

# Please join us as we partner to help children make an easy, successful entry into Kindergarten in 2007

Ready to Learn Providence (R2LP) and the Providence Public School Department (PPSD) have formed a partnership that we hope will increase the number of families who are better informed about the transition of young children from their homes and early care programs to public Kindergarten.

- PPSD will host its *Open Schools Week* during the Week of **March 5<sup>th</sup>**.  
This annual program gives parents and upcoming kindergartners a great opportunity to see the schools in the city, meet teachers and administrators, and visit classrooms. Many parents ultimately choose neighborhood schools for their children, but some have good reasons for choosing another. By opening the schools to parents and children, the PPSD hopes to ease the fears of incoming students and to help parents make informed choices.
- On Wednesday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>** schools will be open until 6 p.m. for visits.  
Families are also welcome to visit schools during regular operating hours on other days that week.
- Kindergarten registration will be held from **February 28<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>**.  
Be sure to look at the enclosed insert for the dates and times reserved for you. We urge parents to register their children as early as possible. Parents who don't register their children during this registration period find themselves with far fewer choices and often don't receive assignments until late in the summer.
- Mark your calendars for a *SPECIAL EVENING EVENT* on **February 8<sup>th</sup>**.  
To learn more about the Kindergarten registration process, Ready to Learn Providence and the PPSD are co-sponsoring an informational meeting entitled *Working Together to Ease the Transition to Kindergarten*. Please see information below.

## *Working Together to Ease the Transition to Kindergarten*

Community College of Rhode Island Auditorium (*Providence campus*)

Thursday, **February 8, 2007** \*

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

*Dr. Donnie Evans, Superintendent of Providence Public Schools*, other school department officials and R2LP community representatives are scheduled to participate in the event. Parents of upcoming kindergartners, members of the Providence early care and education community, and other community resources supportive to parents of young children are cordially invited to attend this informational meeting. The discussion will focus on the timeframe for Kindergarten registration, parental choice of schools, required documentation (immunizations, etc.), school readiness, and community resources supportive to parents.

In addition, representatives of R2LP's Transition to Kindergarten Committee (T2K) will debut a new tool - the *Child Information Sheet* - which is based on the framework of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards. The *Child Information Sheet* was designed for use by early care and education programs to provide Kindergarten teachers with an introduction to the members of the new class of entering kindergartners. The goal of the T2K Committee is to have early care providers voluntarily complete (with parental permission) a *Child Information Sheet* for each child they serve before they arrive at Providence Public School Department's Kindergarten classrooms in the fall 2007.

On behalf of Ready to Learn Providence and the Providence Public School Department we hope you will be able to join us for this collaborative event on Thursday, **February 8, 2007**.

*Joyce Butler, Director of Ready to Learn Providence*

*Gary Moroch, Executive Director of Elementary Education, Providence Public School Department*

\* **Snow Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007**