

## A CHILD'S DREAM LIVES ON



In this edition:

- Robotic Students Success
- Autistic Artistas
- Child Nurse Tops at UCH

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# Cover Story:

## Little Boy's Short Story Lives on for Goalie

**Dwayne Roloson, Tampa Bay Lightning goalkeeper, has been a star most of these Stanley Cup playoffs.**

**Then again, he has help. There's a small green shamrock painted on the back plate of Roloson's goalie mask — a shamrock with the initials KR inside it. And there are the letters TDLO for "The Dream Lives On."**

**It's for a friend, a former camper at Roloson's summer goalie school, a boy not unlike Roloson's young sons, Brett and Ross. The shamrock is for a remarkable boy who'll always be 12, with a mop of hair and smile that could melt the ice. It's for KR. Kelly Ryan. "I'm honored to have him with me," Roloson said.**

**"The dream lives on, that's true," said Phil Ryan, Kelly's father. "Every day I watch Roli in the playoffs, even though Roli's name is on the sweater ... Kelly is there. He's in the Eastern Conference Finals."**

**Phil Ryan is a cement finisher. His wife, Chris, is an**

office manager. They have two daughters, McKenna and Hannah. Kelly was in the middle.

Along came Roli. Phil still has no idea why his son chose Dwayne Roloson as his hockey hero. It's not as though Roloson played for Chicago's NHL team, the Blackhawks. Kelly followed Roloson as he went from the Minnesota Wild to the Edmonton Oilers to the New York Islanders.

"When Kelly was 7, he just started emulating Dwayne Roloson," Phil said. "He was comfortable with Roli's



style on the ice, and as he got to know Roli, with his humbleness." Kelly always wore a Roli hat and No. 30 in his games because Roli had worn 30 for the Wild.

Through a mutual friend, Phil learned that Dwayne Roloson had a goalie camp in his hometown of Simcoe, Ontario. Dwayne Roloson is no figurehead. He's on the ice with the kids. "We want to get to know them, each of them," Roloson said.

"Kelly? He was the little guy with the smile, asking hundreds of questions, wanting to learn. He was just a phenomenal kid, very

skilled. Every day he came to camp, he was happy."

"Roli was such a positive role model for my son, the way he worked with him, the way he treated him," Phil Ryan said. Kelly attended three camps, the last in July 2009. Roloson always found extra time for him. "Kelly had scholarship potential," Roloson said. "I think he could have been anything he wanted." Roli was his idol. "It's very humbling," Roloson said.

Sunday afternoon, April 18, 2010, Kelly finished up a weekend tournament. When he got home, his friend Alex called to see whether Kelly could come over. Kelly hopped on his BMX bike and promised his parents he'd call on his way home. And he did. He told his mom when he was a few blocks away. It was still light out. A few minutes later, at 8:30, Phil's phone rang. He saw the ID. It was Kelly's cellphone. But it was a police officer's voice...

There were 3,000 people at the visitation. Inside, there were Kelly's hockey jerseys, including his Roli jerseys. Phil, Kelly's father, put his own goalie equipment in the casket with Kelly, and some Roli hockey cards. The funeral procession passed Kelly's grade school on the way to the Mass. His teachers and classmates were out front, wearing hockey shirts. They released balloons into an overcast sky.

At the cemetery, one of the boys asked Phil whether it was OK to leave his jersey on the casket. Soon there was a pile of hockey sweaters, and sticks, too. No one wanted to leave. A light rain began to fall. Finally they drifted away.

Dwayne Roloson was in Simcoe, at his oldest son's lacrosse practice, when Tim Anderson called him about Kelly. "You're watching your son out on a field and you get a phone call about a boy who's just a few years older than your child, and he's gone," Roloson said. "Twelve years old. What do you do?"

Dwayne Roloson did what he could. A few months after the accident, he invited Phil Ryan up to goalie camp as a coach. It helped. The first Kelly Ryan Best Camper Award was given to the most dedicated goalie.

On Oct. 18, 2010, six months to the day Kelly died, Phil decided to watch the Islanders-Maple Leafs game because Roli was playing for New York and Kelly would love that. Phil noticed Roloson had a new mask. As the Islanders left the ice after the first period, Phil saw the mask's back plate. There was a huge green shamrock. And Kelly's number 30. And the words: "To Kelly ... Your dream lives on ..." "And I just start crying," Phil said.



Roloson and his wife, Melissa, came up with the idea for the mask. He had two made: one for games, one for the Ryans. Roloson was traded to the Lightning on New Year's Day. He has a Kelly back plate on his Lightning mask. The Lightning came to Chicago late this season, and the Ryans came to the arena. Chris hugged Roli. "Roli finally told me to stop crying or he would start," Chris said. "He's with me all the time," Roli told her. As the Lightning play the Bruins in the playoffs, Dwayne Roloson and Kelly Ryan will be in goal for Tampa Bay. See the full story at <http://www2.tbo.com/sports/lightning/2011/may/19/23/menewso1-a-little-boys-short-story-melts-the-ice-ar-208492/>.

## Children's Board Links to Jobs, Events, Facebook, Twitter

Go to [www.facebook.com/MyCBHC](http://www.facebook.com/MyCBHC) and see the latest **Children's Board Facebook** postings. Follow the **Children's Board** on **Twitter** at [www.twitter.com/MyCBHC](http://www.twitter.com/MyCBHC).

**Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities** - Go to [http://www.childrensboard.org/jobs\\_volunteer\\_opportunities.aspx](http://www.childrensboard.org/jobs_volunteer_opportunities.aspx) and click on the top link for updated postings in Hillsborough County.

**Calendar** - Go to <http://www.childrensboard.org/calendar.aspx> to access the upcoming community and provider calendar.

# Achieve the Dream Stories

## Middleton Robotics Students Finish Strong, Qualify for World Championship

Middleton Magnet High School Robotics Program students recently finished a successful season that included competing at last month's 2011 FIRST Championship and earning \$120,000 in scholarship money.

Minotaur, one of two Middleton robotics teams, earned the right to compete in the world championship in St. Louis by winning the prestigious Inspire Award at a qualifying tournament, then again at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Florida State Championship at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

The Inspire Award goes to the team deemed the best role model as a FIRST competitor. The award earned team members \$120,000 in Embry Riddle scholarship money. Of the 33 state final teams, Minotaur was among the three qualifying to represent Florida in St. Louis, the only team from Hillsborough County.

"I am very proud of what the Middleton Robotics Program accomplished this year," said Hans Wolf, coach of Middleton's teams and father of Carson Wolf, lead programmer for Minotaur's robot. "We had two teams that dominated every state qualifier we attended and we were able to get one of those teams a trip to the world championships," Wolf said in a statement to team members and parents.

Both Middleton teams had stellar seasons, taking six of the eight FIRST tournaments in Florida and winning awards for design and innovation.

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/community-news/2011/may/18/STNEWSO24-middleton-robotics-program-students-fini-ar-207752/>.



Photo of Middleton Robotics team by Tampa Tribune.



The Artistas Cafe in the Mercedes-Benz dealership in Tampa hires people with autism. (Photo/ABC.)

## Artistas Café at Mercedes-Benz Serves Coffee, Employs Young People With Autism

If you ever need a cup of coffee while at the Mercedes-Benz dealership in Tampa, Artistas Cafe is conveniently located inside. Founder Vicky Westra also found it convenient to use the cafe to show the rest of us something she has always known. That those with disabilities like autism have great abilities as well. She knows this because her daughter is autistic. Many customers that are served their coffee can't even tell these "Artistas" (their name for baristas), have autism. Unemployment for those on the autistic spectrum can be as high as 90%. For artista Russell Lambert, this is his first job and he uses it to educate his customers about autism. (The café was a winner of a **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** Innovative Business Plan award.) See the story and video on ABC Action News at [http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/Autistic-baristas-serve-artistic-coffee-at-Arista-Cafe](http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/local_news/Autistic-baristas-serve-artistic-coffee-at-Arista-Cafe).

## FSRC, Child Abuse Council Child Birth Instructor Named UCH Nurse of Year

Iliana Dole, a maternal-child nurse at University Community Hospital (UCH) Women's Center and a Child Abuse Council abcProgram child birth instructor at the Town 'N Country Family Support & Resource Center (funded by the **Children's Board**) has been named 2011 UCH Nurse of the Year.

The abcProgram is an education program for families, funded by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County, and classes are provided through the Child Abuse Council. The abcProgram offers three classes (free to those enrolled in Healthy Start services) designed to help women and their partners through their pregnancy, childbirth and parenting experience: breastfeeding basics, childbirth education and infant parenting. Dole teaches childbirth classes in Spanish.

Dole has been a maternal-child nurse for 21 years who relocated from New York to Tampa less than a year after 9/11. Her passion is labor and delivery nursing. She previously won a Nurse of the Year Award in New York. "I was elated that I was chosen," Iliana said. "I am fluent in Spanish and I have been teaching Childbirth Education in Spanish at the Family Resource Center for three years. I have the good fortune to have the most amazing and supportive colleagues.

"I love teaching my prenatal classes because as a labor and delivery nurse I know the possible experiences they will face in a hospital setting during child birth and I can give them the information they need to be best prepared for that very special day and beyond when they take their baby home and need to know how to care for their little ones." She said she also enjoys her hospital patients because they come from diverse cultures.

Through the Child Abuse Council, Iliana and abcProgram director Alex Boyer have also received a March of Dimes grant to be able to run training sessions this summer which would incorporate in childbirth classes the importance of having women continue their pregnancies past 39 weeks to avoid any unnecessary Neonatal Intensive Care Unit stay due to prematurity.

To learn more about the abcProgram at the Child Abuse Council, go online to [www.babybungalow.org](http://www.babybungalow.org) and <http://www.healthystartcoalition.org>.



Iliana Dole: UCH Nurse of the Year.

## 'Mama' Rose Wilson, Mother of 10 Children and Foster Mom of 111 Kids, Dies

"Mama" Rose Ella Willson, mother of 10 children and foster mom to another 111 children - seven of whom she adopted - died May 14 at the age of 70 at her home in Tampa. She was a licensed foster parent in Hillsborough County for the past 23 years.

Family, friends and Hillsborough Kids, Inc. will honor her memory - and celebrate her 71st birthday - from 6-8 p.m. May 25 at The Family Place, 9391 North Florida Avenue, Tampa (813-471-0747.)

In lieu of flowers the family will accept donations to assist the one remaining foster child and young adults residing in the home. Donations can be payable to Rose's daughter, Wilhelmina "Nina" Brown, 2723 State Street, Tampa, FL 33619. Attendees of the memorial are asked to bring any photographs that can be copied and put into scrap books for the family.



## Shelton Quarles Honored at Children's Home Annual Recognition Luncheon

The Children's Home, Inc. honored former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Shelton Quarles with the 2011 Helen Ayala Davis Award at this year's Annual Recognition Luncheon with more than 300 guests gathered on May 5 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown.

Also presented at the luncheon was the 2011 Virginia Mikell Volunteer of the Year award, given to the Good Night Club of Idlewild Baptist Church.

# Local News

## Children's Board in the News...

### Ch. 10, Monday, May 15: Local Author Teaches Bullying Lesson With Book That Will Benefit Children's Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay

From the 6 p.m. news on Ch. 10 (CBS) May 15, 2011: Lori Diez says she's donating all of the profits from book sales of *Angel or Not?* to charity, with 75 percent going to the **Children's Board** Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay to help foster kids who are looking for a family of their own.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=192502>

### Lifetime Network, Tuesday, May 16: Author Teaches Bullying Lesson With Book That Will Benefit Children's Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay

From the 7 a.m. Lifetime Network show *Balancing Act* on May 16: Lori Diez says she's donating all of the profits from *Angel or Not?* book sales to charity, with 75 percent going to the **Children's Board** Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay to help foster kids who are looking for a family of their own. Diez also promoted all of the Heart Galleries across America.

<http://www.thebalancingact.com/story/?id=2836>

### Ch. 10, Tuesday, May 16: Dr. Peter Gorski Discusses Temperament on Studio 10 Talk Show

From the 10 a.m. Studio 10 talk show on Ch. 10 (CBS) May 16, 2011: The **Children's Board's** Dr. Peter Gorski discusses understanding temperament, associated with patterns of behavior, and how it affect us all of our lives.

[http://www.studio10.tv/category/education/segment.aspx/123220/Childrens\\_Board\\_of\\_Hillsborough](http://www.studio10.tv/category/education/segment.aspx/123220/Childrens_Board_of_Hillsborough)

### St. Petersburg Times, Sunday, May 22: Commentary by Dr. Peter Gorski: When Toxic Stress Alters Kids' DNA -

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/perspective/when-toxic-stress-alters-kids-dna/1170752>

## 11-Year-Old Shrek Actress Tells Autistic Kids It's Okay to Be Different



Danielle Soibelman at the Florida Autism Center of Excellence.  
(Photo by St. Petersburg Times.)

Eleven-year-old Danielle Soibelman knows how it feels to be different, she told about 60 students recently at the Florida Autism Center of Excellence (FACE) in East Tampa. Danielle, an actor on tour with *Shrek the Musical*, stopped by the school at 6400 E Chelsea St. with a message that many here could relate to. In the musical, she plays the roles of young Fiona, young Shrek and a dwarf. She showed the students pictures of herself playing Shrek. Kids picked on the young ogre for being big, green, smelly and ugly. That's why he was so grumpy.

Students rocked, fidgeted, twisted hands and sang or jumped up and down as Danielle showed pictures and let them try on ogre gloves and ears. Still, she seemed unfazed. Danielle is used to the lively atmosphere - her 14-year-old brother Matthew has Asperger's syndrome. He is the reason that she's a member of Actors for Autism and the Autism Society of America.

He is the reason she stops along her 23-city performance tour at places like FACE, one of few public schools statewide that focuses solely on children with some form of autism. See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/k12/article1170375.ece>.

## Hillsborough County School Board Approves \$900,000 for iPads for Two Schools

The Hillsborough County School Board approved spending \$900,000 to purchase iPads for the district. The school district will buy 900 iPads to be handed out to students and teachers at Tampa's two new single-gender schools that will open next fall. Some of the money is coming from a three-year, \$11 million federal grant the district recently received.



The school district will buy 900 iPads to be handed out at Tampa's two new single-gender schools.

Officials said the iPads will not be used as a replacement for books quite yet. Instead, officials said the iPads will be used to help students in language classes, to study science and to watch lessons in three dimensional video.

See [http://www.baynews9.com/article/news/2011/may/246950/Hillsborough-County-School-Board-approves-\\$900K-for-iPads](http://www.baynews9.com/article/news/2011/may/246950/Hillsborough-County-School-Board-approves-$900K-for-iPads).

School Board Defends iPad Cost - <http://tiny.cc/bt0q3>.

## TechPlayzone After-School Program Uses Toys to Teach Science, Technology



"Desh" Bagley teaches computer programming. (Photo by Tampa Tribune)

From the Tampa Tribune: More than just a computer-dotted, after-school care facility, TechPlayzone teaches actual computer programming skills. Students "are making video games using programming languages such as Scratch, Alice and Game Maker," said Deshjuana "Desh" Bagley, creator, owner and chief operating officer of TechPlayzone, 13208 Boyette Road. Fees range from \$10 to \$15 per workshop participant.

"LEGOs lead to engineering," she said. "Students engage in hands-on science experiments and then make digital movies using greenscreen technologies to share what they've learned." The facility's kids "know they are being groomed to be the inventors, problem-solvers and creators for tomorrow." Go to [www.techplayzone.com/techplay](http://www.techplayzone.com/techplay) or call (813) 684-7329.

## Glazer Family Foundation is Accepting Applications for Two Kids' Programs -

The Glazer Family Foundation is currently accepting applications for Buc-Packs for Back-to-School and Gameday for Kids, two signature programs that enhance the educational experience of local youth and provide children with memorable, rewarding opportunities to learn and grow. The Glazer Family Foundation accepts applications for the Buc-Packs for Back-to-School program from community organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Applications for the program will only be accepted online at [GlazerFamilyFoundation.org](http://GlazerFamilyFoundation.org) and are due by July 1. To apply for Buc-Packs for Back-to-School or Gameday for Kids, or to learn more about the Foundation's programs, go to [GlazerFamilyFoundation.org/](http://GlazerFamilyFoundation.org/).

## Anti-bullying Pays Off: Middle Schools Safer, Kids Say -

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/28603>.

## See the May Issue of Early Childhood Council's Kaleidoscope Newsletter -

<http://www.ecctampabay.org/info/images/stories/kaleidoscope/May2011.pdf>.

## Kid Connection Network Helps Struggling Family Find Housing, Stability

The Children's Board-funded Kid Connection Network of the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County assists families of children birth to age 8 and expectant mothers in identifying resources, navigating systems and linking to appropriate services. Read the May success story of a mother and four children on the verge of homelessness who needed help. She called Kid Connection, got connected with resources to get an apartment, household items and furnishings, all helpful while she looked for and found a job.

See [http://www.ecctampabay.org/info/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=39&Itemid=88](http://www.ecctampabay.org/info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39&Itemid=88).

## See the ESE Parent News to Find Out Who Won the Annual ESE Awards -

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1104105123180-31/May+14,+2010++FDLRS+SNAPSHOTS!+2+cmp.pdf>.

## Check Out the May Issue of the HKI Foster Parent Newsletter -

[http://www.hillsboroughkids.org/docs/2011\\_FPCconnection\\_05.pdf](http://www.hillsboroughkids.org/docs/2011_FPCconnection_05.pdf).

## **Program Helps Teens Find Jobs**

The M.A.P. (Mentoring Adolescents to Progress) program provides free comprehensive employment services for youth ages 15-18 living in the following ZIP codes: 33511, 33569, 33604, 33605, 33607, 33610, 33612, 33614, 33617 or 33619. The program, funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice and operated by Goodwill, helps young people find jobs that are right for them. Eligible teens learn where and how to apply for employment as well as tips for keeping a job. They also are provided with transportation assistance and the right clothing for interviews and work. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Call (813) 367-5513 or email [MAP@goodwillsuncoast.com](mailto:MAP@goodwillsuncoast.com).

## **Fundraisers Benefit Joshua House, Metropolitan Ministries -**

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/article1167520.ec>.

## **Dottie Berger MacKinnon Receives County's Good Government Award -**

<http://brandon.patch.com/articles/dottie-berger-mackinnon-receives-countys-good-government-award-video>.

## **Jacob's Touch Foundation Helps Those Dealing With Autism -**

<http://northwest2.tbo.com/content/2011/apr/27/NWNEWS06-jacobs-touch-foundation-helps-those-deali>.

# **Neighborhood News**

## **Recipient of Family Support & Resource Center Help Pays It Forward**

Each year, AnyDoc Software allows every employee to choose a not-for-profit organization to receive a \$50 donation from the company in their name. Software Designer Evaelyn Carrion-Reyes selected the Town n' Country Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC) as the recipient of her company-sponsored donation. After hearing Evaelyn's personal experience with the FSRC, Evaelyn's friend and co-worker Adonna Blasko also dedicated her donation to the center.

Evaelyn introduced herself and her family to Town 'N Country Family Support & Resource Center staff in 2006 when she enrolled in an abc childbirth education class. She then enrolled in a car seat safety class, offered at the center by St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center. She later enrolled her daughter Jaelyn in Baby Bungalow's child developmental playgroups. Evaelyn works during the day so her parents Tomas and Evangelina (Eva) Carrion often accompany Jaelyn to the playgroups. "It's really good for Jaelyn. She loves it," says Tomas.

Evaelyn says she is a single mother striving for financial stability. "It would be too hard for me to pay for the programs that Jaelyn participates in at the FSRC," Evaelyn said. Jaelyn has enjoyed trips to the Lowry Park Zoo and the Florida Aquarium by way of tickets given at no cost to members of the center. Evaelyn says that outings like these may not have been possible for Jaelyn without the help of the center.

Evaelyn continues to share her positive experiences at the center with others. She leads family and friends to the center's resources, just as she led her employer. The Family Community Advisory Council will discuss the best way in which to use the funds.

## **Here's A Good Reason (\$) to Visit the Family Support & Resource Centers**

Here's a good reason to visit the **Children's Board**-funded Family Support & Resource Centers: Debbie Impiccini and Denise Konen both had their taxes done at the North Tampa Family Support & Resource Center; Debbie was a returning visitor and Denise was a first-time visitor. Both not only received a tax refund, they were selected by United Way as two of the four Hillsborough County lucky winners of \$300 gift cards to Target.

## **An OASIS for Students Lacking Essential Items Planned in Brandon Area -**

A nonprofit that helps students with such essentials as shoes is planning to open a center in the Brandon area. See <http://brandonnews2.tbo.com/content/2011/apr/20/BRNEWS09-organization-provides-students-with-missi/>.

## **Hispanic Festival in University Area Provides Family Fun Time -**

<http://carrollwood2.tbo.com/content/2011/may/05/051526/hispanic-festival-provides-family-fun-time/news/>.

# State News

## News from the Florida Children's Services Council: End of Session Report

*With the conclusion of the 2011 Florida Legislative Session, the Florida Children's Services Council filed an End of Session Report. Following are some highlights of the May 17 edition of "Capitol Connection" related to children's issues:*

A sweeping overhaul of Florida's Medicaid program topped the list of major reform bills passed this session. If signed into law by Gov. Scott, the proposal would shift hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries into HMOs and other managed-care plans - a move the Governor has supported. The plan would also divide the state into 11 regions with managed-care plans competing for contracts in each area. To fully implement all parts of the massive revamp, Florida would first need to receive a Medicaid waiver from the federal government.

Although some painful cuts were experienced, child advocates did an exceptional job of communicating to lawmakers the importance of programs that impact children and families. They were instrumental in lessening budget cuts and preserving and restoring funding for several programs, including Children's Medical Services (CMS) and children's mental health. Additionally, during budget negotiations, the Senate and House agreed on a budget infusion of \$7.8 million to allow Early Steps, a program which helps children at risk of developmental delays become self-sufficient, productive citizens, to continue in Florida.

In particular, Senator Nan Rich (D-Weston), Senator Joe Negron (R-Palm City), Senator Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando), Representative Matt Hudson (R-Naples), and Representative Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) provided strong support in their respective chambers. Also, thanks in large part to Sen. Rich, the proposed cut to Healthy Families was restored. After sustaining a 34 percent cut last year, the legislature agreed that the program (proven to be 98 percent effective in eliminating abuse and neglect among the high-risk families it serves) should not be cut further.

### Additional restorations:

KidCare will receive an 8 percent funding increase which will provide funds for approximately 20,000 additional children.

20 of the 30 positions from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) child care licensure program will be restored.

The proposed \$2.5 million cut to the Guardian ad Litem program was greatly lessened to ensure total funds of \$31.5 million.

Most of the front end of the juvenile justice system was held harmless with funding for proven prevention programs, such as Children and Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS), Intensive Delinquency Diversion Services (IDDS) and Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs), fully restored.

### Painful Cuts

Unfortunately, not all programs fared well. Both VPK and School Readiness saw reductions in funding, and funding for the Healthy Start program was lessened by \$5.4 million, although a new provision in the Medicaid reform law will provide for a "MomCare" program in the future.

VPK - Funding the program at \$384.6 million means a \$30 million cut to VPK, with a reduction in the School Year Base Student Allocation (amount per student) from \$2,553 to \$2,383, and an increase in student-teacher ratios to 1:11 and 2:20 from 1:10 and 2:18, respectively. This means more children and fewer teachers in the VPK classroom. VPK administration and program support (quality assurance, provider certification, eligibility determination) was reduced from 4.5 percent to 4 percent, which will result in longer wait times to register children for the program, and potential scaled-back quality improvement efforts.

School Readiness (subsidized child care for working families in poverty) - The final school readiness allocation does not restore the non-recurring \$38 million in stimulus funds, with a potential additional loss of \$32 million in federal funds if the TANF supplemental funds are not received from the federal government. This will impact approximately 15,000 children statewide who will lose services (more than 4,000 of them from working families in poverty in Miami-Dade/Monroe counties alone).

Healthy Start (prenatal services to low-income women to reduce pre-term deliveries and improve birth outcomes) - Healthy Start funding was cut by \$5.4 million, which could total as much as \$9 million, including the loss of the federal match. The Healthy Start Coalitions are currently analyzing the impacts of this funding cut, including the new MomCare provisions in the Medicaid reform bill which is designed to assist expecting mothers with prenatal care once this legislation goes into effect.

To read the entire newsletter go to <http://www.floridacsc.org/advocacy/FCSCCapConn20110517.html>.

## 9,000 Florida Foster Children Reunited with Parents in 2010

More than 9,000 Florida children in foster care were reunited with their parents in 2010 after state child welfare officials worked with their parents to make their homes safe. A May 11 announcement came after a statewide push to remove fewer children from their homes. Instead, the Department of Children and Families has been working with families while the children remain in the home. The state is using a federal waiver to pay for things like parenting classes, drug treatment or financial help. If a child is removed, the agency works to reunite parents with their children whenever possible. See <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/05/11/2211387/9000-fla-foster-children-reunited.html>.

# National News

## Simple Checklist Could Detect Subtle Signs of Autism by Age 1

A simple checklist that parents fill out in the waiting room may help doctors someday screen for warning signs of autism as early as a baby's first birthday. San Diego pediatricians tested the tool with more than 10,000 babies at their 1-year checkups, looking for such things as how the tots babble, gesture and interact with others.

The research is a first step in the quest for earlier autism screening. It's not ready for routine use, as more work is needed to verify its accuracy. But it also may prove valuable in finding more at-risk babies to study what causes the developmental disorder. "There are subtle signs of autism at one year if you just look for them," said neuroscientist Karen Pierce of the University of California, San Diego, who led the study. "Let's just get these kids detected early and treated early."

Experts say early therapy can lessen autism's severity, even if they don't know exactly what types will prove best. "The earlier you start, the better," said Dr. Lisa Gilotty of the National Institute of Mental Health, which helped fund the study. For now, what should worry parents? Pierce's top concerns:

- Lack of what she calls "shared attention." Around age 1, babies should try to "pull your attention into their world," pointing to a bird and watching to see if you look, for example, or bringing you a toy, she said.
- Lack of shared enjoyment, where a baby may smile at mom but not engage if other people try peek-a-boo.
- Repetitive behaviors like spinning a car wheel rather than playing with the toy..

See [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42787858/ns/health-kids\\_and\\_parenting/t/simple-checklist-may-spot-signs-autism-age/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42787858/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/t/simple-checklist-may-spot-signs-autism-age/).

## Dosing Guideline Suggested for Babies and Children Younger Than Age 2 -

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/nation-world/2011/may/19/T2NEWSO1-dosing-guideline-suggested-for-babies-ar-208422/>.

## Wall Street Journal: How to Make Younger Kids Smarter About Finance -

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730804576324173535935018.html>.

## Report Points to Widening Gap In Boys' Educational Attainment -

<http://tiny.cc/9ucfb>.

## Facts About U.S. Teen Birth Rate and Quiz About Teen Sexual Behavior -

From the Hillsborough Healthy Teen Network:

U.S. teen birth rate: national, state and city trends - <http://tiny.cc/nji6d>.

How much do you know about teen sexual behavior quiz - <http://tiny.cc/slu89>.

Learn more about the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy at <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national/>.