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News Release

Broward County Environmental "Emerald Award" Winners

- Green Children's House Early Learning Center Recognized for Innovative Procedures -

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Broward County has chosen Green Children's House Early Learning Center, located at 307 N.E. First St. in Pompano Beach, to receive one of the County's 2008 Emerald Awards for its outstanding environmentally responsible business practices.

The Green Children's House and Early Learning Center has been chosen to receive a 2008 Emerald Award.

The Green Children's House Early Learning Center won the environmental award under the category of the "Innovative Procedures/Process Improvement-Small Business."



Children learn to garden at the Green Children's House and Learning Center in Pompano Beach.

Factors that qualified the business include:

- Ecofriendly childcare that strives to protect and preserve the environment and teaches tomorrow's leaders the importance of that mission
- Serve organic snacks
- Teach children yoga
- Floors made of bamboo, easy to clean and made of renewable resource
- Use ecofriendly cleaners, safer for children
- In place of paper towels, use hand cloths that are washed and reused. This teaches children about sustainability.
- Recycle bins placed throughout facility
- Changed an old door with a new one that has a window in. This allows natural light in, reducing electricity needs
- All paint is low in volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- Use live plants to naturally keep air cleaner
- Use of organic garden as teaching tool
- Collect rainwater for use in garden
- Artificial turf in play area has an antimicrobial layer. Children stay cleaner and germ exposure is

reduced.

- Recycle cell phones, ink cartridges, fluorescent light bulbs and paper
- Tint film on windows to block 90 percent of sun rays, reducing air-conditioning use
- Buy recycled paper products such as office paper, toilet paper
- Use of technology to reduce paper usage and operate the business efficiently. Examples

include:

- Electronic log in/out for children
- Daily reports are blogged and sent via email
- Student enrollment is completed online and saved on their database
- The parent handbook is online
- Communication is done via e-mail with parents

The pre-school is the first in Broward County to introduce a STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) program. For the 2009 - 2010 school year, all kindergartners will be issued laptop computers as part of their STEM curriculum, empowering students to be leaders in technology and innovation. Their motto: Green Children's House is Saving the Earth with one child at a time.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners will present trophies to the Green Children's House and all of the winners at a special ceremony followed by a brief reception at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Broward County Commission Chambers, Room 422, of the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

Each year, the Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department recognizes several local businesses for their outstanding environmentally-responsible business practices. Each business receives an Emerald Award for their exceptional efforts in protecting the environment.

Altogether, seven businesses will be given Emerald Awards and several individuals and one municipality/government agency will receive the 2008 NatureScape Emerald Awards for incorporating NatureScape Broward techniques into their landscaping.

The program recognizes businesses for their voluntary efforts in four areas: waste reduction, recycling, improved operating practices, and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible. One business is also honored with the title "Environmental Business of the Year," which will be announced at the ceremony.

Receiving an Emerald Award can help companies boost business. Research has shown that a company's environmental reputation will rival quality and brand name as criteria used by customers. Environmentally-friendly business practices can help companies attract new customers, encourage repeat customers and boost employee morale.

Emerald Award winners will be individually featured in media releases leading up to the Emerald Awards ceremony.

More information, including Emerald Award application procedures and guidelines, is available online at www.broward.org/environment or call 954-519-1257; for Broward County's Green initiatives, programs and services go to www.broward.org/gogreen; and visit the Green Children's House Early Learning Center at www.greenchildrenshouse.com or call 954 946-7215.

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