

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE FIRST BABY & ME BANQUET, MAY 5, 2001

The Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel and its Dade Partner, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Division of Early Childhood Programs, in cooperation with the Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education, have joined forces to help promote the well-being of South Florida residents by raising private sector revenues to support the expansion of the infant-toddler parenting program, Baby & Me. The Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education is a direct-support organization of M-DCPS. All proceeds from this event will be received by the Coalition.

The Baby & Me Program is currently housed at ten sites, with unsolicited requests for an additional eight programs. Numerous additional requests for Baby & Me classes are likely to be made once the program is made available to the schools.

Baby & Me classes were developed, and are now being implemented, in and around Miami-Dade County as a result of current brain research findings. Overwhelming evidence that has come to the forefront strongly suggests that appropriate infant stimulation activities and early nurturance during the first three years of a child's life will enhance his/her social, emotional, and cognitive potential.

No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to support the participation by Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Early Childhood, in cooperation with the Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education, in the first Baby & Me Banquet, May 5, 2001.

No local funds are required.

JHM:vw