



KIDCARE KONNECTION

A quarterly newsletter provided for Florida KidCare families

Spring 2014

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THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) AND YOUR FLORIDA KIDCARE COVERAGE

Are you still a little confused about the effects that the Affordable Care Act might have on you and your family? Luckily, your kids are covered with Florida KidCare, and you won't have to do anything at all! Your children will continue to receive their health insurance under Florida KidCare. In fact, families will even be able to apply for all family members now (yes, even adults) through us! Although Florida KidCare will continue to grant coverage to children only, we can now facilitate enrollment in the Federal Marketplace. To determine your eligibility, all you have to do is apply through our new application (more details below!)



KIDS OUGHTA BE COVERED!



NEW YEAR, NEW FLORIDA KIDCARE APPLICATION!

With the rollout of 2014 also came the debut of our new Florida KidCare paper application! This application became effective on January 1, 2014 to accommodate changes of the Affordable Care Act. As of this date, no old applications will be accepted. This new application asks a few more questions to cover all information needed for determining a family's eligibility. We need your help spreading the word! Know a family who wants to apply for Florida KidCare? Make sure you tell them to visit www.floridakidcare.org and click 'Download a PDF' in the application section to get the new application in printable form. Don't forget to also tell them about our easier and faster option – applying online. They can visit www.floridakidcare.org and hit 'Apply Now' to start the online process right away!



TAX TROUBLES? WE'VE GOT THE ANSWER... AND IT'S FREE!

It's almost that time—the dreaded tax season! Here's something that will help ease the stress. The Florida Prosperity Partnership (FPP) and its partners have launched www.FreeFLTaxSites.org. What's in it for you? This website helps anyone in Florida find the nearest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Facilitated Self Assistance locations. This means you have options to make your life easier. If face-to-face assistance is what you want, simply log on to the site and find a location

near you. You can also file your tax return from the comfort of your own home with IRS certified volunteers standing by to answer your questions! Most free services are available to people who make \$58,000 or less per year. For those who qualify, easy to claim tax credits of more than \$6,044 are available this tax season. To learn your eligibility, check out www.FreeFLTaxSites.org.



CELEBRATE (AND PROTECT) YOUR CHILD'S SMILE THIS MONTH!

Alright, kiddos—time to tuck away the candy now that Valentine's Day has come and gone! In honor of February, National Children's Dental Health Month, try to make dental health a priority in your family by teaching your kids about cavities. The good news? Dental cavities are entirely preventable. The bad news? Up to 40 percent of children will have experienced

tooth decay by kindergarten. Don't let your children become part of this statistic. You can help them combat tooth decay by getting them excited about properly brushing and flossing, serving them lower-sugar snacks and teaching them the importance of good dental health. Try introducing a fluoride toothpaste or sugar-free versions of their favorite snacks. Strive to enforce these good habits not only this month, but every month of the year!

FKC BY THE NUMBERS

When asked to describe the Florida KidCare family, it is difficult to group all of our families into one distinct category. The mean age of applicant children for Florida KidCare this past year was 8.72 years. The average household size of the applicant child was 3.46 persons. So what do our families all have in common? It is your commitment to our organization that keeps us striving to serve you with the utmost compassion, professionalism, family focus, cultural awareness and innovation each and every day! Did you know that Florida KidCare

enrollment has increased by 3% in the past year, increasing the number of children we serve to almost 2.1 million? In just four years, from 2008 to 2012, the number of uninsured children in Florida dropped by almost 6%, which is more than 230,000 kids! We want to take a minute to thank you for being an active part of Florida KidCare's success in continuing to help lower the number of uninsured children in Florida. With your help, we are confident that we can keep this number on the decline for years to come.



WHAT'S IN YOUR KIT?

As the weather warms up and your kids venture outside again, the chance for a playtime accident significantly rises. Is your first-aid kit fully stocked? A well-stocked kit is a necessity, and having one handy in your house and car can help you tackle any emergency at a moment's notice.

The Red Cross recommends these items for your first-aid kit:

- Absorbent compress dressings
- Adhesive bandages
- Adhesive cloth tape
- Antibiotic ointment packets
- Antiseptic wipe packets
- Packets of aspirin
- Blanket
- Instant cold compress
- Pair of non-latex gloves
- 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets
- Scissors
- Roller bandages
- 10 sterile gauze pads
- Oral thermometer
- Tweezers



To find out more about first-aid kits, visit www.redcross.org.

Florida KidCare

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