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## **Nationally Accredited Preschool Earns Additional 5+ Star Rating**

### **The Preschool at Forty Carrots Area's Only 5+ Star & NAEYC Accredited Early Childhood Education & Care Provider**

**Sarasota, August 16, 2011** – **The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center** has received the highest possible designation, five plus stars, by the **Early Learning Coalition** of Sarasota County **Look for the Stars Quality Improvement System** program. Look for the Stars system is a local tool for parents with children ages birth to 5 years old to identify early child care and education programs that offer quality programming and to help guide the decision making process for parents. It is conducted by independent assessors and the rating is based on teacher/child ratio and group size, curriculum and child assessment, staff qualifications and professional development, family involvement and administrative and business practices.

The Preschool at Forty Carrots is the only 5+ Star and NAEYC accredited early childhood education and care provider in Sarasota County, according to the latest list available for each agency.

[http://www.lookforthestars.org/providers\\_sarasota.html](http://www.lookforthestars.org/providers_sarasota.html)

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/accreditation/search>

The Preschool at Forty Carrots consistently earns and has maintained since 1995 national accreditation as a top early childhood education and care provider with the **National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**. The NAEYC accreditation system sets voluntary professional standards and rigorous criteria to insure quality programs tailored to young children. Criteria measure early childhood education and development standards, accountability and service for parents and children. In the 20 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

A 2007 **Economic Policy Institute** finding reports, "Children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten programs fare better in school, have better home lives, and....go on to higher achievement late in life, graduating from high school and attending college at a higher rate, and earning more once they enter the labor force."

"The Preschool at Forty Carrots is committed to providing excellent early childhood education and child care for children 2 to 5 years old," said **Susie Wells, preschool director, The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center**. "Parents can be overwhelmed when trying to find the highest quality early childhood education program for their children. The Look for the Stars Program and NAEYC ranking shows families that children are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible. Forty Carrots is dedicated to preparing children for optimal readiness and success in school."

Established in 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center boasts an excellent reputation with its unique pairing of top ranking early childhood education and child development standings at the preschool with its parenting education expertise in the family center and community. "Come for your children and stay for yourself," says **Betsy Kane-Hartnett, executive director, Forty Carrots Family Center**. "Forty Carrots is committed to strengthening entire families through educational programs."

A limited number of preschool openings exist for September. For preschool enrollment (2 to 5 year olds) or information, skills and support for parents and children (birth to 5 years old) call 365-7716 or visit [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).

What makes The Preschool at Forty Carrots Family Center unique is that it is part of the greater Forty Carrots Family Center that serves nearly 2,000 families each year - 92% of families receive free parenting and early childhood education in the community; 4% attend the parenting classes at the "Kane Center" on Tuttle Ave., Sarasota and 4% attend The Preschool. Forty Carrots is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. Forty Carrots Family Center embraces diversity and does not discriminate on any basis.

For More Information:

<http://www.fortycarrots.org>

[http://www.lookforthestars.org/providers\\_sarasota.html](http://www.lookforthestars.org/providers_sarasota.html)

<http://www.naeyc.org/content/about-naeyc>

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