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April Parent Link



Transition to Kindergarten



May is designated as Transition to Kindergarten month! Kindergarten registration has begun, so be sure to register early. A quality transitions to kindergarten process-values the role of families, teachers, administrators and most importantly the child.

Here are some tips to help your child have a successful transition to kindergarten:

-Identify the school your child will be attending in the fall.

-Reach out to the school and find out if there are scheduled orientations, registration dates, open houses, etc.

-Make sure to have all documents needed for registration. Click here for a list of requirements:

<http://attendanceservices.dadeschools.net/pdfs/app2.pdf>

-If you are not sure which school your child is eligible to attend click here:

<http://gisims2.miamidade.gov/CServices/CSMap.asp?Cmd=DUMMY&ShowWhat=602>



VPK Registration 2012-2013

Voluntary Prekindergarten 2012-2013 School Year Program Registration Sites & Information

2012/2013 School Year Program (children must be 4-years-old by September 1, 2012)

Service Offices

Miami Gardens Neighborhood Service Center
16405 N.W. 25 Ave.
Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Frankie Shannon Rolle Neighborhood Service Center
3750 South Dixie Highway
Miami, FL 33133

Naranja Neighborhood Service Center
13955 S.W. 264 St.
Miami, FL 33032



Dates and Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Please remember VPK registration is processed throughout the year during regular hours.

Tips and Needed Documents

To avoid delays, bring photocopies of required documents to leave on file. Print clearly on your application form using black or blue pen.

A copy of the following documents are required to process your application:

- Proof of Florida Residency: A document showing name and current home address. Examples: utility bill, valid FL Driver's license, pay stubs.
- Child's Date of Birth: A photocopy of each child's date of birth. Examples: birth certificate, passport, immunization document, religious record showing child's birth date.

Once at the site you will receive:

- A list of certified Miami-Dade County VPK providers
- A Certificate of Eligibility that you must take to the participating VPK provider of your choice to register your child.
- Parent/Guardian Responsibility information sheet.

NOTE: The line will be closed when all of the numbers have been given out for the amount of parents the service office can see during the scheduled hours. Parents are encouraged to go to any location of their choice. Services are given on a first-come, first-serve basis. **For more information, please call 305-373-3521.**

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phone to help you through your
pregnancy and your baby's 1st year!

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TEXT: **BABY** to **511-411**

ALSO, make sure your baby
has health coverage!

FL **orida KidCare**
is the healthcare coverage UR baby needs.

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FloridaKidCare.org
or call **1-888-540-KIDS (5437)**

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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's April Photo Contest

Spring is here! And what better way to celebrate than by planting your own garden!

Help us celebrate the season by taking part in our Facebook contest.

Participation is simple. All you need to do is send us a photo of your child(ren) creating a garden with a short caption describing all the fun to contest@elcmdm.org. Submissions can come from families, child care centers, schools or anyone with kids. Your submittal represents that you own the copyright to the photo. If you took the photo, you own the copyright.

We will be accepting e-mail submissions from Sunday, April 8, to Sunday, April 22. Photos received outside of the 2-week window will not be included in the contest.

Once received, we will upload the photos to our Facebook page. Voting will begin on Monday, April 23. Whichever photo receives the most "Likes" on Facebook by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 30, will win a special prize!

So go "Like" the [ELC on Facebook](#) (and tell your friends too!) to make sure you receive the latest news and updates about the contest!

Good luck!

ELC and You: President's Message



Dear Friends:

Reading can take you anywhere.

That's a message we love to share with young children and their parents because early literacy can be the gateway to all kinds of learning adventures. Inspiring young minds to develop a love for reading and books is one of the best and least expensive gifts we can make. It can also be the key to success in later life.

I hope you will take part in celebrating School Library Month during April and National Library Week from April 8 to April 14. A visit to a library is a great and free family activity. Libraries are also a great place to gather with friends, research all kinds of topics and enjoy wonderful and free community programs. Pass along the great gift of reading and the tradition of libraries to the young ones in your life. Show them the joy and adventure they can find in the pages of a book.

For a full listing of public libraries, please visit the Miami-Dade Public Library System's [website](#). To find your local library in Monroe, please visit <http://www.keyslibraries.org/>.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Local Events for the Whole Family!

MAM Family Festival: "Spin it!" and Record Swap

A day of record-related festivities for people of all ages. Take a family-friendly exhibition tour, enjoy live entertainment, and more.

When: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Time: 1:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Miami Art Museum

101 West Flagler Street

Miami, FL 33130

Cost: FREE

For more information call 305-375-1727, or view the

[Miami Art Museum event flyer](#).

Earth Fest

The event will include entertainment, food, educational presentations and more.

When: Sunday, April 22, 2012

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way

Coral Gables, FL 33134

Cost: FREE

For more information, visit <http://sustainatopia.com/>.

Celebrate Week of the Young Child

Join us for food, information, entertainment, and interactive activities.

When: Friday, April 27, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: School Board Administration Annex Bldg.

1500 Biscayne Boulevard

Miami, FL 33132

Cost: FREE

For more information, call 305-995-1985.

6th Annual All Kids Included Family Arts Festival

Live Entertainment, interactive arts experiences for children of all abilities, and festival fun!

When: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

10950 S.W. 211 St.

Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Cost: FREE

For more information, call 786-573-5316 or visit www.smdcac.org.

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.