



Linking Parents to Early Childhood Success

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

March 2014 Parent Link

Important Information About VPK Online

Online registration for the 2014 VPK Summer Program and 2014-2015 School Year VPK Program is open. Please visit www.vpkhelp.org to access the application. Please note we are currently not accepting applications for children born on or after **September 2, 2010**.

The ELC recommends Google Chrome as the browser when applying. You can download for free [online](#).



VPK Online registration is now open!

If you live in Florida, and your child turns 4 years of age by September 1, your child is eligible to participate in Florida's FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program.

Register online at www.vpkhelp.org

- ★ Fill out the application online
- ★ Print your Certificate of Eligibility at home
- ★ Avoid lines and wait times

Visit www.elcmdm.org to learn more about the program and register your child today.



VPK Troubleshooting

Problem: I tried to log in and it says I'm expired.

Solution: Please email vpkhelp@elcmdm.org. Include the child's name, last 5 digits used to start the application and the child's birth date. In the subject line, put "Unexpire Client."

Problem: I can't click Submit.

Solution: If you are using Internet Explorer 10 or 11, please use Google Chrome instead. You can download Google Chrome for free at <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/>. Still having a problem? It may be because you have a Spanish translation setting on - sometimes the buttons don't work with this feature.

Problem: I can't upload my documents.

Solution: Documents have to be a PDF and less than 1mb. There are many online programs you can use to convert to PDF for free. You can use [this site](#) to convert your image to a PDF. Select your file and click convert, skipping steps 2 and 3.

For more information about how to apply and the documentation needed, please click [here](#) . For assistance with VPK registration, please email us at vpkhelp@elcmdm.org.

Join us at Children's Week 2014!

join us in celebrating
CHILDREN'S WEEK
at the
miami children's museum
play • learn • imagine • create

FREE ADMISSION
Stop by for a fun and
informational afternoon for
the whole family!

Dental screenings
Guest readings
Giveaways and more!

March 21, 2014
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Miami Children's
Museum
980 MacArthur
Causeway, Miami,
FL 33132

This event is part of the statewide Children's Week celebration. Join us in strengthening Florida's families by sharing a commitment to improve our community through events and outreach efforts aimed at promoting the health, safety and well-being of our children.

Early Learning Coalition
of Miami Dade/Monroe

ELC Contacts
Christina Vila, cvila@elcmdm.org, 305-646-7220 ext. 266
Leeana Sanchez, lsanchez@elcmdm.org, 305-646-7220 ext. 246

Excellent Customer Service is Our Priority

At the Early Learning Coalition we will always do our best to provide excellent customer service. Despite our very best efforts and particularly during seasonal and other peaks (beginning of the school year, open enrollment, attendance processing days, etc.), high call volume may create some challenges for our staff and customers. This is a common challenge faced by many organizations - large and small.

Our policy is to return phone calls and e-mail messages within one work day. We strive every day to meet that goal.

To enhance accountability, we strongly encourage written e-mail communication between our customers and our staff. Please remember to never include any confidential, child-specific information. We have addresses set up specifically for your needs, including:

- Waitlist status and information: waitlist@elcndm.org
- School Readiness eligibility: eligibility2@elcndm.org
- Transfers: transfers@elcndm.org
- Assistance with VPK Online: vpkhelp@elcndm.org
- Customer service concerns: customerservice@elcndm.org
- General questions and concerns: info@elcndm.org

If you ever experience problems getting in touch with any department or member of our team, please notify us immediately at customerservice@elcndm.org. A member of our leadership team will see to it that your concerns are expeditiously addressed.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation and partnership as we continue to find efficiencies that allow us to serve more children.

Enrollment Open for Miami SEED School



The SEED Foundation in Washington, DC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Our Kids, the county governments, public school districts in South Florida and local nonprofits recently launched the SEED School of Miami, South Florida's first public, college-prep boarding school for children starting in the 6th grade. The school is located in Kendall and will open in August 2014 with 60 6th grade students (30 boys and 30 girls).

Join representatives for an Open House in [Florida City \(Thursday, March 13\)](#).

SEED Miami opened enrollment and is accepting applications from families. Enrollment is open until March 31. To learn more about this wonderful and life changing educational opportunity, please visit their [website](#).

"Luchando por Nuestros Hijos" Now on Radio Mambi

Tune in to "Luchando por Nuestros Hijos," a weekly radio program that addresses important information about children's health, education, safety, family life and much more. The show will be airing live from Tallahassee every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. during this year's legislative session.

You can listen online by following this link to Radio Mambi on [WAQI 710 AM](#).



Luchando por Nuestros Hijos
A weekly radio program

**Every Tuesday at
2:30 p.m.**

**Children's Health
Education
Safety
Family Life
And much more!**

As parents, let us keep "Luchando por Nuestros Hijos."

Brought to you by:



Warm-Line: Serving the Needs of All Children

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe provides oversight for this statewide initiative that provides support to all children in early care and education programs. Parents, guardians and caregivers are encouraged to call the Warm-Line for any questions or concerns regarding child development.

Services provided by Warm-Line staff are completely free and include:

- Child assistance and consultation regarding development, health and behavior concerns
- Provider assistance including strategies, curriculum and environmental adaptations
- Family information and referral assistance (i.e. Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, Early Steps, private providers)

Join us in celebrating the uniqueness of all children.

The Warm-Line can be reached at 786-433-3095.

Parent to Parent of Miami



Parent to Parent of Miami is a community parent resource center for families of children and adults with all disabilities. This program service families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, as well as across the nation.

The team at Parent to Parent helps parents and professionals find information, workshops and other resources to help make decisions about early intervention, early childhood, education, vocational training, employment, college opportunities, as well as the laws that protect the rights of children and adults with disabilities.

Their website lists events and workshops for parents, offers online trainings, and lists other resources for families.

Find them online at <http://www.ptopmiami.org/>.

Local Events for the Family!

Children's Week at the Miami Children's Museum

The Early Learning Coalition is proud to be collaborating with the Miami Children's Museum and our community partners to bring a fun-filled afternoon for families in Miami-Dade County through our Children's Week event celebration.

When: Friday, March 21

Time: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Where: Miami Children's Museum, 980 MacArthur Causeway, Miami, FL 33132

Cost: FREE

More: To learn more about Children's Week, please click [here](#).

Health Matters Health and Resource Fair

Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation, Inc. (OLCDC) will host a Community Health and Resource Fair with support from and in partnership with local organizations such as The Institute for Child and Family Health, The Women's Council of NAREB, The Sisters Network Miami Chapter, and many others. The Fair will promote living a healthier lifestyle, improve access to healthcare providers, and connect residents to community resources.

When: Saturday, March 29

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

Where: Sherbondy Park Village, 215 President Barack Obama (Perviz) Ave., Opa-locka, FL 33054

Cost: FREE

More: To learn more about this event, contact Kimberly M. Lauriston at kimberly@olcdc.org or 305-687-3545 ext. 233.

Day of the Young Child

Join the Miami Dade College School of Education in their annual Day of the Young Child Celebration. This year's theme is "Nourishing the Next Generation." Attendees will participate in story telling, music and dance and face painting while receiving parenting, nutrition and health and safety resources.

When: Saturday, April 5

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

Where: MDC Homestead Campus, Central Lawn, 500 College Terrace, Homestead, FL 33030

Cost: FREE

More: To learn more about this event, please click [here](#). Event flyers are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Creole](#).

Families Against Crime Together (FACT) Festival

This free public event is opened to everyone. It is designed to educate the public about a variety of timely community issues and provide citizens with information about the many social services and resources offered by local community-based organizations and agencies, including the North Miami Police Department.

When: Saturday, April 26

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: North Miami Senior High School, 13100 NE 8 Ave., North Miami, FL 33161

Cost: FREE

More: To learn more about this event, contact Sgt. David Rosen at drosen@northmiamipolice.com or 305-891-0294 ext. 23202.



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 30 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.