



Dear Educational Center,

Your center is cordially invited to join us as we toast the milestones of *Extraordinary* people within the field of Education with *Konnect2Kidz*. Annual *Educator's Extravaganza* held Friday, May 29, 2015 and Saturday, May 30, 2015 at the Hyatt Hotel North Houston, 425 North Sam Houston Pkwy Houston, TX 77060.

This one-of-a-kind, two day extravaganza event will be filled with fun and excitement. This extravaganza weekend event will take educators and guests on an unforgettable journey, beginning on Friday evening with an *Exclusive VIP Networking Cocktail Mixer* for Childcare Owners/Directors, Superintendents, Administrators, School Board Members and other Executives. The journey continues Saturday morning with a sensational *Professional Development Workshop* on the following topic "Discovering Innovative Ways to Create an Effective Teaching Environment", in which teachers will earn four (4) clock hours towards their annual training requirement. Lastly, educators and guests return Saturday evening for the **Enhancement Grant Presentation** and enjoy *Educator's Awards Gala*, including an awards ceremony for educators, live entertainment, a formal dinner, "Dress for Success" runway fashion show, silent auction, vendor shopping and other exciting activities.

What better word than "*Extraordinary*" to describe educators. We are the first to shape the lives of children. Firefighters, police officers, and other public servants are honored at gala events throughout the year, but the challenging works of educational providers often goes unrecognized. Therefore, we at Konnect2Kidz want to recognize you for a job well done. Our overall mission for this extravaganza event is "*To Raise the Bar to Higher Quality Education*". By doing this we will be able to bridge the gap and create a better tomorrow, today.

Your support of this event will benefit a wide range of educational providers as we celebrate these inspirational people. Educators wishing to participate in this event must fill out the registration form per the instructions provided.

Special Thanks,

*L. Davis Johnson/ President*



## Extravaganza at a Glance

**Participant All-Inclusive fee includes:**

Friday, May 29, 2015	
<i>Exclusive VIP Networking Cocktail Mixer</i> for Childcare Owners/Directors, Superintendents, Administrators, School Board Members and other Executives  <b>(INVITED GUEST ONLY)</b>	7pm - 9pm
Saturday (Morning) , May 30, 2015	
<i>Professional Development Workshop on the following topic</i> “Discovering Innovative Ways to Create an Effective Teaching Environment” <i>participants will also</i> earn four (4) clock hours towards their annual training requirement; participate in ‘Real Teacher Talk’ Q&A Session; and register to win “Educator Survival Drawings” and more.	9am -12 pm
Saturday (Evening) , May 30, 2015	
<i>Pre-Gala Mixer</i> - An evening of elegance, where you will get to meet and network with educators from all around the city.	6:30-7:00pm
<i>Enhancement Grant Presentation</i> and enjoy <i>Educator’s Awards Gala</i> , including an awards ceremony for educators, live entertainment, a formal dinner, “ <b>Dress for Success</b> ” runway fashion show, raffle drawing and other exciting activities.	7:00-10:00pm

**Location:**

Hyatt Hotel North Houston  
425 North Sam Houston Pkwy, Houston, TX 77060



## **Child Care Center Enhancement Grant**

Konnect2Kidz is now accepting Child Care Center Enhancement Grant Applications. Grants will be awarded to a child care center for the purpose of implementing specific changes to improve the quality of care provided to children. The maximum amount of grant rewarded is up to **\$4,000 in services and resources.**

Through this grant, Konnect2Kidz child care consultants will work personally with centers to enhance their program. In the following areas: Technology, Classroom Redevelopment, Teaching Training and Teacher Resources (classroom and administrative), additional resources, and learning material for the children.

### ***Eligibility Requirements***

- Must be a child care program in operation and licensed a minimum of 3 years;
- Centers must have a current Child Care License from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services;
- Must provide two (2) letters of recommendation;
- A copy of a Texas State License from Department of Family and Protective Services;
- Staff, Parent and/or Community Support at Enhancement Grant Presentation.  
(minimum of 4 attendees)

***Application is supplied within this packet. Completed applications must be faxed to (281) 447-5440 OR sent to the following email [k2kstaff@konnect2kidz.org](mailto:k2kstaff@konnect2kidz.org) no later than May 8, 2015. Applications postmarked after that date will not be accepted. One grant is awarded per year.***

Applications will be subject to disqualification if the guidelines listed above are not met. There will be no exceptions. The recipient of the Child Care Center Enhancement Grant will be notified at the Educator's Awards Gala.



### Child Care Center Enhancement Grant Application

*Child Care Center Information (please print or type)*

Company Name	
Contact Name	
Center Director	
Address	
City, State	
ZIP Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (business)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

*Why does your center need this grant? (use additional paper if needed)*

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Must be a child care program in operation and licensed a minimum of 3 years.
- Centers must have a current Child Care License from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- 2 letters of recommendations
- A copy of a Texas State License from Department of Family and Protective Services
- Staff, Parent and/or Community Support at Enhancement Grant Presentation. (minimum of 4 attendees)

**Child Care Grant Checklist** - Items faxed to (281) 447-5440 OR sent to the following email [k2kstaff@konnnect2kidz.org](mailto:k2kstaff@konnnect2kidz.org)

- 2 letters of recommendations (employees or parents)
- A copy of a Texas State License from Department of Family and Protective Services

Center Owner or Director Signature

Signature(s)
Date

-----Konnnect2Kidz Only-----

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_

Person who received application: \_\_\_\_\_

Center Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone-business: \_\_\_\_\_

- Completed Application
- In-completed Application



## Early Childhood Educator's Event Registration

**Please complete this registration form for the Early Childhood Educator's Awards Gala Two Day Event.**

Name of Organization/Individual(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(Online Registration at [Konnect2Kidz.org](http://Konnect2Kidz.org) suggested for larger parties)

Business or Individual E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

(We will use this email to send out information about your registration)

Phone-Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone-Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Tickets:** \_\_\_\_ x \$85 (Price per Ticket) = \_\_\_\_ **Total**

**Group Registration (\$100 Savings):** \_\_\_\_ x \$75 per ticket = \_\_\_\_ **Total (minimum of 10)**

Please mail (checks/money orders only) **OR** visit our website to complete registration.

- Mail completed form and payment to P.O. BOX 69093 Houston, TX 77269 must be postmarked by Wednesday, May 6, 2015 **OR** complete registration via PayPal by visiting [Konnect2Kidz.org](http://Konnect2Kidz.org)

### ***Benefits of attending Early Childhood Educator's Extravaganza:***

<u><b>Childcare Center Owner/Director</b></u>	<u><b>Childcare Center Teachers</b></u>	<u><b>School District Teachers</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualify for \$2000 Child Care Center Enhancement Grant</li> <li>• Invitation to Exclusive VIP Networking Cocktail Mixer</li> <li>• Staff Professional Development - four (4) clock hours towards annual training requirements</li> <li>• Award nominations to recognize employee achievements</li> <li>• Team Building Opportunities</li> <li>• Qualify for Educator Survival drawing which Includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Beauty Make Over w/ Photo shoot</i></li> <li>○ <i>Massage @Massage Envy</i></li> <li>○ <i>Lakeshore Gift Card (\$50)</i></li> <li>○ <i>"Dinner for Two" (Local Restaurant)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Development Workshop</li> <li>• Invitation to Exclusive VIP Networking Cocktail Mixer</li> <li>• Team Building Opportunities</li> <li>• Awards recognition</li> <li>• Qualify for Educator Survival Kit which Includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Beauty Make Over w/Photo shoot</i></li> <li>• <i>Massage @Massage Envy</i></li> <li>• <i>Lakeshore Gift Card (\$50)</i></li> <li>• <i>"Dinner for Two" (Local Restaurant)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Development Workshop</li> <li>• Invitation to Exclusive VIP Networking Cocktail Mixer</li> <li>• Team Building Opportunities</li> <li>• Awards recognition</li> <li>• Qualify for Educator Survival drawing which Includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Beauty Make Over w/ Photo shoot</i></li> <li>○ <i>Massage @Massage Envy</i></li> <li>○ <i>Lakeshore Gift Card (\$50)</i></li> <li>○ <i>"Dinner for Two" (Local Restaurant)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## **Nomination and Awards**

Through our **Awards of Excellence for Extraordinary People**, early childhood educators are recognized for their extraordinary work. Whether you are the child center administrator or bus driver, we celebrate your contribution to the overall success of the early childhood education profession. Our review committee identifies which award best recognizes the individual based on nominations received. We give careful consideration to every nomination we receive.

### ***Nomination Requirements***

Complete the nomination form online at [www.Konnect2Kidz.org](http://www.Konnect2Kidz.org). Include the names and phone numbers of at least three (3) contacts who are familiar with your nominee's endeavors.

You may nominate up to three (3) individuals for a single category.

### ***Nomination Deadline***

All nominations must be completed before or on Friday, May 8, 2015 in order to be considered for an award. Late nominations will not be accepted.

### ***Evaluation Process***

- Members of Konnect2Kidz Review Committee will evaluate the nominations and select top individuals.
- Review Committee will forward the top candidates to Konnect2Kidz Awards Committee to begin the award process.





### *Award Description for Center and Staff*

The *Teacher of the Year Award* honors an individual who serves as a model for all. Through their knowledge and understanding of early childhood education, this individual's classroom creates an environment where children love learning. They recognize a child's unique qualities and potential, involve families in the classroom, and make a visible difference with their students.

The *Director of the Year Award* honors an individual who serves as a model for all. His or her leadership and organization skills contribute to the overall success of the child care center. Through their knowledge, dedication, and understanding of early childhood education, this individual delivers an exceptional environment that fosters growth and learning for children, families, and staff.

The *Parent Partnership Award* honors an individual who supports working families. They encourage family involvement within the center, welcome new ideas, and build a community of caring. This individual consistently meets the needs of children and families at the center by building trusting relationships with families and respecting their values as well as cultural differences.

The *Rising Star Award* honors individuals who are eager to learn the field of early childhood education and have a positive attitude. These individuals take initiative, expand on new ideas, are willing to ask questions, and are flexible with the needs of the center, all while being a team-player and assisting managers and co-workers.

The *Ann Oaks Award* is given in the continuous legacy of Mrs. Ann Oaks. She is a philanthropist in the field of early childhood education. Over the past 42 years, she has dedicated herself to improving the lives of children and families. This award honors an exceptional individual who dedicates his or herself to children, families, and colleagues. The Ann Oaks recipient embodies excellence. They are the philanthropist of their center. They have an undeniable dedication to the field of early childhood education, partnering with colleagues and families for the betterment of children. They are knowledgeable and accepting to others while sharing their expertise on children's development.





**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Award :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Contact info:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to describe your reasons for this nomination. Be as detailed as possible

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