April 2008 Issue No. 9

Provider News Alert

Our Mission and Vision

Our Mission
To promote school readiness and pre-kindergarten programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children.

Our Vision
To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

Join our Mailing List!

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URGENT CORRECTION

Just a reminder to please join us as Dr. Charles Bleiker and Dr. Adam Winsler share the results of the School Readiness Assessment/Intervention project.

South	Central	North
Corrected Address Monday, April 14 12:00pm - 1:30pm La Petite Academy 10920 SW 184 St Miami, FL 33157	Monday, April 14 4:00pm - 5:30pm Miami-Dade College InterAmerican Campus 627 SW 27 Ave Room 401 Miami, FL 33135	Tuesday, April 15 12:00pm - 1:30pm Kidworks USA 8155 W 28 Ave Hialeah, FL 33016

RSVP to Georgi Payne 305-646-7220 x273 gpayne@elcmdm.org

Events

National County Government Week

Miami-Dade County kicked off this week with special events for National County Government week. The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe partnered with

Miami-Dade County Government to support the National Association of Counties during this very special week.

"Care To Read"

IMPORTANT REMINDER: To be considered for this opportunity, visit our website, www.elcmdm.org, and download the *Read to Care* survey found in the *Announcements* section of our homepage. **Once completed, please fax it back to 305-447-1608, Attention: Georgi Payne, by April 11**.Please submit no more then 2 names per center on the form. Space for this opportunity is very limited! Applicants will be considered as they are received.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is collaborating with Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) to deliver literacy resources to Miami-Dade County providers. RIF is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit literacy organization in the United States dedicated to families and their children. RIF will deliver Care to Read®, an early literacy program that supports the development of children's emergent literacy skills through training and resources, to early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County. The two-day training seminars will be held in Spring and Summer 2008. All participants will receive over 30 book titles and an implementation stipend to purchase literacy materials; the training, materials, and stipend, will all be provided at no cost to those who attend. Approximately 4-6 weeks after the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to attend RIF-led focus groups, where they will provide feedback regarding their progress with the new implementation of literacy activities.

Early Care and Education Provider Business Meetings:
The March 25th and March 26th meetings have been re-scheduled for April 29th and April 30th.

April 29, 2008:
South Dade Government Center
10710 SW 211 Street, Room 203
10:00 am - 12:00 pm (English)
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Spanish)

April 30, 2008:
Martin Luther King Building (MLK)
2525 NW 62 Street, 2nd Floor, Rooms 1-3
10:00 am - 12:00 pm (English)
Note: $4.00 fee to park in MLK garage.

April 30, 2008:
Miami Lakes Office
15910 NW 57 Avenue
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Spanish)

Board Committees

In an effort to encourage participation, we are providing you with descriptions of each Board Committee's responsibilities. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings or becoming involved, please refer to the Upcoming Events section of this News Alert or check our website at www.elcmdm.org for upcoming meetings.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is responsible for providing leadership for the Board. This is accomplished by setting policies to encourage effective governance, administration, and legal representation; reviewing and recommending legislative

proposals at all levels of government; and resolving conflicts among committees and between the Coalition and other partners.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating Officers and Members, and nominating replacement Officers when there are vacancies on the Board.

Program Policy and Strategy Committee: The Program Policy and Strategy Committee is responsible for evaluating Coalition programs, formulating strategy, and making policy recommendations to improve the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Provider Services Committee: The Provider Services Committee is responsible for addressing the issues and concerns of both School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.

Governance and Bylaws Committee: The Governance and Bylaws Committee periodically reviews the Coalition's Bylaws, policies and procedures. They are responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding policies that provide specific guidance and direction to the Coalition and its leadership concerning all significant aspects of governance.

Audit Committee - The Audit Committee meets to discuss audits carried out by outside independent entities to make sure the Coalition is in accordance with State Statutes and Laws as governed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Finance Committee - The Finance Committee is responsible for providing oversight of the Coalition's financial operations, for reviewing compliance with Coalition policies, procedures and applicable laws and regulations

Legislative Advocacy Committee -The Legislative Advocacy Committee is responsible for working with legislators in order to educate and promote funding and support for early care and education.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings:

Nominating Committee	April 16	9:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Spending Plan Meeting	April 18	10:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Finance Committee	April 22	8:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Assessment Task Force	April 22	10:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Board of Directors	April 28	8:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Program & Strategy Committee	May 6	1:00 pm	ELCMDM Board Room
Finance Committee	May 20	8:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Provider Services Committee meeting has been rescheduled from June 6th to June 4th. Please make this note on your calendars. It will be held at the Hialeah City Hall, 501 Palm Ave., Hialeah, at 12:00 pm

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

Quality Initiatives

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
All Providers please go to our website and click on the Quality Initiatives Survey link to take a survey. If you encounter a problem with the link, please e-mail kmolinario@elcmdm.org.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe is pleased to announce this year's quality

initiatives for those providers caring for our school readiness (subsidized) children.

We are implementing the following quality initiatives:

- Learning Environment Materials
- Kindergarten Transition Events
- Literacy Initiatives
- Community-wide Training Opportunities
- Curriculum Materials and Training

The State's Office of Early Learning (OEL) requires all providers to implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum which includes literacy and character development. This year, the Coalition will initially focus on providing curriculum materials for first time VPK Low Performing Providers who also provide subsidized care for children. **Community-wide curriculum training will be available for everyone starting in the month of June.** Details will be sent out at the end of April.

For further information on all of the above mentioned quality initiatives, please check your mail, email, fax machine and the Coalition website on a regular basis for details. You may also contact Karen Molinario at 305-646-7220 or kmolinario@elcmdm.org.

Don't miss the shopping days! 2008 Materials Fair that will be held from April 15, through April 18, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Location information		
North April 15-16, 2008	South April 17, 2008	Central April 18, 2008
Miami Lakes CDS office 15910 NW 57th Ave. Miami, FL 33014	Homestead Christian Academy 255 NE 2nd Drive Homestead, FL 33033	United Way Center for Excellence 3250 SW 3rd Ave. Miami, FL 38129

Providers: If you have been selected for Quality Counts, you will be eligible for materials through an individualized ordering process based on your Quality Improvement Plan. Your Quality Improvement Specialist will provide details.

VPK

Applications for the 2008-2009 year are now being accepted. Remember if you want to enroll in prepayment, your complete package must be submitted by May 30, 2008. Ensure that the application is completed as per requirements. Don't wait until the final deadline to submit your application.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Form 11 - All sections need to be completed. Providers must submit all staff information for "Qualifying Credential" and "Highest Degree," in boxes #11 and #16 using the codes located at the bottom of the first page of the form. In the "Classroom Language" box, #23, you need to indicate the primary language spoken in the VPK classroom. Do not indicate more than one language.

VPK Directors - Anyone that did not obtain the Director Credential prior to January 1, 2007 must now get a VPK Director endorsement. For the endorsement to be valid, the provider must submit to us the following:

- **Copy of DCF Director Credential certificate**
- **Copy of VPK Standards certificate**
- **Copy of VPK Emergent Literacy certificate**
- **Copy of the VPK Director Endorsement Course certificate**

New requirement for VPK Directors: Please submit your level 2 background screening with your Form 10 beginning with the 2008-2009 application.

Providers Needing Assistance: New providers needing help with their VPK applications can call for an appointment. No appointment will be made after 2:00 PM. All other providers must make appointments with their assigned Certification Specialist. The staff cannot review your package upon drop off. Please call Liz Quesada at (305) 646-7220 ext 229 to make an appointment.

Second year Low Performing Providers: To provide VPK for the 2008-2009 year you need to show you have satisfied the necessary curriculum requirement. Please call for an appointment to meet with Roseline Philippe or Kerry Allen when you are ready to submit your 2008-2009 application. Certification will not process your application without clearance from Ms. Philippe or Ms. Allen.

VPK Payment for May and June: As it has been procedure in previous years, there will be no pre-payment made for the months of May and June. Payments for these months will be made when each provider delivers their attendance form at the closing of each month. We thank you for your cooperation.

VPK website: We are pleased to announce that the VPKHELP.org website has been revamped! It is now much easier to use, and now includes all the most current information, forms, and policies. Please visit the site at www.vpkhelp.org to get all the new forms needed.

Monroe County News Briefs

VPK Registration Update

2008 - 2009 School Year VPK Registration Round-Ups:

Saturday, April 26th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Wesley House Family Services, located at 1304 Truman Ave; ***Key West***

Saturday, May 3rd 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Tradewinds Shopping Center in the Key Largo Library, MM 101.4, ***Key Largo***

Saturday, May 3rd 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm at the Marathon Library, 3251 Overseas Highway; ***Marathon***

2008 - 2009 School Year VPK Registration begins **Monday, May 5th** at all Wesley House locations. Walk-ins are welcome Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Key West and Tavernier offices and Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Marathon office. Evening hours may be available by appointment.

Quality Counts

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe in collaboration with the United Way of Miami-Dade is proud to announce the launch of the Quality Counts Quality Rating Improvement System **Training Hotline**. The Training Hotline is a recorded message with information on all offered trainings both in English and Spanish. To learn more about upcoming trainings, please feel free to call The Training Hotline at **305 631-7658 or1-888-506-9898**.

Not involved with Quality Counts yet? It's never too late to make a difference! A simple two step process can get you on your way to giving the quality care that makes the difference in the lives of the children and families of Miami-Dade/Monroe County.

1. Attend a Quality Counts Overview Training
2. Submit a Quality Counts application

For more information or to download an application please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe website:
http://www.elcmdm.org/qualitycounts/index.htm

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Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe | 2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard | Suite 500 | Coral Gables | FL | 33134