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### *Selby Gardens and Forty Carrots Create Partners In Play*

[Sarasota, FL, July 16, 2014] – In September, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens will embark on a new school-year partnership with Forty Carrots Family Center. One Saturday a month, Forty Carrots will bring their “Partners In Play” program to the Ann Goldstein Children’s Rainforest Garden.

“Botanical gardens are increasingly positioning themselves to reach younger audiences and enable families and students to have greater access to the outdoors,” said Selby Gardens CEO Tom Buchter. “It gives us the opportunity to work together with Forty Carrots to reach underserved children in our community and show them the wonders of the natural world.”

“Exposing families to hands-on activities at Selby Gardens is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn and engage their senses,” said Christina Rodrigues, Forty Carrots Parenting Program Director. “The gardens offer a delightful, natural space for discovery, where parents and children can play together with the support of Parenting Educators.”

“Partners In Play” is a parenting education program that provides parents with support and information about early childhood development, while creating an enriching learning environment for children. The sessions held at Selby Gardens will be garden-themed. They will give children and their parents a chance to explore the rainforest garden and learn about the environment.

For more information about the program, contact Christina Rodrigues, [christina.rodrigues@fortycarrots.com](mailto:christina.rodrigues@fortycarrots.com).

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#### **About Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is a leader in the display and study of orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads, epiphytes and tropical plants with a focus on botany, horticulture and environmental education. For more information please visit [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org).

#### **About Forty Carrots Family Center**

Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field. Through community outreach programs, such as Partners In Play, they offer parenting education and mental health services that serve families facing specific challenges compounding the already complex job of raising children. For further information visit [www.fortycarrots.org](http://www.fortycarrots.org).