



## Forty Carrots Family Center

Few enter into parenthood fully equipped to handle the challenges. Since 1993, not-for-profit Forty Carrots, has offered an ever-expanding array of child and family services to nurture early childhood development and provide parents of all backgrounds with the tools they need to raise healthy, happy, self-reliant children.

Every family faces its own unique challenges, which is why Forty Carrots' programs extend into all corners of the community and address many facets of emotional and social well-being. Through compassionate parenting support, innovative educational opportunities, and therapeutic services, parents feel empowered in their abilities and children are able to grow into capable, caring human beings. To those ends, Forty Carrots works to strengthen the community as a whole in Sarasota and Manatee counties.



**For every family.**

**For the community.**

**For the future.**

### Core Components

#### Parenting Education Programs

Providing information, skills and support for parents from all walks of life. Working in partnership with over a dozen local non-profits allows Forty Carrots to reach some of the community's most at risk families.

#### Mental Health Services

Licensed Mental Health Therapists offering therapy services to children, adolescents and their families, as well as therapeutic groups at free community outreach partner locations.

#### Nationally Accredited Preschool

Encouraging children to learn and explore through firsthand experiential learning. Certified teachers integrate research based curriculum with innovative programs including a state of the art science center.

### 988% Individual Therapy Services Growth since 2013

Forty Carrots' remarkable growth was marked most recently by the purchase and renovation of a building dedicated to Child and Family Therapy Services. Because 93 percent of Forty Carrots programs are free to the more than 4,100 clients they serve, this growth would not have been possible without the support of generous philanthropic partners.

Discover more at [fortycarrots.org](http://fortycarrots.org)

# Partners In Play

Forty Carrots' research-based parenting education classes featuring innovative parent/child development sessions at local libraries.

**Who:** Parents with children under 5, guided by professionally trained Parenting Educators and an Early Literacy Specialist

**What:** Free hands-on education through parent-child playtime

**Where:** 15 locations in Sarasota and Manatee counties through the public library system and Sally and Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center

**When:** 22 free classes on a weekly basis

**Why:** Social and emotional development go hand-in-hand with language development. Fun, expert-guided, literacy-related activities, all help build vocabulary and understanding, ensuring children can clearly express themselves and embrace learning as they grow. Meanwhile, parents are nurturing their relationship with their children. Educators individualize parenting education to caregivers.

## Snapshot

**32,810**  
children under the age of 5 in Sarasota-Manatee

**23 percent**  
living in poverty

**12,000**  
Partners In Play participants annually

**75 percent**  
Partners In Play program expansion in 2014

**Still an Unmet Demand**  
More than **450** families were turned away last year



## The Power of Play

How the unassuming fun of PIP makes a world of difference in one family's journey.

It seems like a simple scenario: A woman sits on the floor of a neighborhood library alongside two young children. Prompted by a nearby educator, they play with puppets, scribble on paper, and sculpt clay. The children are rapt by the activity; they show off their creations, make up stories and giggle in delight. At first glance, it's just an idyllic little scene between mother and children.

But there's so much more going on here, a story of tragedy as well as triumph. Six weeks ago, when the woman first brought her children to Partners In Play, she was newly destitute—abandoned by her husband and living on friends' couches—and the children were quiet, lethargic, uninterested in simple playthings. Though the family attended the classes together, they struggled with even simple interactions, unable to express themselves.

But the next week, they came back again.

The specially trained Forty Carrots Parenting Educators quickly recognized these difficulties, offered ongoing guidance and developed a trusting relationship with the family. As they played together, the mother learned about child development and what she could expect as new milestones arose as her children grew; the educators offered strategies for discipline and ways to support and encourage the children's early learning.

The family kept coming back.

In fact, Forty Carrots' Partners In Play was the only professional and educational program that they attended on a weekly basis. As the Parenting Educators learned more about the family's situation, they were able to connect the mother with other invaluable community resources like housing assistance, financial support services, therapy, childcare and employment aid—all while continuing to nurture the family relationship and provide the woman with tools for raising her children.

A year later, the mother has accomplished a series of remarkable tasks to give her family security and stability. She and her children express themselves much easier—both with each other and with other participants in the Partners in Play group. And that's when we see the family together still at the library, laughing, smiling and interacting.

Playing.

You can make a difference. Your donation of \$1,500 will give one family free access to Partners In Play for one full year. Contact Forty Carrots at 941.365.7716 or visit [fortycarrots.org](http://fortycarrots.org).