Early Success Program Partners

- Community Haven for Children and Adults
- Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County
- Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota
- Easter Seals of Southwest Florida
- Family Network on Disabilities
- Gulf Central Early Steps
- Manatee Community College
- Resource Connection for Kids
- Sarasota Health Department
- Sarasota Partnership for Children’s Mental Health
- School Board of Manatee County
- The Florida Center
- The Whole Child Project Manatee
- Sarasota County School Board
The Early Success Program

at Manatee Community College (MCC) is a state-funded coalition governed by a local board. This coalition brings together community nonprofit, business and civic organizations to assist children with disabilities and their families. By making community resources more accessible, families can give their children the solid foundation they need for future success and to prevent or offset problems that may interfere with positive development.

In recognition of the historical role MCC has played as a champion of students with disabilities, former Senator John McKay and Senator Lisa Carlton supported a legislative grant to form the Early Success Program at MCC. Early Success is the vehicle by which the communities of Manatee and Sarasota counties can cooperatively identify and support the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Since its inception in 2006, the Early Success Program has:

• Developed a 2007-08 Strategic Plan
• Funded better behavior initiatives in Sarasota and Manatee counties
• Initiated developmental community screenings in Sarasota county
• Sponsored the “Docs for Tots” advocacy event for local pediatricians and family practitioners
• Expanded on and continued The Whole Child Project Manatee’s effort in collaborative community developmental screenings in Manatee county
• Developed a PowerPoint presentation of data demonstrating results of screenings in Manatee county
• Sponsored and provided scholarships for “Getting Kids in Sync” seminar
• Funded HOPE Advocacy Services, Helping Out Parents in Education
• Funded a pilot program for pediatric outreach

Our Mission

Improve the awareness of, access to and integration of developmental screenings and early intervention services to families of children birth to nine years of age to better identify and address any developmental difficulties or delays that are potentially predictive of a child’s subsequent learning problems.

Early Success Guiding Principles

• Focus on the consumer-side and family orientation to accessing services
• Integrate holistic services in the natural environment of the child and family
• Utilize and build upon existing community resources
• Provide support and augment existing services rather than provide direct services
• Develop resources to fill gaps in services to fulfill mission

Local Contacts

Children’s Medical Services (CMS) Serving Sarasota & Manatee counties
Children’s Medical Services (CMS) provides care for children with special health care needs and their families.
941-361-6250
800-235-9717 toll free

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System/Child Find
The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide; serving children birth to five years of age.
Manatee: 941-708-8770
Sarasota: 941-927-9000

Gulf Central Early Steps
Early Steps offers early intervention services for families with infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) who have developmental delays or an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay.
Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee & Sarasota counties: 941-487-5400 ext. 114
866-510-5594 toll free

Super Doc for Tots Sponsors:

Early Success Program at Manatee Community College
Contact: Kathleen DiPinto, LCSW, Director at 941-752-5246

Sarasota Partnership for Children’s Mental Health
Provides help for families whose children have behavioral challenges with wrap-around services and parent mentoring. Grant funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Department of Health and Human Services, serving children birth to 8 years of age with mental health needs in Sarasota County.
Contact: The Sarasota Family Support Network Help Line: 941-861-1457