



# Happy Thanksgiving



Linking Parents to Early Childhood Success

November/ December  
2012

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## November/December Parent Link



### Miami-Dade County Parks Offer Winter Break Camp

While your children are looking forward to days off school and the holiday season, you are probably wondering who will watch over them during the winter break. Luckily, Miami-Dade County Parks will be offering reasonable winter break camps and activities from Dec. 24, 2012, through Jan. 4, 2013.

Activities include sports, arts and crafts, games and field trips. Age groups also vary between activities and programs, but can range from 4 to 16 years of age.

The cost can also vary from \$40 a week to \$90 a week, and financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

Parents may register their child by visiting the specific Miami-Dade County Park they wish their child to attend. For a listing of participating parks by region you may click [here](#). You may also register online using their [online reservation system](#).

### Think Safety this Holiday Season!

Black Friday is just around the corner, which usually means endless hours in shopping malls and bags full of holiday gifts. We've all been there. This is also the time to think about holiday and mall safety. Miami-Dade Police Department and the City of Miami Police Department have a few tips to keep you aware and safe this holiday season.

[Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#)

[The Parent Academy](#)

[Legal Services of Greater Miami](#)



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- Remember the Three A's of Crime Prevention: Be **AWARE** of your Surroundings, be **ALERT** of suspicious people and vehicles, and **AVOID** dangerous situations.
- Avoid displaying valuables, such as jewelry.
- Zip or close purses and bags, and if possible, leave purses and bags at home. A wallet or credit card is less tempting for a theft.
- Always park in well lighted areas
- If confronted by a carjacker, remember to choose life over property.
- If possible, try to find a babysitter for your children.
- At home, do not display all your gifts by windows or doorways.
- If buying a real Christmas tree, check it regularly for freshness and green needles.
- Turn off all electrical lights and decorations before leaving home or going to be bed.

Always remember to stay safe!

References:

City of Miami Police Department:

[http://www.miami-police.org/safety\\_tips.html](http://www.miami-police.org/safety_tips.html)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/safety-holidays-home.asp>

Miami-Dade Police Department:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/police/>

## On the Web: Three Parent Blogs We Want to Share

Thanks to the Internet and the rapid evolution of social media, blogs and bloggers are a great source of information for family activities, ideas for play, and learning. Here are three blogs we would like to share with you this month. If you have a favorite parent blog you would like to share with us, email it to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).

**Play. Create. Explore:** A mother inspired by art, nature and imagination shares the activities she and her two children do. You can find more than 120 activities for kids ages 1 to 4.

[www.playcreateexplore.com](http://www.playcreateexplore.com)

**Mommyhood: From the Heart:** A first-time mom shares her adventures with her toddler boy. Also a full-time college student obtaining her B.A. in Child and Family Studies, her blog has great information on toddler play and education.

[www.mommyhoodfromtheheart.com](http://www.mommyhoodfromtheheart.com)

**Learn with Play:** A primary school teacher (B.Ed.) currently on family leave, this mother uses her past knowledge and experiences to share with others. This blog was also awarded Top 25 Teacher Moms of 2012, by [Circle of Moms](#)...so check it out!

[www.learnwithplayathome.com](http://www.learnwithplayathome.com)

## Readers Encouraged to Send Questions to Ask Dr. Hughes, ELC's Child Development Expert

Each month in *Parent Link*, Christine Hughes, Ph.D, a research and evaluation analyst for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe will answer your questions about child development (from birth to 5 years old) on a variety of topics such as language, social skills, play, behavior, motor skills, learning habits, and more.

Please email your questions to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) with Ask Dr. Hughes in the subject line. Also, include the city or 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...").

Dr. Hughes earned her Ph.D. 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.

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 evaluation or 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 a 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 Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.*

## ELC and You: Help Us 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.



To buy tickets, visit the TICKETS fore CHARITY website. The promotional code for the ELC is **BOGEY**. Please note that the code is case sensitive.

### Local Events for the Whole Family!

#### The Children's Expo Fair

Fun activities for kids, FREE giveaways, new baby play area, and so much more for free.

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Where:** Miami-Dade Fair Expo Center Fuch's Pavilion  
10901 S.W. 24 St.  
Miami, FL 33165

**Cost:** FREE

For more information, visit [www.childrensexpos.com](http://www.childrensexpos.com).

#### Zoo Tots: Sounds All Around

Join Zoo Miami to find out how animals call out to their friends, family or when in trouble. Then enjoy the rest of the day at the zoo.

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Where:** Zoo Miami  
12400 S.W. 152 St.

Miami, FL 33177

**Cost:** \$15.95+tax for adults, \$11.95+tax per child 3-12

For more information and registration, visit [www.miamimetrozoo.com](http://www.miamimetrozoo.com),  
or call 305-251-0400.

#### Early Childhood Education and Literacy Fair

The purpose of the event is to provide parents with information about early childhood programs and other literacy components.

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012

**Time:** Starts at 10 a.m.

**Where:** One Herald Plaza, 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33132

For more information, contact [cseymour-lane@brownmackie.edu](mailto:cseymour-lane@brownmackie.edu) or  
call 305-341-6684.

### 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. For more information, visit [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

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