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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### CHILDREN'S CONSORTIUM AWARDED LITERACY GRANT FOR *READY, SET, GO!*

The Children's Consortium was recently announced as a winner of a 2012 Literacy Champion Grant by the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County. The \$6,000 grant is one of several awarded to area organizations to support family literacy programming with a goal to improve literacy levels across the lifespan in Onondaga County.

The grant will enable the Children's Consortium to provide 4 workshops of Ready, Set, Go! in 2012 to parents and children, up to age four, living in the northside of the city of Syracuse (zip codes 13203 and 13208.) Ready, Set, Go! is a 6-week workshop series that prepares children for the first-time separation experience of attending preschool while also working with parents to increase child development and literacy within the family.

Ready, Set, Go! is specially designed to promote feelings of independence and confidence in children. Each week, parents and children start off together in one room and participate in a variety of activities, such as singing, counting, organized play, and snack. For the second part of the class, parents adjourn to a separate room for discussion while the children stay in the playroom and continue activities. Ready, Set, Go! is available to all parents and their children living in Central New York.

The next six-week session of *Ready, Set, Go!* will be held on Wednesdays from May 2 – June 6 at the Children's Consortium, 2122 Erie Blvd East in Syracuse. To register, call 315-471-8331. The Literacy Champion Grant will allow the agency to give scholarships for attendance for families living in zip codes 13203 and 13208.

The Children's Consortium has a long commitment to Central New York families. Ready, Set, Go! is one of many initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of parents and caregivers as the first and most important teacher of their own children. The Children's Consortium collaborates with a number of other agencies in the area to provide parenting education at schools, homes, hospitals, and in the community. More information about Ready, Set, Go! and the Children's Consortium is available at [www.ChildrensConsortium.org](http://www.ChildrensConsortium.org) or by calling 315-471-8331.

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