



Early education. Lifelong success.

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

The year is rapidly coming to a close with many accomplishments that are making a big difference in the education of our community's youngest learners. We look ahead to 2017 as a year when new partnerships will be forged and new and exciting initiatives launched.

We encourage parents and caregivers to take advantage of the opportunities offered during the holiday season

when children are out of school. Incorporating reading into children's daily routine is important to their academic success, but so is play. Play is an integral part of a child's development as they grow and explore the world around them. For tips about choosing developmentally appropriate toys for young children this holiday season, please visit <http://www.naeyc.org/ecp/resources/goodtoys>.

The holiday season is a time of engagement and many make resolutions to start off the new year. We encourage you to consider talking, reading and singing with your child everyday as a part of your new year. The research on early education is clear: increased parental engagement with young children provide a wealth of benefits.

Talking, reading and singing with your child provide necessary communication skills, social and emotional bonding and the platform for later success. We encourage you to embrace your teaching skills. Please see this [powerful video](#) on what children experience when parental engagement wanes due to wireless devices.

In January, we prepare for Celebrate Literacy Week which will be January 23rd - January 27th. This year's featured books are From Head to Toe by Eric Carle (for infants and toddlers) and I Don't Want to Be a Frog by Dev Petty (for preschoolers). During Literacy Week, Early Learning Coalition board members, community partners and staff will visit early education providers and read with selected classrooms. Books will also be available for early education providers. We invite you to join us and read along.

In January, the ELC Lunch Café will delve into the issue of human trafficking and its impact on South Florida. We invite you to attend this informational session and network with a cause. Lunch will be provided courtesy of [Corporate Caterers](#). To R.S.V.P, please contact ymartinez@elcmdm.org.

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information on programs and events.

Sincerely,



Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

TALKING **I**STEACHING **MIAMI**



LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW CAMPAIGN!
#LETSTALKMIAMI





Teacher of the Month

As a part of our continuous commitment to quality early learning programs, we would like to highlight the Quality Counts Teacher of the Month. Working in conjunction with our program partners, Florida International University, the United Way, Family Central and Children's Forum, we highlight instructors who have been recognized for applying excellence in the classroom. This month, we recognize **Tina Ali** from **Growing Angels**. She has more than 10 years of experience in early education. Congratulations **Tina Ali**.



QUALITY COUNTS

Striving for High Quality Early Learning



Teacher Spotlight: November



Tina Ali

Teacher Name

Growing Angels

Program Name

Mixed Age Group

Classroom/ Age
Group

10

Number of Years in Early
Education

Tina Ali is a dedicated practitioner in the field of early education. She is not only motivated and eager, but also inspires and encourages others in the field. Active in the community, she searches for ways to engage and provide support for parents in the education of their children and sometimes, for the parents themselves. Ms. Ali's commitment to her children is evident in the care and attention she provides each child. Growing Angels (Ali's Family Child Care Home) was recently accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). We would like to congratulate Ms. Ali on this wonderful accomplishment!

Quality Counts would like to recognize and thank Ms. Ali for her commitment to quality early childhood education!

Community Events

[November/December Community Events](#)

Early Learning Coalition Program Information and Updates

Featured Article:

The Early Head Start program is now accepting applications. Please see below for details about this great early education program.

CHILD CARE AT NO COST TO YOU



Now Accepting Applications!

The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start Program offers full-day, year-round comprehensive services at various locations throughout Miami-Dade County for children zero (0) to three (3) years of age and their families.

To be eligible for Early Head Start services:

- Your child must be younger than three (3) years of age
- Your family must meet federal income guidelines based on the number of household members
- You must live in Miami-Dade County



Enrollment is based on a point system in which families with the highest number of points are given priority into the program.



For more information, please contact us at:

1515 NW 167th St.
Suite 210
Miami, FL 33169

Phone: 305-646-7220 ext. 2457

Email: neighborhoodEHS@elcmdm.org



EARLY HEAD START FAMILIES ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE

- A scholarship that covers the enrolled child's tuition
- A high quality educational experience
- Comprehensive services for the enrolled child and family members
- A family advocate that will work with participating families to access community services
- Free nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks for enrolled children
- Formula, wipes, & diapers for enrolled infant while at school
- Lower teacher to child ratio
- Support services for enrolled children with special needs



2. [New Online Tool to Empower Florida Families](#)

In Early Education News

1. Dangers of E-Cigarettes to Children 0-6 Years of Age

Dangers of Liquid Nicotine

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reports that **more than half of the calls to poison control centers** related to e-cigarettes were regarding incidents involving **children 5 years of age or younger.**¹



Exposure to nicotine by swallowing or contact with the skin **can result in nausea, vomiting, respiratory arrest, seizures or even death.**²

Protect your loved ones and yourself.
KNOW THE FACTS.

(1) Chaffin-Stephens, Kevin, et al. "Notes from the Field: Calls to Poison Centers for Exposures to Electronic Cigarettes — United States, September 2010–February 2014." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 04 Apr. 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6313a4.htm?ot=oh&tid=oh>.

(2) Martin, Quartz. "Child-Resistant Packaging of Electronic Cigarette Devices and Refill Liquid to Prevent Child Poisoning." *Center for Tobacco Control Research & Education*, July 9, 2014. <http://tobacco.usf.edu/child-resistant-packaging-electronic-cigarette-devices-and-refill-liquid-contain-no-containing-lead>.



2. Science Proves Reading to Kids Really Does Change Their Brains
3. Pretending to Understand What Babies Say Can Make Them Smarter
4. The Power of Routines
5. The Annual Every Drop Counts Contest



The Professional Development Institute has a brand new website with great new features! Now users are able to search and register for courses in their area, find upcoming events in the community, and have access to great online resources. Visit our site and create your user account today:

<http://trainings.elcmdm.org>.

Training Calendar

The Professional Development Institute is pleased to provide continuous education courses for our early education providers. To register for these professional development opportunities, visit:

trainings.elcmdm.org.

Featured Training:

Join us Thursday, January 12, 2017! Network, Learn, Change the World. ELC Lunch Cafés are **open to the public** and **free of charge**. To join one of our dynamic cafés, register at trainings.elcmdm.org.

For the full year's calendar, please see the following link: [ELC Lunch Café Series Calendar](#)

ELC Café

It's More than Just Lunch: It's Networking



Networking Lunch
Learn something new!
Change the world!

Join the Early Learning Coalition as we raise awareness and connect members of the community. Business card exchange and raffle.

Thursday, January 12, 2017
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

David Lawrence Jr.
Community Meeting Room
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce De Leon, Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RSVP to Yusef Martinez
ymartinez@elcmdm.org or call 305-646-7220 x2266



Free lunch courtesy of
Corporate Caterers Miami

HUMAN TRAFFICKING in South Florida

What does it look like?
What can you do about it?
Why Miami?
Who is at risk?

This cafe raises awareness and gives a voice to the voiceless. Take a critical look at human trafficking impacts and how we, as a community, can take action for change.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

PANELISTS

Esther Jacobo
Chief Assistant State Attorney
Office of the State Attorney

Nathan Earl
Founder and CEO
Ark of Freedom

Tisha M. Pierre, LCSW
Regional Human Trafficking
Coordinator
Southeast and Southern
Region
Florida Department of
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**Maria Clara Rodriguez
Harrington, MS**
Project GOLD Director
Kristi House

**Shawn Schwane, Ph.D.,
MBA, MSCM**
Professor in the Criminal
Justice Department
Miami Dade College

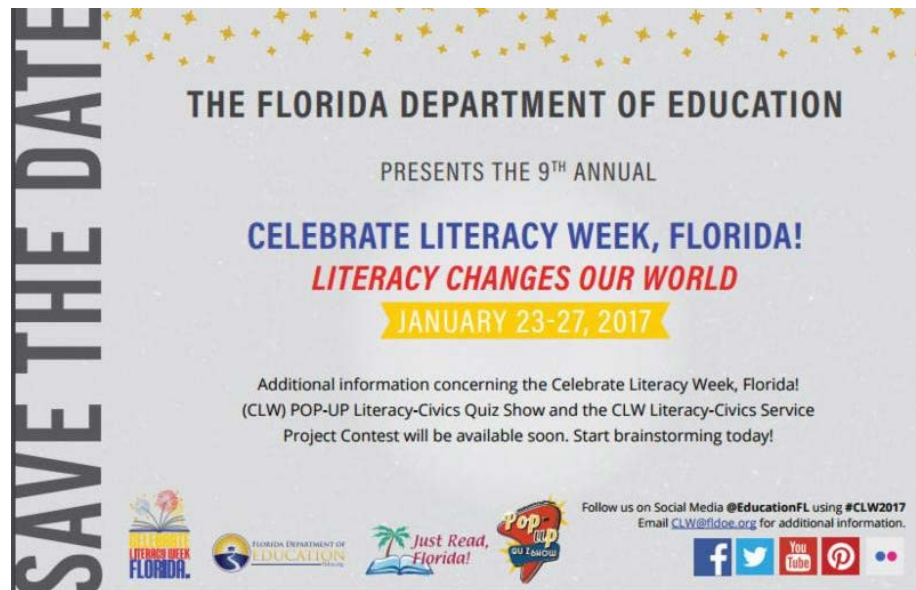


#networkforchange #elcmdm

Upcoming Events

[Celebrate Literacy Week!](#)

Early literacy is integral. Join the Early Learning Coalition as we celebrate the benefits of reading! Please click the link for this year's selected books and more details about Celebrate Literacy Week: [Celebrate Literacy Week Information](#)



[Free Kids Workshop at Home Depot](#)

[Wellness Wednesdays in the Gables](#)

[Koubek Center Launches Free Bilingual Family Series](#)

[Toddler Storytime at Palmetto Bay](#)

[42nd Annual Miami Harvest Festival](#)

[Lantern Light Festival](#)

[Storytime at North Miami Library with Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph](#)

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Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

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