



# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Dr. Carter G. Woodson



Linking Parents to Early Childhood Success

February 2012

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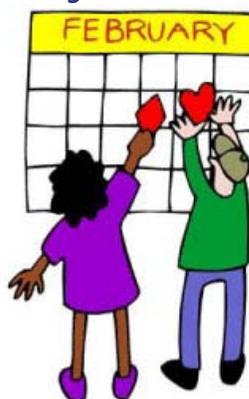
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## February Parent Link



### Maya Angelou: The Power of Literacy

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."  
- Dr. Maya Angelou

Born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Maya Angelou spent her childhood in St. Louis and Stamps, Ark. In a time when racial discrimination was customary, Dr. Angelou learned to take the negative impact it had in her life and use it to empower herself in many ways within her African-American community and culture.

She has taken many roles, from actor and singer to political activist and educator, but is most well-known for her poetry and writing brilliance. One of her most well-known pieces, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), refers to her early years in Long Beach, St. Louis and Stamps. Dr. Angelou has also written children's storybooks.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we wanted to share some of her children's book titles and encourage you to check one out at your local library or bookstore.

*Life Doesn't Frighten Me*, edited by Sara Jane Boyers, illustrated by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Stewart, Tabori & Chang (New York, NY), 1993



[Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation](#)

[Miami-Dade Public Library System](#)

[Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#)

[The Parent Academy](#)

[Legal Services of Greater Miami](#)



*My Painted House, My Friendly Children and Me*, photographs by Margaret Courtney-Clarke, Crown (New York, NY), 1994

*Kofi and His Magic*, photographs by Margaret Courtney-Clarke, Crown (New York, NY), 1996

*Mrs. Flowers: A Moment of Friendship* (selection from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*), illustrated by Etienne Delessert, Redpath Press (Minneapolis, MN), 1986

*Izak of Lapland*, illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell, Random House (New York, NY), 2004

*Angelina of Italy*, illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell, Random House (New York, NY), 2004

Reference:

Brainyquote, Maya Angelou-  
[http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/maya\\_angelou.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/maya_angelou.html)

Dr. Maya Angelou official website- <http://mayaangelou.com/bio/>

The Poetry Foundation- <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/maya-angelou>

## Legal Services of Greater Miami: Filing Taxes

by: *Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.*

It is time to start thinking about filing your 2011 tax return. Single persons with income exceeding \$9,500, or \$400 if you are self-employed, are required to file. However, even if you are not required to, there may be benefits to filing. For instance, if you are entitled to receive the Earned Income Credit, you have to file a tax return to claim it.



Find more detailed information on this and other topics, such as information on where to get help for free, what documents you should start gathering and information about our local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center, on our [website](#).

For information, please visit the Legal Services of Greater Miami website at [www.lsgmi.org](http://www.lsgmi.org).

## Going Green for Dr. Seuss's Birthday with The Lorax Project

Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd, also signals the release of NBC/Universal's movie *The Lorax* (to see the movie trailer, visit <http://www.theloraxmovie.com/index.php>). In an effort to encourage conservation of places and species endangered of extinction, the **The Lorax Project** was launched. It is important we share this information with our children and encourage them to take better care of our planet.

Here are a few ideas from The Lorax Project website on what you can do with your family to help our planet stay green.

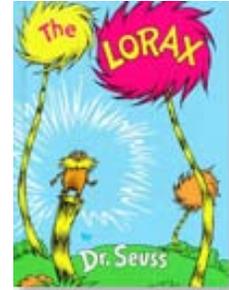
### Take the Pledge

Send a letter to the Lorax and let them know what you are doing to help the Lorax and our planet. You can also [view letters](#) from other pledge friends around the world.

*"UNLESS someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss*

### Simple Everyday Things

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Use both sides of every sheet of paper.
- Plant a seed. Grow your own Lorax garden.
- Recycle everything you can, including newspapers, cans, glass and plastic. Look for the recycle symbol.
- Enjoy and appreciate nature. Support your local parks and go outside!



Visit the Dr. Seuss The Lorax Project website

For more great ideas and online activities, visit <http://origin-www.seussville.com/loraxproject/>.

### Help the ELC Raise Funds through TICKETS fore CHARITY

This is your last chance to help the Early Learning Coalition raise funds through TICKETS fore CHARITY to continue providing the children of Miami-Dade and Monroe with the best educational opportunities possible.



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.

Single day tickets are \$20.00. Weeklong Clubhouse tickets are \$85.00.

To order tickets, visit [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). The promotional code for the ELC is **CCENV9V**. Please note that the code is case sensitive. The final date to purchase tickets is **March 1**.

For more information, please contact Christina Vila at [cvila@elcmdm.org](mailto:cvila@elcmdm.org) or 305-646-7220 ext. 266.

## The Children's Movement Healthcare Initiative



Join The Children's Movement of Florida in making a better future for children. The Movement needs volunteers, caring individuals to assist with KidCare outreach and application assistance efforts in Miami-Dade County. The few hours you can commit to its collective efforts can be what is needed to make an incredible difference in ensuring more children have access to health insurance.

Florida KidCare, our state's health insurance program for children without private insurance, is a top priority for The Movement. Many parents do not know that their children are eligible or may not know how to enroll in the program. As a volunteer, you will assist The Movement in distributing KidCare materials and/or assisting in enrolling children.

For more information and to sign up as a volunteer, visit The Children's Movement Health Care Initiative's [website](#).

## Ask Dr. Hughes

Do you have any questions for our resident expert in child development? Ask Dr. Hughes!

Each month, *Parent Link* research and evaluation analyst Christine Hughes, Ph.D., will answer your questions about child development. Topics cover language, social skills, play, behavior, motor skills, and thinking and learning from ages birth to 5-years-old. Dr. Hughes earned her B.A. 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. Please email your questions to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) with "Ask Dr. Hughes" in the subject line. Also, include the 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..."). 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 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 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 ELC.*

## ELC and You: News from Capitol Connection

Three bills moving through the House of Representatives in the Business and Consumer Affairs, PreK-12 Appropriations, and Rules Committees threaten the foundational education criteria essential to ensuring the effectiveness of the School Readiness Program and meeting the federal intent of the funds.

In the Business and Consumer Affairs draft committee bill, the two greatest concerns include the complete elimination of the educational criteria and redefining the intent of the program as merely a workforce support. The educational standards outlined in the School Readiness Act are essential for making certain Florida's children from low-income working families have access to quality early learning programs. Among the proposed sweeping changes to Florida's early learning system are:

- Eliminating accountability to ensure educational outcomes for children.
- Prohibiting screenings and assessments, including the ability to screen children for hearing, vision, and developmental delays. This would have a devastating impact on developmental progress. Early Steps is already underfunded and overburdened.
- Eliminating funding for school-age children (6-12) served through the low-income working poor category. These children are unable to stay home alone safely and may become a danger to themselves and engage in risky behaviors, which could impact the child welfare (if parents are reported as negligent) and juvenile justice systems.
- Drastically reducing quality improvement efforts, including grants, training, and resource rooms.
- Eliminating community flexibility to design programs that meet local needs.
- Reducing support services for parents, including parent education and referrals for additional services.

### TAKE ACTION

Revised bills are expected shortly based on testimony and input provided. However, there is no guarantee that any/all issues will be addressed. Please contact your Representatives, particularly those on the House Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee and Appropriations Committee, which will be hearing these bills immediately, and let them know how important a quality School Readiness Program for Florida's children is to you.

## Local Events for the Whole Family!

### Free Parenting Group Strengthening Families and Communities

The University of Miami's Families First Network will be providing free parenting groups for parents of children ages 1 to 7.

**When:** Thursday, February 16, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Miami Shores

**Cost:** FREE

\*\*For more information and how to register, call 305-243-8425 or email [FamiliesFirst@med.miami.edu](mailto:FamiliesFirst@med.miami.edu). There is no charge for this program as it is funded by The Children's Trust, but pre-registration is required.

Call for details.

### Read Along, Sing Along with Florida Grand Opera

The Florida Grand Opera has partnered with public libraries in Miami-Dade and Broward to offer a FREE children's literacy program.

"Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears," as told by Verna Aardema

**When:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Naranja Branch

14850 S.W. 280 St.

Naranja, FL 33032

**Cost:** FREE

Please call the Naranja library to confirm date and time at 305-242-2290.

"Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk," an Irish tale as told by Gerald McDermott

**When:** Saturday, March 3, 2012

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Miramar Branch

2050 Civic Center Place

Miramar, FL 33025

**Cost:** FREE

Please call the Miramar library to confirm date and time at 954-437-1806

### Free Kids Workshop @ Home Depot

Kids 5 - 12 are invited to the Home Depot for Do-it-Yourself projects and skills, tool safety and accomplishment.

**When:** Saturday, March 3, 2012

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Where:** Your Local Home Depot

To find a Home Depot near you visit <http://www.homedepot.com>.

**Cost:** FREE

## Parent Space

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe would like you, our parents, to have an area in the *Parent Link* newsletter that you can call your own. This space will provide advice, tips, jokes, stories, and/or even job opportunities that other local parents wish to share.

So don't be shy; send us something you would like to share at [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org). Please note that included submissions may be edited for clarity, etc. We look forward to hearing from you.

### 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.