



December Issue

[Miami-Dade County](#)

[The Children's Trust](#)

[The Children's Movement](#)

[ELC's Children's Week 2012 Event](#)

[Help the ELC Raise Funds through TICKETS fore CHARITY](#)

[Ask Dr. Hughes](#)

[ELC and You: Stay Connected with the ELC](#)

[Local Events for the Whole Family!](#)

[Parent Space](#)

Quick Links

[ELCMDM](#)

[The Children's Trust](#)
[United Way of Miami-Dade](#)

[Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation](#)

[Miami-Dade Public Library System](#)

[Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#)

[The Parent Academy](#)
[Legal Services of Greater Miami](#)

Stay informed during 2012 with the ELC and Local Partners!



Parenting is no easy task. It's a lifelong project that can make you a little crazy at times. At the Early Learning Coalition, we appreciate all the things parents do and recognize you as your children's first and most important teachers. We offer you this issue of *Parent Link* as a resource guide. We have highlighted a few of the organizations we collaborate with in the hopes that you can find some helpful information. Use their sites as sources of information to provide you with the necessary tools to bring high-quality educational opportunities to your children.

We wish you a very happy and prosperous 2012. May the New Year bring you and your family all the happiness in the world.

Miami-Dade County Website: A One-Stop Shop for Local Resources

If you have never been to the Miami-Dade County [website](#), you are missing out on a great resource! This website contains a large database of information for Miami-Dade County residents, employees and visitors. Whether you are interested in obtaining a baby stroller permit for your car or want more information on child care centers and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) registration, the Miami-Dade County website provides you with this information and more.

Below are a few links from the Miami-Dade County website:

- [Baby Stroller Permits](#)
- [VPK Registration](#)



- [Child Care Resource and Referral Unit-](#)
- [Social Services](#)(file unemployment, Section 8 home search, etc.)
- [Job Opportunities](#)



Other resources and categories this web site has to offer are:

- Business & Economy -Construction
- Housing & Property -Green & Environment
- Public Safety -Recreation & Culture
- Transportation -Calendar

The Children's Trust: Because All Children Are Our Children

The [Children's Trust website](#) is another great resource for parents and guardians with children of all ages. This website offers a list of their programs which you can browse, and gives you the option of specifying your interests and needs. Along with browsing their programs, you can download guides such as the 2011 After School Program Guide and the latest issue of the "Teach More/Love More" newsletter.

Here are some of their links:

- [The Children's Trust Programs](#)
- [Teach More/Love More](#)
- [After School Programs](#)
- [Health Connect](#)
- [211 Helpline](#)



Other resources available from The Children's Trust website are:

- Calendar
- Quality Counts
- Helpful reading materials and articles with information about children in all stages of development (from prenatal through age 5), children with special needs and medical conditions, parenting, adoption, and more.

The Children's Movement: Insisting that Children be Florida's No. 1 Priority

The Children's Movement of Florida is a citizen-led, nonpartisan movement to educate parents and leaders in the state about the urgent need to improve how we care for our children. The Movement's goal is to encourage Floridians to make children their highest priority when it comes to investments in the future. Led by David Lawrence Jr., the Children's Movement aims to provide access to quality health care, screening and treatment for special needs, quality prekindergarten opportunities, high-quality mentoring programs and support and information for parents.

Parents are most central to children's success. They can do their part by ensuring that the Legislature carries out strategic investments, especially in the areas of parent skill-building. View the 2012 Legislative Agenda on their [website](#). By following the legislative session, parents can stay up-to-date on important issues in the field of early education.



Help The Children's Movement achieve their goals by becoming a member and champion for children. Visit their [Take Action](#) page for more information.

Children's Week 2012

Children's Week is a week-long celebration of youth and children across the state of Florida. Counties state-wide organize events, rallies, and fairs in an effort to raise awareness of children's issues and call attention to legislative officials. Although events happen across the state, the official Children's Week celebration occurs in Tallahassee. This year, the event takes place from January 29 to February 3. Locally, the Early Learning Coalition will be collecting hand artwork from children in Miami-Dade and Monroe to send to the Capitol for the Hanging of the Hands ceremony.

We will also be celebrating Children's Week at the Miami Children's Museum Friday, January 20. For more details on this event see our local events section below!

For those of you who may want to take a trip to Tallahassee during this week, below are just a few of the events geared toward parents and families:

Hanging of the Hands
Sunday, January 29, 2012 - 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Capitol Rotunda

Hundreds of volunteers from across the state will hang more than 100,000 paper cut-outs of children's hands.



Guided Tours of the Capitol

Monday - Wednesday, January 30 - February 1, 2012

New and Old Capitol Buildings

Bring your family, class or organization to the Capitol during Children's Week and enjoy guided tours of the old and new Capitol buildings.

Old Capitol Museum tours are available at the following times:

Monday, January 30: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

New Capitol tours are available at the following times:

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Tuesday, January 31: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Children's Capitol for a Day Presented by Comcast

Tuesday, January 31, 2012: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Courtyard

More than 8 interactive non-profit children's activity booths will be set up with information regarding children's programs in Florida.

For more information visit www.childrensweek.org or contact our office at 305-646-7220.

Help the ELC Raise Funds through TICKETS fore CHARITY

The Early Learning Coalition is participating in the [TICKETS fore CHARITY](#) program, a unique fundraising initiative designed to improve the quality of life for children and families in the communities where PGA TOUR and Champions Tour tournaments are held. By purchasing tickets to this event, you will be directly affecting the funding of programs through the Early Learning Coalition. One hundred percent (100%) of the proceeds of tickets bought on behalf of the ELC will come straight back to our organization.



For an order form to purchase tickets, click on the image above or visit www.ticketmaster.com. The promotional code for the ELC is **CCENV9V**. Please note that the code is case sensitive.

Ask Dr. Hughes

Do you have any questions for our resident expert in child development? Ask Dr. Hughes!

Each month, *Parent Link* research and evaluation analyst Christine Hughes, Ph.D., will answer your questions about child development. Topics cover language, social skills, play, behavior, motor skills, and thinking and learning from ages birth to 5-years-old. Dr. Hughes earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of Miami, where she currently teaches part-time. Her research has focused on the development of at-risk infants and children in early intervention. Please email your questions to info@elcmdm.org with "Ask Dr. Hughes" in the subject line. Also, include the location of your residence in Miami-Dade or Monroe County (e.g., Coconut Grove, Kendall, Key West).

Please note that questions may be edited, and not every question received will be answered in the newsletter. To protect the privacy of individuals and maintain confidentiality, names will not be printed, but we may refer to individuals by area (for example, "A mother in Miami Beach asked..."). The information provided in this column released by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe courtesy of Dr. Hughes is not intended to be used as psychological, mental health or medical service. As laws, details and personal situations vary from person to person and state to state, articles and content contained in the newsletter are not and cannot be used as substitute for legal, parental, health, mental health, or any other advice.

The column is not intended to be a solicitation of business or the furnishing of self-help advice. Readers are strongly urged to consult independent and qualified professionals before making any decisions. The views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of the ELC.

ELC and You: Stay Connected

Want to know more about the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and get the latest early childhood news and information? Stay connected with us through any of the following options below.

On the Web:

- Visit our [website](#)
- [Email](#) us
- "Like" us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Resource and Referral: For parents interested in VPK and School Readiness: 305-373-3521

Address and Phone Number:

Coral Gables Office:
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 5th floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-646-7220

Monroe Office:
1100 Simonton Street Suite 1-204
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-5557

Local Events for the Whole Family!

Family Fun Day: Making a Living in Aviation

Join HistoryMiami the second Saturday of each month for things to do, learn, and experience! Meet a variety of people employed in aviation and learn about their work experiences.

When: Saturday, January 14, 2012

Time: 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m.

Where: HistoryMiami
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130

Cost: HistoryMiami members: FREE, non-members: \$5.00.

For more information, call 305-375-1629, email education@historymiami.org, or visit: www.historymiami.org.

Children's Week at the Miami Children's Museum

Stop by for a fun and informational afternoon for the whole family!

When: Friday, January 20, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Miami Children's Museum
980 MacArthur Causeway
Miami, FL 33132

Cost: FREE

For more information on this event, contact the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe at 305-646-7220.

41st Annual Florida Keys Health Fair

Free Screenings and Services throughout the Florida Keys

When: Saturday, January 21, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where:

Key West: Key West High School
2100 Flagler Ave.
Key West, FL 33040

Marathon: Fisherman's Community Hospital
3301 Overseas Hwy
Marathon, FL 33050

Big Pine Key: Methodist and Baptist Churches
280 Key Deer Blvd.
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

Cost: FREE (\$5 Blood Cholesterol)

For pre-registration and event information, call 305-243-4898 or visit www.umdcs.org.

Let's Enjoy Being Young Wellness Fair

This year's wellness fair will provide resources for families whose children aged 5 to 15 have different needs.

When: Saturday, January 28, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: FIU Kovens Conference Center
3000 N.E. 151 St.
Miami, FL 33181

Cost: \$1.00 admission

For more information, visit the Let's Enjoy Being Young website, www.letsenjoybeingyoung.com.

Parent Space

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe would like you, our parents, to have an area in the *Parent Link* newsletter that you can call your own. This space will provide advice, tips, jokes, stories, and/or even job opportunities that other local parents wish to share. So don't be shy; send us something you would like to share at info@elcmdm.org. Please note that included submissions may be edited for clarity, etc. We look forward to hearing from you.

About the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring high-quality early care and education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary prekindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 5-years-old and their families. Founded in 2000, the Early Learning Coalition is among 31 similar organizations in the State of Florida established following the enactment of the School Readiness Act, which consolidated Florida's early learning services into one integrated program.