

## Additional Resources...

Besides **ParentChild+**, Boys Town South Florida offers a number of other helpful resources that can benefit both parents and children:

- > The **Behavioral Health Clinic** offers a variety of specialized, research-based services to help children and their families find solutions to difficult challenges such as depression, anxiety, school problems and ADHD.
- > **Common Sense Parenting®** is a practical, skill-based program that teaches parents easy-to-learn techniques to help them meet today's parenting challenges.
- > **Care Coordination Services** provide a lifeline for children with mental health issues by ensuring they receive the right care at the right time. In this intensive, family-centered program, Boys Town Consultants help parents and caregivers access, navigate and monitor the services their children need.
- > **In-Home Family Services** provide intensive home-based services in Palm Beach, Broward, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River counties, based on referrals from a variety of sources.
- > **Primary Project** is an evidence-based program provided in select elementary schools. Trained staff work with students in child-directed play sessions with the goal of improving school readiness/adjustment, and enhancing their social/emotional and behavioral well-being.
- > The **Boys Town National Hotline® (800-448-3000)** is a free resource and counseling service staffed by specially trained Boys Town counselors who help youth and parents 24/7, year round.
- > **YourLifeYourVoice.org** is a special website that enables teens to share their issues and concerns in positive ways and provides access to immediate help in a crisis.
- > **Boystown.org/parenting** is an invaluable free online resource that provides practical, easy-to-use materials and information for parents and caregivers of children of all ages.
- > **The Boys Town Press®** produces books, audio products, DVDs and other resources to assist children, parents, caregivers, educators and other professionals.

## Boys Town Mission

*Changing the way America cares  
for children and families.*

## ParentChild+ Vision Statement

*ParentChild+ envisions a world where every child enters school ready to succeed because every parent has the knowledge, skills and resources to build school readiness where it starts: the home.*

**ParentChild+**  
Equal Possibilities From The Start



*ParentChild+ is funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County and managed by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.*

*The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, a special district created by Palm Beach County voters, provides leadership, funding and research on behalf of the county's children so they grow up healthy, safe and strong.*



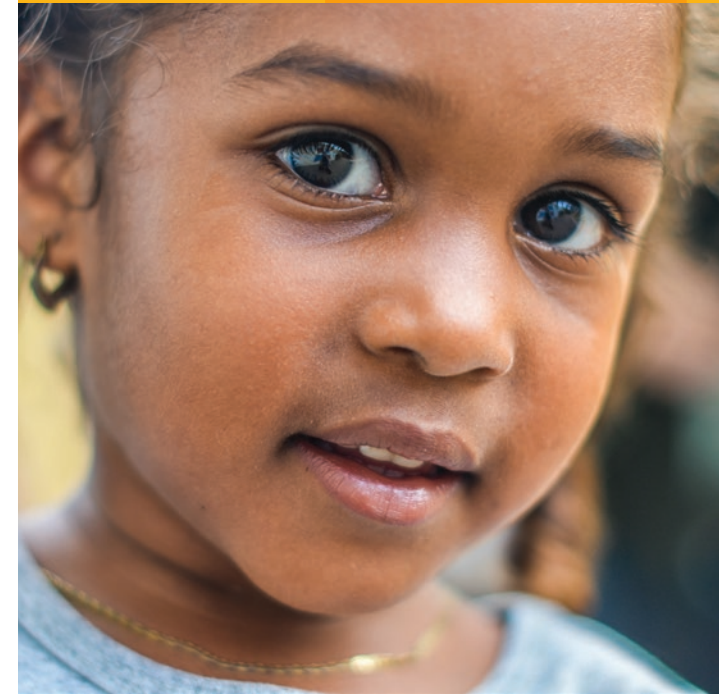
**West Palm Beach Office**  
1655 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 300  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
p 561-612-6000 | f 561-612-6097

*Saving Children, Healing Families®*

*Boys Town follows a policy of non-discrimination in accordance with the law.*



# ParentChild+



## ▶ Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

**561-612-6000**

**boystown.org/south-florida**

ParentChild+ serves families throughout Palm Beach County.

**As the parent of a toddler, one of the most important things you can do is get your young child ready to start kindergarten.**



**W**hen children have learned how to work and play with others and can appropriately express themselves in their words and behaviors, they are better prepared to make the transition to school and be successful.

Most importantly, when you play with and read books to your child, and use those experiences as teaching moments, it plants the seeds of a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

### **A Modeling Approach**

In the research-proven **ParentChild+**, you'll learn how to enhance your child's development by working with a trained Early Learning Specialist.

Using specially selected books and educational toys and activities, Early Learning Specialists help parents understand that they are their children's first and most

important teacher, and show them how to generate enthusiasm for learning in their children.

Early Learning Specialists role-model for parents how to appropriately use the program materials with children to promote verbal interactions, parent-child bonding and school readiness.

### **How the Program Works**

Families begin the program when their children are between 21 months and 42 months old and complete it as the children turn 4 and transition into pre-kindergarten or a Head Start program.

An Early Learning Specialist is matched with a family and visits the home for a half hour twice a week on a schedule that is convenient for the family. Whenever possible, the Early Learning Specialist is of the same cultural background as the family, and speaks their primary language.

On the first visit of each week, the Early Learning Specialist brings an educational book or toy that will be used that week. These are a gift to the family, and over time, parents will accumulate a library of books and a collection of stimulating toys they can continue to use with their entire family.

In the home sessions, the Early Learning Specialist models conversation, reading and play activities, demonstrating how parents can use the books and toys to build language and literacy skills and promote school readiness.

Each program year has 23 weeks of home visits and 46 total visits. Research has shown that families benefit the most by spending at least 12 months in the program.

***Best of all, the program and all the materials are FREE to parents!***

### **One Child's Success**

Before her parents enrolled her in **ParentChild+**, Marie was extremely shy and did not talk. She was receiving speech therapy, but it didn't seem to be making a difference.

One month into the program, Marie started talking and retelling stories she had learned during program sessions. Her parents were so surprised by the tremendous progress she made in such a short time that they went to great lengths to keep session appointments with their Early Learning Specialist and reviewed program materials with their daughter between sessions.

Marie's mother also started using more positive parenting techniques with all her children, which is one of the program's goals as parents learn new behaviors through the Early Learning Specialist's role modeling.

Marie is now outperforming her peers in the Head Start program in which she was recently enrolled, and is a shining example of how **ParentChild+** can positively impact children and their families.

### **Benefits to Children and Parents**

- > Gets your child ready for school
- > Strengthens your parent-child relationship
- > Increases your involvement in your child's education
- > Improves your child's reading and language skills
- > Enhances your child's development (verbal, social, emotional)
- > Creates a love for reading and learning for your child

**ParentChild+** also provides your family with other materials that can create even more learning opportunities for your child (e.g., learning numbers, colors, letters, etc.).

 **Get Started TODAY!**

To learn more about how you can begin your young child's journey to school readiness, call **561-612-6000** or visit **[boystown.org/south-florida](http://boystown.org/south-florida)**.

