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**Manager of Education for The Children's Courtyard  
Honored with Regional Award**

ARLINGTON, Texas, April 9, 2008 – The Children's Courtyard is pleased to announce that its Manager of Education for School-Age Programs, Sam Smith, was recently honored with the Rich Scofield Award at the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference in Covington, Kentucky last month. The Children's Courtyard is a leader in quality early childhood education and care, serving in the Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas.

The award honors Rich Scofield, who passed away in 2006 and spent his life advocating for nurturing environments for children. He provided visionary leadership as one of the founders of the National School-Age Care Alliance (now known as the National After School Association) and School-Age NOTES newsletter and publishing company.

Sam Smith was this year's award recipient, which recognizes individuals in the industry who have impacted and contributed to the school-age field. Smith has been involved in school-age programs since 1984 and has been with The Children's Courtyard for 13 years.

"It is such a tremendous honor to receive the Rich Scofield award because I get to see so many children benefit from the philosophies that I have learned from him," said Smith. "School-age children are at such diverse stages of development ... they continue to learn, expand their interests and discover they person they want to be. It is a privilege to be involved with children at this age, knowing that what we do every day makes a difference in their lives."

**About The Children's Courtyard**

Founded in Arlington, Texas in 1986, The Children's Courtyard operates approximately 50 early education and child care locations in the Austin, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth areas. With programs for infants through school-agers, The Children's Courtyard offers exciting and educational learning experiences through active exploration and discovery. Its innovative Lab Schools train and develop staff ensuring that each teacher helps promote a lifetime love of learning. For more information, please call Customer Support at (877) 892-4453 or visit [www.childrenscourtyard.com](http://www.childrenscourtyard.com).

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**Editor's Note:** Born and raised in Moses Lake, Wash., Smith currently resides in Arlington, Texas.