



May, 2014

Topic of the Month

How can we show appreciation to our participating child care providers?

The Cleveland Early Education Community (head start, child care, and pre-k & Kindergarten teachers) comes together every year in April. Although this is one of our quarterly meetings, we make it a little extra, providing light snacks. We also have shared classroom learning time too. This year Kindergarten teachers from Pearman Elementary presented: "Rhyme Time". During this time we plan transition activities from early care to public school. The celebration will end with the "Spring Fling" Saturday in the Park. Last year we put out yard signs in our early care providers' lawns. They read, Celebrating Week of the Young Child "Celebrating our Children" Developing our Greatest Resources – Cleveland Excel By 5. **-Patsy Clerk, Cleveland coalition**

Each year during Week of the Young Child we take a small gift to each child care teacher. In the past, some gifts we have taken included cookies, flowers, and cute notepads. This year we took baskets to the centers which held a bubble machine for the center and individual bubble bottles for each teacher. We included a cute thank you note and a sheet with bubble activity ideas for preschool teachers. We highlight our childcare workers at our coalition meeting as well as in online and print media sources. **-Julie Fondren, Petal coalition**

We are very appreciative of our child care centers for coming on board with us and helping us achieve certification. For Teacher Appreciation Day, the Stone County coalition will show our gratitude by surprising our child care centers with a personal visit and delivering a delicious "thank you" cake for the staff members. **-Tonya Bolton, Stone County Coalition**

We try to show special appreciation to our child care centers at least twice a year, one near the holidays, and one in May for Child Care Appreciation Day. May 9th will be our day this year to deliver cakes and cards to the centers. The cakes say "Thanks for All You Do" Pascagoula Excel By 5 coalition. The appreciation visit in December usually includes cookies, books, satsumas and cards for each center. We have different members of the coalition hand-deliver the goodies. It is wonderful to see the smiling faces when we walk in with the sweet treats. **-Amy Brandenstein, Pascagoula Coalition**

In Biloxi, we invite the staff of our participating child care centers to join us at one of the spring, or early summer, monthly city council meetings. We notify the city in advance of how many centers will be represented at the meeting. During the meeting, staff members from the participating centers are called to the front of the room and each center is presented with a proclamation signed by the mayor. Each center has a photo opportunity with the mayor as they are presented the proclamation which thanks them for their work in early childhood education. This year, we also plan to create a "goodie", or gift basket for each center and fill it with useful items such as supplies for arts and craft projects and other useful items. **-Susan Hunt, Biloxi Coalition**

One of our child care centers, First Baptist Weekday Education, actually celebrated the Week of the Young Child with our annual Teacher Appreciation Week. Regarding our Early Childhood Care & Education Committee activities, we are planning a "dessert party" for directors to come and sample a variety of cheesecakes, cookies and other sweets while hearing an overview of the MS Early Learning Standards. We are also planning an end of the year event on May 7 that will highlight successes of our childcare directors in progress toward the EB5 goals. We will also have a light luncheon. We hope to do more in future years to highlight child care centers, possibly incorporating special recognition of the child care centers in our community with our new annual Excelebration-type activity. **-Linda Glaze and Kathy Sukanek, Lafayette-Oxford-University Coalition**

