



## May Issue

[Transition to Kindergarten](#)

[Read to Learn Book Club Offers Free Books to 3-Year-Olds](#)

[Provider Appreciation Day! Show your Child Care Provider You Care](#)

[ELIS News and Updates: Customer Portal is Coming Soon](#)

[Ask Dr. Hughes](#)

[ELC and You: Photo Contest Winner: Kingdom Academy](#)

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

## Quick Links

[ELCMDM](#)

[Child Care Resource and Referral](#)

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

## May Parent Link

Happy Mother's Day to all our *Parent Link* Moms!



There are many definitions and descriptions of what being a mother means, but one thing is for sure: a mother provides unconditional love and care for her children. A mother also comes in many forms, including aunts and grandmothers and older sisters. We at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe know the importance of a mother's role in a child's life, especially during the first five years. Of course, there is no easy time to be a mother. From raising infants and even through adulthood, she mother always worries for the well-being of her child. That is why we would like to wish you a beautiful Mother's Day, one filled with happiness and love.

\*Image from HD Wallpapers Arena

[Transition to Kindergarten](#)

[Miami-Dade Public Library System](#)  
[Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#)

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



Join Our Mailing List!



May is designated as "Transition to Kindergarten" Month. Please check with a local Miami-Dade County Public School about activities taking place in your community. Kindergarten registration has begun, so be sure to register early. Here is a checklist to get you started to ensure your child has a successful transition:

I have identified the school my child will be attending for kindergarten.

I have contacted the school about registration times and orientation.

I have gathered all required registration documents.

I have secured a date to bring my child for a visit to the school.

To learn more about registration requirements, visit our [website](#).

### Read to Learn Book Club Offers Free Books to 3-Year-Olds



All 3-year-olds in Miami-Dade County are eligible to receive a free book each month through The Children's Trust Read to Learn Book Club. By registering for the program, children can receive books in the mail each month for a year of fun and learning.

"No child should want for a book in Miami-Dade County, and this book club is just one tool in the comprehensive Read to Learn strategic plan," Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez, president and CEO of The Children's Trust, said in a statement.

The Read to Learn Book Club is funded and administered by The Children's Trust, the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

To sign a child up for the program, complete the [registration form online](#).

To read more about the program, please visit the [Miami Herald's website](#).

### Provider Appreciation Day! Show your Child Care Provider You Care

This year **Provider Appreciation Day** is Friday, May 11. Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. This is a day to show appreciation for the tireless efforts of providers who care for all our children.

There are many ways you can show thanks to your child care providers as a parent or group of parents:

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise.
- Send flowers, cards, or a handwritten note of appreciation.
- Bring breakfast or lunch for your provider and for the kids.
- Work with your child to create a special remembrance.
- Hang banners or posters.
- Give a certificate!



## *Certificate of Appreciation*

Presented to

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children. This certificate is to show appreciation for your tireless commitment and exceptional compassion in educating and caring for Florida's children. Thank You!

*Provider Appreciation Day – May 11, 2012*

  
Dr. Mel Jurado, Director  
Florida's Office of Early Learning

\_\_\_\_\_, Executive Director  
Early Learning Coalition of \_\_\_\_\_

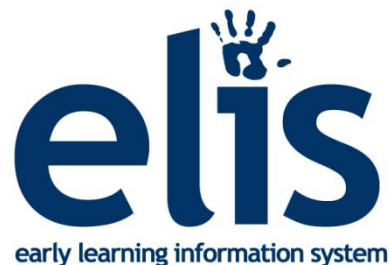
This information was provided by the Florida Office of Early Learning.

### ELIS News and Updates: Customer Portal is Coming Soon

The Early Learning Information System (ELIS) will soon replace the 20-year-old application Enhanced Field System (EFS). Florida's Office of Early Learning and Coalitions will use this new system to operate and manage the delivery of School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) services in Florida. We expect to go live beginning July 2013.

Childcare providers will have access to ELIS online to see their data and complete many tasks that currently must be done over the phone, by mail or in person.

Parents and guardians will also have access to ELIS online to view



their own data, search for childcare resources, apply for VPK and School Readiness services and assistance in paying for childcare and to complete the redetermination process.

For an overview of the changes the new system will bring, please view the ELIS section on our [website](#).

### 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](mailto: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: Photo Contest Winner: Kingdom Academy



Congratulations to Kingdom Academy for winning the Early Learning Coalition's first Facebook photo contest!

Families, child care centers, schools and other caregivers were asked to submit a picture of their children creating a garden to welcome the Spring season. We received more than 30 pictures and

published them on our Facebook page. The winner was chosen by

the amounts of "Likes" the photo received. At the end of the voting period, Kingdom Academy won with 571 votes!

Thank you to all the participants who created a garden and sent us pictures. All of the photos were beautiful. Stay tuned for more news, updates and contests on our [Facebook page](#).

### Local Events for the Whole Family!

#### Moms Rock @ MiaSci

The Museum of Science is inviting you to have chocolate and mini spa treatments on Mother's Day courtesy of Elemis Spa. Enjoy chocolate tasting and chocolate science.

**When:** Sunday, May 13, 2012

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

**Where:** Museum of Science  
3280 South Miami Avenue  
Miami, FL 33129

**Cost:** Mothers enter for free! Adults: \$14.95. Children (3-12) \$10.95. Children under 2 enter for free.

For more information, contact Adriana Oliva at 305-646-4200, or visit <http://www.miamisci.org>.

#### Summer Safety Splash

Hosted by Miami Children's Hospital Division of Community Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine and Miami-Dade Parks.

Activities include interactive water activities for children of all ages, Splash Zone fun for children age 5 and younger, and much more.

**When:** Saturday, May 19, 2012

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

**Where:** A.D. Barnes Park Swimming Pool  
3401 SW 72 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33155

**Cost:** FREE

For more information, please call 305-663-6854.

#### Family Summer Kick-off: Early Childhood Health, Education and Safety Expo

Presented by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade.

Activities ranging from face painting to early pregnancy classes will be available for FREE. There will also be giveaways and raffles throughout the day.

**When:** Saturday, June 9, 2012

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m.

**Where:** Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo  
10901 SW 24 St.  
Miami, FL 33165

**Cost:** FREE

For more information or pre-registration, call Miami-Dade AHEC at 305-597-3666 or visit <http://www.hscmd.org/>.

### 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.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) by [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)  
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe | 2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard | Suite 500 | Coral Gables | FL | 33134



Try it FREE today.