



Linking Parents to Early Childhood Success January 2013

Connect with
us!



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Welcoming 2013 with a New Look!

With a New Year comes great changes, and Parent Link is no different. We hope you like the new look and enjoy our January issue. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to email us info@elcmdm.org.



Making New Year's Resolutions as a Family

Making a New Year's resolution for yourself is nothing out of the ordinary during this time of year. But how about making New Year's resolutions with your family instead? Although New Year's resolutions tend to be personal goals, try to set some as a family for 2013.

In a recent article, Katie Hurlry, child psychotherapist and parenting expert, explains how setting simple and fun family goals, like being healthier and saving money, can give everyone a chance to contribute.

To read the full article, "Making New Year's Resolutions a Family Affair," visit <http://shine.yahoo.com/team-mom/making-8217-resolutions-family-affair-125600998.html>.



Activities to Ease the Post-Holiday Blues

Have you caught the post-holiday blues? The absence of family dinners, gifts, and vacations can leave you and your family a little unbalanced after the holiday season is over.

The Children's Trust's has a few creative ways to wrap-up the holiday season and help with post-holiday blues.

Some of these ideas include:

- Reading together
- Making a year-end scrapbook
- Looking ahead (like family resolutions!)

To read more about these ideas and other activities, visit <http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/enewsletter-parents/1729?forceMidnav=For%20Parents>.



On the Web: Best Apps for Preschoolers

Electronics were a big hit this holiday season. Whether your child received an electronic device or you received one yourself, it's not a bad idea to have a couple of kid-friendly apps installed on your phone or tablet.

[Parents](#) magazine has shared their "10 Best Apps for Preschoolers." Here are three of the 10:

- Monkey Preschool Lunchbox (iPhone, Android)
- Wheels on the Bus (iPhone, Android)
- Shape Builder (iPhone, Android)

For the complete list of apps, cost and details, visit <http://www.parents.com/fun/entertainment/gadgets/best-apps-for-preschoolers/?rb=Y&4252#page=1>.



ELC and You: Transition to In-House Services

On Monday, December 3rd, the board of directors of the Early Learning Coalition met and approved a plan that will achieve significant efficiencies. The plan is consistent with the six strategic initiatives set by the board of directors with stakeholder input. It also revamps our service delivery model, streamlines our processes, eliminates duplication, reduces administrative expenses, creates child and family friendly service sites, extends the service hours of eligibility offices to make it more convenient for families, and improves the eligibility scheduling process. More importantly, it creates additional child care slots, resulting in increases in child care provider revenue.

The Coalition's board of directors is committed to serving the maximum number of children in the most cost effective, child and family friendly manner possible with a continued emphasis on quality and performance improvement. The transition will include considerable stakeholder input to ensure that the services to children, families and providers are uninterrupted. Please e-mail me directly if you have any questions. My e-mail address is etorres@elcmdm.org.

I remain at your service,
Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO



Ask Dr. Hughes!

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@elcndm.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). This information will be used instead of your name, 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 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.



ReadingPals Initiative

What is ReadingPals?

In an effort to ensure that more children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade, The Children's Movement of Florida and partners are excited to announce ReadingPals -- a three-year initiative focused on engaging, training and deploying volunteer "reading pals" in 10 Florida regions.

Who is involved in ReadingPals?

Partners include The Children's Movement, local United Ways, school districts, Women's Leadership Councils, Early Learning Coalitions, and others focused on improving the reading abilities of students from prekindergarten to third grade in lower-performing schools.

How can you get involved?

Volunteers are needed in each of the 10 regions for one hour per week (for at least 25 weeks) to read in individual or small group settings. Volunteers will be trained and provided background screenings before entering the program. The one hour volunteers give each week will have an effect that lasts a lifetime.

To learn more about the ReadingPals program, please sign-up at: <http://childrensmovementflorida.org/action/literacy/>, or email john.knight@childrensmovementflorida.org.



Local Events for the Family!

7th Annual International Chocolate Festival

Chocolate sampling, cooking demonstrations with kids and lots more.

When: Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27, 2013

Time: 9:30a - 4:30p

Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

10901 Old Cutler Rd.

Coral Gables, FL 33156

Cost: \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors 65 and up, \$12 for children 6-17

For more information visit <http://www.fairchildgarden.org>.

Fabulous First Fridays at Miami Science Museum

Every first Friday, the Miami Science Museum offers a free Planetarium Star Show and more.

When: Friday, February 1, 2013

Time: 7:30p

Where: Miami Science Museum

3280 South Miami Avenue

Miami, FL 33129

Cost: FREE

For more information, visit www.miamisci.org.

Family Fun Day: Haitian Heritage

Paint with artist Serge Toussaint and create other Haitian-themed crafts with the family.

When: Saturday, February 9, 2013

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

Where: History Miami

101 West Flagler Street

Miami, FL 33130

Cost: FREE

For more information, call 305-375-4590 or visit www.historymiami.org.



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.

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.

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to cvila@elcmdm.org by 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