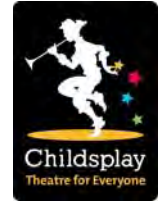


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News Release

For immediate release 7/26/2010

Helios Foundation Awards Funding for Childsplay Program for Early Childhood Educators

Tempe, AZ – Childsplay, Arizona’s award-winning theatre company for young audiences, is proud to be one of three Helios Education Foundation grant recipients for programs aligned with the Foundation's Early Childhood Theory of Change. Grants were awarded for development of programs which are designed to strengthen the literacy and language acquisition knowledge and education of early childhood teachers, professionals, and other providers working with children ages birth to five. In addition to funding for Childsplay, other recipients include the Early Learning Coalition of Polk County in Manatee and Sarasota counties in Florida, and Paradise Valley Community College in partnership with Central Arizona College.

Childsplay, located in Tempe, Arizona will capitalize on its thirty plus years of experience in using theatre as a medium to engage children and adults. The Childsplay project outlines strategies to adapt an existing research-based model of delivering professional development to elementary school teachers for the early childhood environment. The program will work with early childhood teachers and practitioners to integrate drama strategies and writing/reading curricula and to provide job-embedded professional development that uses creative drama and dramatic play to site-specific objectives for language acquisition and emergent literacy for children in early childhood programs.

For more information about the Childsplay program, contact Patricia Snoyer Black, Director of Artist Residencies, Childsplay at pblack@childsplayaz.org, or call 480-921-2750. For more information about the Helios Foundation and this program, contact Karen Ortiz, Vice President and Director Early Childhood Education for Arizona and Florida, Helios Education Foundation at kortiz@helios.org or call 602-381-2273.

Childsplay, Inc. is a nonprofit theatre company of professional, adult artists who perform for and teach young audiences and their families. The mission of Childsplay is “to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood which are keys to the future.” For information on Childsplay performances, classes or educational presentations please call 480.921-5700.
