

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends

Project Kindness Award Presented to ELPM by Educational Access, Inc.

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

Early Learning Property Management (ELPM) was recently honored by Educational Access, Inc. at its 2009 Project Kindness Gala in recognition of ELPM's outstanding contributions in the early learning education initiative. Several individuals and organizations were also honored for their work in the field of early care and education including Sharen Hausmann, Vice President of Early Learning with Smart Start Georgia. It was a great honor for ELPM and it reinforces our mission to continue making a positive difference in the health and education for all young children.

Educational Access, Inc. is a non-profit organization consulting group that for the last 18 years has specialized in providing “high quality” affordable and assessable professional development training to the child care community statewide. As part of its mission, the organization has dedicated itself to “giving forward”. Out of this dedication, Project Kindness was born. Its sole purpose is to provide “random acts of kindness” that brings a ‘little bit” of joy and happiness into the lives of individuals that are in need. In 2008 Project Kindness reached across international boundaries and provided holiday cheer to young children in a small remote village in South America.

ELPM thanks Educational Access for such a special recognition and for being great champions of our young children and strong supporters in the early care and educational arena. For more information about Educational Access, please visit: www.eaicdatutorial.com

Kara Portnell, Executive Director



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





For those who carry on the daily efforts and ongoing commitment to children and teaching, these words are extracted from a longer poem by Maya Angelou entitled,

CONTINUE

My wish for you
Is that you continue

Continue

To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness

Continue

To allow humor to lighten the burden
Of your tender heart

Continue

To put the mantle of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless

Continue

To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit

Continue

To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing

Continue

And by doing so
You and your work
Will be able to continue
Eternally

Maya Angelou, 2006

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE GREAT NEIGHBORS

Easter Seals of North Georgia & Premier Academy

Easter Seals is pleased to announce its private child care partnership with Premier Academy at Minnie Howell, another ELPM child development center. Through this partnership, Easter Seals will offer Early Head Start services to 24 infants and toddlers and their families to include the inclusion of Premier Academy's families in parent training on a variety of topics and other activities and supports. Such collaboration provides a "win-win" opportunity for a community that is being greatly impacted by the changing economic climate.

*Submitted by Belva Weathersby
www.easterseals.northgeorgia.com*

BEACON OF HOPE'S RENAISSANCE LEARNING CENTER EARNS CENTER OF DISTINCTION



Beacon of Hope has been named a Center of Distinction by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's, Bright from the Start. This coveted accreditation is the highest mark for quality given to child care programs across the state. Only 4% of all licensed centers in the state hold this ranking. Beacon of Hope continues to strive toward excellence even in the midst of current economic challenges, making it difficult to serve high quality programs to Georgia's poorest and most vulnerable citizens - our children, youth, and their families.

*Submitted by Elton Carpenter—Beacon of Hope
www.renaissancelearningctr.org
www.brightfromthestart.com*

ELPM and Bright from the Start congratulate Beacon of Hope and its staff for this special accreditation and accomplishment!

Welcome



Please welcome **Ms. Yolondi Smith**, the new Center Director at Minnie Howell Child Development Center. With over 20 years of experience, she comes with a wealth of knowledge in the area of Early Childhood Education. Her most recent role with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's Bright from the Start as a pre-K consultant, will help ensure that programs continue to operate at a quality level for all age groups. Ms. Smith holds a degree in Child Development and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree at Troy University.

www.premieracademy.org

College Heights Early Learning Center & Partnership for Community Action, Inc. Kick Off Expansion Program

In 2004 City Schools of Decatur set a goal to open an Early Learning Center that provided a high quality early childhood educational program to families that reside in City of Decatur. College Heights ECLC opened in the fall of 2005 with the mission to provide learning opportunities to all students in order to close the achievement gap between the black and white students. Today, that achievement gap still exists. Although College Heights ECLC has a strong early childhood learning program, they strive to provide the same learning opportunities in the infant, toddler, and preschool program to low income families. College Heights ECLC had a wonderful opportunity to expand the 0 to 3 year old program through their partnership with Partnership for Community Action, Inc. (PCA) in the spring of 2009.

A grant was written and received by PCA to add additional slots in the current Head Start preschool program and to open an Early Head Start (birth up to 3) program at the school. The expansion program is preparing to open at the end of March with an additional 17 preschool students and 8 toddlers. We are excited to begin working with these students and families and making gains towards our strategic plan.

*Submitted by Suzanne Kennedy, Principal
College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center*



OF SPECIAL INTEREST

EXPAND PRE-K TO MEET DEMAND KEEP RESOURCES FOR LOW INCOME CHILDREN

The Southern Education Foundation (SEF) and Voices for Georgia's Children have released two policy briefs analyzing Governor Sonny Purdue's proposed 2011 budget for Georgia Pre-K. The Governor is proposing to keep the lottery-funded Pre-K budget flat while increasing HOPE scholarships by almost 25 percent and effectively to eliminate the Pre-K program's Resource Coordinators, who assist low income children and their parents.

Highlights of SEF's analysis include these findings:

Georgia Pre-K needs to expand access to meet current demand and keep Resource Coordinators who are vital to providing high-quality Pre-K services and increasing parental involvement among low income parents:

Over 8,300 children are on wait lists for lottery-funded Georgia Pre-K.

- > Only 58% of Georgia's 4-year-olds are currently served by Georgia Pre-K.
- > Cutting Resource Coordinators will adversely affect more than 47,000 children in over 130 Georgia counties.
- > Georgia has \$872 million in annual lottery revenue and almost \$1 billion in lottery reserve to increase both Pre-K and HOPE. To read full excerpt, please visit: [SEF's Georgia Pre-K Policy Briefs](#).

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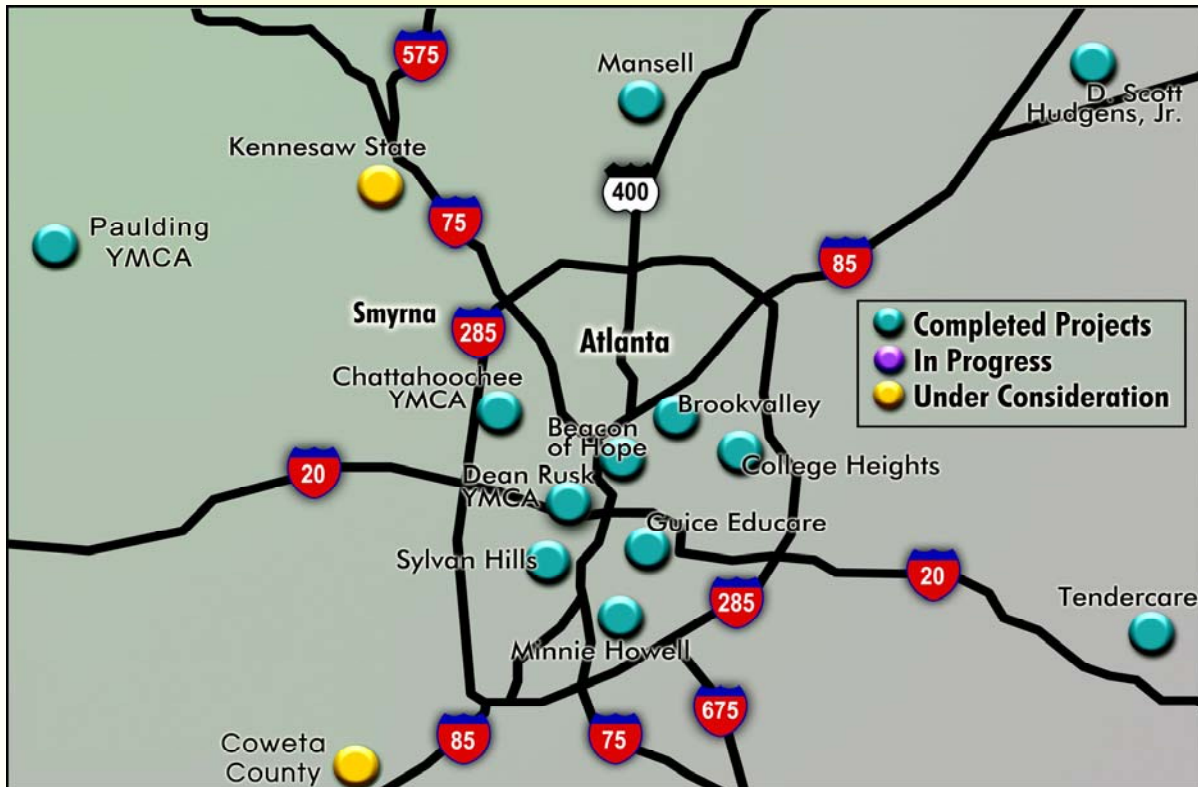
Art and the Creative Young Mind



Do you remember the excitement you experienced in school when your teacher would announce, "Time for art, get out your crayons!" And the feel of finger paints between your fingers? Or the smell of play dough? (that you wish you could eat!) And then taking this "masterpiece" home to show your parents? And the smile on their faces when you proudly said, "I did it all by myself!" And up it went on the refrigerator door!

It is essential that young children are exposed to the arts everyday, whether it be crayons, play dough, or finger paints. Art is imagination at work. Young children need healthy creative outlets to express themselves.

Marta Wood, ELPM



ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS

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.



57 Executive Park
Suite 315
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TO:

