



Linking Parents to Early Childhood Success July 2013

Connect
with us!



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134
1111 12th St., Suite 206, Key West, FL 33040

July Parent Link



ELC and You

Dear Friends:

As part of our Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative aimed at combating childhood obesity, I am pleased to announce our newest partnership launching this summer. Together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Nemours Foundation, the Early Learning Coalition will be working with early care and education providers in South Florida to support families who want to learn more about the benefits of good nutrition and exercise and how they can get their young children to participate.

To find out more about this initiative, please write us at info@elcmdm.org.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO



On the Web: Macaroni Kid

The screenshot shows the Macaroni Kid Hialeah website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Biz Directory', 'Calendar', 'Subscribe', and 'Become a Publisher Mom'. Below this, a search bar shows 'Search Results for 'VPK'' with '6 Article(s) found'. One article is highlighted with the date 'Thursday, July 4 2013' and the title 'New Available: Online Registration for VPK'. The article text describes the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe as a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring early education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. To the right of the article is an advertisement for 'Baby Orajel Naturals' teething brand, featuring a baby's face and a product box. The ad includes the text 'From the #1 teething brand recommended by pediatricians and trusted by parents.' and a 'SAVE \$1.00' offer.

[Macaroni Kid](#) delivers the scoop on all the family-friendly events and activities happening in local communities each week. Check out their list of communities and sign up to receive your free weekly newsletter. Their mission is to answer the question, "Mommy, what are we going to do today?" So far, they seem to have all the answers.



Transition FAQs

VPK ONLINE

How can I register for VPK online through the ELC's new system?

To register for VPK online, please visit www.elcmdm.org. You can access the VPK online application by clicking on the "Learn more about VPK" button.

If I have registered for VPK online, when will I receive my Certificate of Eligibility?

Once we have verified Florida residency and the child's birthday, you will be notified via email that your COE is available to print. You may print it out at your convenience and then give it to the child care provider of your choice upon registering your child.

I registered my child for VPK through the Single Point of Entry. Is that OK?

To make the process easier, we ask that all parents/caregivers register their child through our new VPK online registration system. You can find it at www.elcmdm.org.

SCHOOL READINESS

How can I register my child for the School Readiness program?

The School Readiness program is currently at capacity. Parents/caregivers who are interested in participating in the program must add their name to the waitlist. Visit www.elcmdm.org and click on the button that says "Need help paying for childcare?"

I am a parent/caregiver. My School Readiness services are up for redetermination. Whom should I contact?

Effective July 1, all redetermination will be done by the ELC. Parents/caregivers with a redetermination date after July 1, 2013, will be receiving their packets from the ELC and scheduled for a redetermination meeting.

Where should I send my completed redetermination packet?

All redetermination packets should be sent to the ELC's main office. The address is 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

SCHOOL READINESS WAITLIST

I am a parent. How can I find out my status on the School Readiness program waitlist?

If you have a question about the waitlist, please send it to waitlist@elcmdm.org. Include your name, your child's name, your phone number, your address, and the question or concern you may have. A

waitlist specialist will email you within a few days.

COMMUNICATIONS

How can I stay informed of news and updates that may affect my child's early care and education?

All news and updates are posted on our homepage at www.elcmdm.org. In addition, all news regarding the transition can be found at http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/transition/transition.html. If you would like to make sure your email address is on our contact list, please send an email to Christina Vila at cvila@elcmdm.org.



From the Desk of Dr. Hughes

Each month in Parent Link, Christine Hughes, Ph.D, Director of Research and Evaluation for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe will offer insight 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. Dr. Hughes earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Miami. Her research has focused on the development of at-risk infants and children in early intervention.

Preventing the Summer Slide

Summer is a time for our children to relax and have fun, but it is also a time when we parents want to make sure our children don't forget everything they learned during the past school year! Luckily, there are a few easy things families can do in order to prevent the "summer slide" and to keep our children's knowledge sharp for next school year.

- 1. Read!** A great way to spend some quality time with your children of any age is through reading. Reading to young children can help them learn new words, use their imagination, and be exposed to new ideas through stories and illustrations. Parents can also share in the reading experience with older children by allowing the child to read one page to you and then you read the next page, and trading off as you go.
- 2. Play pretend!** Allowing children to pretend to be different people and act out stories is fun and helps them learn valuable social skills. Spending some time playing pretend games like "school" or "going to the store" can be a great way to encourage children to use their imagination but also draw upon their knowledge and experiences they've had.

Doing some activities with your children every day can prevent the "summer slide" - because every parent wants their children to start a new school year with everything they learned last year still fresh!

Here are some online resources for activities to do this summer with young children:

<http://www.jumpstart.com/parents/activities/kids-activities>

<http://handsonaswegrow.com/40-number-activities-for-preschoolers/>

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/preschool/>

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.



Local Events for the Family!

Legends of the Night Sky Laser Show

Based on Greek Mythological stories and told with animated laser imagery. Learn how to find the constellations from the story in the real sky.

When: Friday, July 12

Time: 4 p.m.

Where: Miami Science Museum Planetarium
3280 South Miami Ave.
Miami, FL 33129

Cost: Adults \$14.95; Kids under 2 FREE

Sensory Saturday

Sensory Saturday is an accessibility day for children with special needs to explore the museum in their own way! Pre-registration is required. Contact 305-373-5437 ext. 126 for more details.

When: Saturday, July 13

Time: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Where: Miami Children's Museum
980 Macarthur Cswy.
Miami, FL 33132

Cost: FREE for the first 350 guests

The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Campers from the Broward Center's Summer Theatre Camp Young Professionals program will perform Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* Featuring hit songs "Part of Your World" and "Under the Sea," this is the perfect summertime show for kids.

Cost: Range from \$3 - \$10

More: For dates, times and locations, please click [here](#).



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.