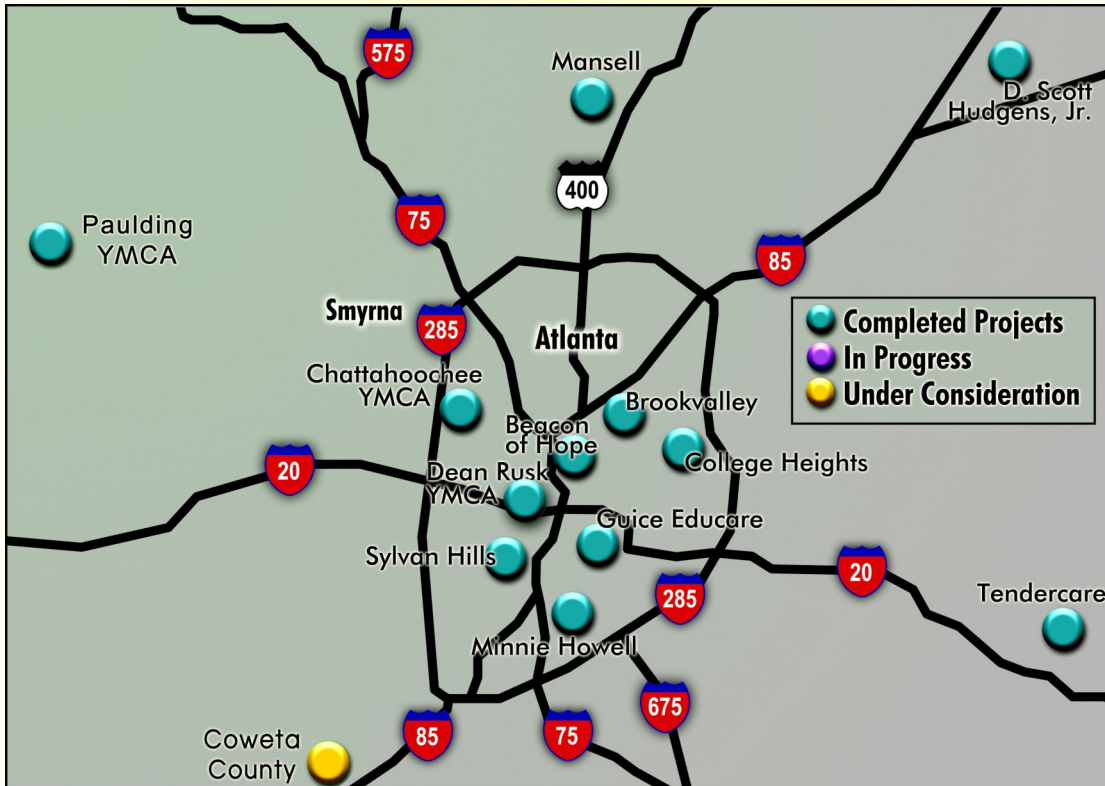
Some facts on Literacy in Georgia from the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy:

- One in five of our children lives in poverty
- Approximately 61% of low-income families do not have a single piece of reading material suitable for a child.
- A third of our children come to school unprepared to learn.
- Only 29% of Georgia 4th graders read at or above proficiency.
- We have the nations third highest rate of high school dropouts.
- One in fur adults in Georgia operates at a low literacy level.
- Illiteracy and low literate workers cost Atlanta \$2.6 billion and Georgia businesses \$7 billion each year.
- Several states plan how many jail cells they will build in the future by how many children are not reading on grade level by 3rd grade.

For more information, please visit www.ferstfoundation.org.

Early Learning Property Management Mission Statement

To support and promote early childhood learning and development by providing safe and adequate facilities where early learning programs and activities can be conducted.



ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS

For ELPM center program information, please visit www.elpm.org

Early
Learning
Property
Management, **I****N****C.**

57 Executive Park
Suite 315
Atlanta, GA 30329

TO: Our Partners, Supporters and Friends