

Central Florida DOCTOR

MAY 2008

CENTRAL FLORIDA DOCTOR'S WHAT'S HAPPENING MEDICAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENTS

Over 70 statewide partners and corporations hosted and promoted the 13th Annual Florida Children's Week, including over 100 events, forums and activities across the state and culminating in events at the state Capitol March 30-April 4.

Children's health issues are a major concern to pediatricians around the state after budget cuts targeting children's medical services and Healthy Start were announced by the Florida Legislature during the current session. If enacted, these cuts would eliminate necessary services to Florida's poor children such as cleft palate surgeries, dialysis, transplants, sickle cell programs, and treatments for fetal alcohol syndrome and HIV/AIDS.



(L. to R.): Dr. Lisa Simpson, co-author of the Florida Chartbook, Jason Zaborske, Children's Week Statewide Coordinator and Karen Breakell, Florida Director of Community Relations for Nemours announce the conclusion of two successful programs of the 13th Annual Florida Children's Week.



Children participating in activities with Nemours during the 13th Annual Florida Children's Week in Tallahassee.

Findings from the *Florida Chartbook: A Compilation of Current Research and Data Regarding Children's Health and Health Care Quality* were released in Florida's Capitol Rotunda on April 2. The Florida Chartbook was funded by Nemours, the University of South Florida, All Children's Hospital and the Agency for Healthcare Administration to share information about the state of children's health in Florida.

The 'Capitol Steps for Kids' pedometer challenge, aimed at generating advocacy and awareness for the childhood obesity epidemic and other issues faced by Florida's youth, was also completed during Children's Week. Over 20,000 children and families were given pedometers to monitor their steps walked throughout recent statewide events. Over eight million steps were recorded by the pedometers during statewide events for children's issues.