



December 2007

Issue No. 6

Early Care and Education News Alert

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Season's Greetings!

This time of year presents a special opportunity to thank our providers, staff, supporters and community partners for their hard work and dedication to our community's children. During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. The quality of early care and education in our community is at an all-time high, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue enhancing our programs.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, I wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and thank you for the tremendous work you do.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres

President & CEO

Train the Trainer Events Offered to Enhance Early Childhood Education Programs

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and the Office of Early Learning are sponsoring a series of Train the Trainer sessions to develop trainers for early childhood education programs, and increase the number of professionals who can design and deliver dynamic learning sessions to teachers,

families, staff and community partners. The seminar is designed to be a highly interactive experience, and is intended to address both individual needs and global concerns specific to early childhood settings.

The agenda will provide participants with tools and strategies relevant to work situations experienced by today's adult learner. Using their vast training background, the seminar facilitators will provide a learning environment that is challenging, supportive, and fun. Regardless of training work history, all participants are welcome to be part of this timely and skill-enhancing seminar; **registration is free**. Visit <http://www.ttas.org> to register or for more information. The following 2 seminars are already scheduled:

- *In Ocala, Florida:*
December 12 - 13, 2007
Hilton Ocala, Ocala, Florida (3600 Southwest 36th Avenue)
- *In Orlando, Florida:*
April 30 - May 1, 2008
Doubletree Castle Hotel, Orlando, Florida (8629 International Drive)

Miami-Dade County News

Early Care and Education Training Available during the Spring, 2008 Semester

The State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Certification Program is available at **all** Miami Dade College campus locations during the Spring, 2008 semester. Registration is now available and classes begin in January. For course descriptions, schedules and registration information, please visit <http://www.mdc.edu/ce>.

Monroe County News Briefs

Child Health Screening and Follow-Up Medical Care Project Underway

Once again, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is partnering with the Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (FKAHEC) to provide comprehensive child health screenings for all School Readiness children (subsidized through Wesley House Family Services), ages birth to five, in early care and education centers and homes Keys-wide. Funding for this project has been provided to FKAHEC through a grant from the Human Services Advisory Board of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, and will take place during the month of **December**.

The comprehensive health screening, conducted by the FKAHEC medical team, will include:

- vision;
- hearing
- ear/nose/throat
- oral/dental/skin/scalp/hygiene (dermatological);
- asthma/respiratory;
- nutrition, height/weight (proper growth and development);
- medications review, injury review, and vaccine/immunization review.

Financial assistance will be available (as funding permits) to parents of School Readiness children who require follow-up medical and/or specialty care as indicated on the health screening results form. School Readiness parents who cannot afford medical care, are uninsured, or underinsured may receive assistance from FKAHEC.

Providers will receive a letter from FKAHEC to schedule the appointment for health screenings at your facilities along with the list of School Readiness children scheduled for screening. There will also be a letter for you to distribute to the School Readiness children and their families to inform them of the upcoming screening. If any School Readiness parents choose **not** to participate, they **must** sign and return the **refusal form**. All notices to parents will be available in English and Spanish.

Non-subsidized, private pay children may also participate in the health screening program for a nominal \$10 fee. FKAHEC will provide a separate letter for distribution to the non-subsidized, private pay parents. A signed permission slip with the fee must be collected prior to the scheduled screening date.

***Note: Providers are asked to insure that each child's immunization records are up-to-date prior to the scheduled screening appointment.**

For questions or more information, please contact Tracey Codd, FKAHEC Community Health Coordinator at 743-7111, ext. 204 or Mary Williams, ELC Managing Director-Monroe County, at 296-5557.

Infant/Child/Adult CPR and First Aid Training Course Offering

Save the date of **Saturday, December 8th, 2007 from 9 AM to 5 PM** at Wesley House Family Services (1304 Truman Avenue, Key West) for this important course in CPR and first aid. The class will be offered for \$50 per person and advance registration is required by **December 6th**. For additional information, please contact **Michele Morgan** at **292-7150, ext. 236**.

Wesley House Provider Teleconference

A provider teleconference hosted by Wesley House Family Services will take place on **Tuesday, December 11 from 1 - 2 PM**. Topics for discussion will include: upcoming parent and provider trainings, child care scholarships, VPK questions/concerns, reimbursement questions/concerns, update on resource van and available materials, update on provider associations and updates from the Keys Children's Task Force and ELC.

Participants should dial **1-888-776-3766** and enter pin number ***5991208*** to enter the conference. For more information, please contact the ELC Monroe office at 296-5557.

Upcoming Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

This is the quarterly early education and child care provider forum attended by ELCMDM staff and board members, advisory committee members, Wesley House staff and our community partners. Provider participation is strongly encouraged to provide updates and discuss common issues and concerns. The meeting will be held on **January 15th, 2008 at 1 PM** in the **Monroe School District Board Room** (241 Trumbo Road, Key West).

Videoconferencing will be available at the following locations: Marathon High School, Room 2106 (350 Sombrero Road) and Coral Shores High School, Library Media Center (Tavernier). Providers may also participate via phone conference by calling 1-888-813-8477, pass code 143130.

For more information, please contact the ELC Monroe office at **296-5557**.

UPCOMING Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monre MEETINGS

Provider Services Committee	December 5, 2007	12 - 2 PM	United Way Center for Excellence
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Program & Strategy Committee	January 15, 2008	1 - 3 PM	ELCMDM Board Room
Monroe County Advisory Committee	January 15, 2008	1 - 3 PM	Monroe School District Board Room
Spending Plan	January 18, 2008	10 AM - 12 PM	ELCMDM Board Room
Finance Committee	January 23, 2008	8 - 10 AM	ELCMDM Board Room
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	January 28, 2008	8 - 10 AM	ELCMDM Board Room

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