



May/June 2008

Issue No. 11

Provider News Alert

Our Mission and Vision

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

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.

In This Issue

- Our Mission and Vision
- President's Message
- Important Announcements
- Events
- Activities
- Board Committees
- ELC Knowledge Center
- Miami-Dade County News Briefs
- Monroe County News Briefs
- Quality Counts

President's Message



This April, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability published a report: 61% of Voluntary Prekindergarten Children Are Ready for Kindergarten; Accountability Process Needs Improvement. It stated that "more than half of children who attended Florida's VPK program in 2006-2007 were subsequently deemed to be ready for kindergarten and demonstrated higher levels of kindergarten readiness than children who did not attend the program."

On that note: the numbers are up! Registration for our VPK program has seen an increase from last year's numbers. Over 12,000 children have received their Certificates of Eligibility, a 23% increase in registrations as compared to this time last year.

There have been some obstacles along the way, namely, the closing of one of the county's registration sites. This caused some confusion amongst parents in the community, but the Coalition, together with the County, was able to get the correct information out to the public as expeditiously as possible to rectify the problem. Overall, we are seeing a positive experience throughout the registration process. After the initial rush, wait times to receive VPK Certificates of Eligibility at Miami-Dade County eligibility offices are very short. It is important to remind parents that VPK registration will remain open for the summer and regular school-year terms for the rest of the summer and fall. Private VPK providers in Miami-Dade County have sufficient capacity to accommodate all children.

As always, I am at your service. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. I welcome you to write to us via e-mail to info@elcmdm.org.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President and CEO

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ELC Board of Directors is looking for a Private-Sector Business Member. Please contact Vivian Wright at (305) 646-7220 ext. 246 for additional application requirements or click here to see an application.

2008 One Goal Conference

The ELC will be holding a raffle for two School Readiness providers, one from Miami-Dade and one from Monroe, to attend The 2008 One Goal Conference: Building The Future Together "Putting Families And Children First." The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Tampa City Center, Tampa, Florida, on July 16-19, 2008. The only pre-requisite is that entrants must be School Readiness providers. Please limit entries to one per person. Send your name, position, and center name to Alina Soto at asoto@elcmdm.org by June 13, 2008. The raffle will take place at the Coalition's Headquarters in Coral Gables, 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500 on June 16th at 3:00pm. Attendance is not required to win. Good luck!

Center Directors Meeting

The next Center Directors meeting will be held on June 25th at:

Martin Luther King Building
2525 NW 62nd Street, 2nd Floor
Miami, FL 33147
305-514-6000

NOTE: Parking fee of \$4.00 at this location.

The English session will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and the Spanish session will be from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Attention School Readiness Providers

This is an additional reminder for providers that have not yet been able to access the School Readiness providers' website. If you have not chosen a password yet, please contact Ed Nelson by:

Telephone: (305) 514-6023
or
Email: enelson@miamidade.gov

If you already have chosen a password and have difficulty entering the site, please verify that you have the correct website:

<http://egvsys.metro-dade.com:1608/WWWSERV/ggvt/cdsaw000.dia>

1. Double click on the link
2. Click on providers log on at the bottom left of the screen
3. Type your center's telephone as user name
4. Type your password
5. Click/ press Enter
6. Click on children enrolled

Events



Provider Appreciation Day

The Coalition celebrated Provider Appreciation Day on May 9th by inviting all providers of early childhood education and care to a catered lunch at the Coalition headquarters. Providers participated in a special raffle for the opportunity to win AMC movie certificates, and got to join Coalition staff for an afternoon of appreciation. The lunch and movie tickets were generously sponsored by one of our community partners. Thank you for all you do!

3rd Annual Juris Service Day

On May 17th, Coalition staff joined South Florida's legal community to help landscape the Juvenile Justice Center and Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Volunteers helped to landscape, paint, clean, build, and beautify the facility grounds. The fresh look will no doubt leave the many children and families that visit that facility with a more welcoming and positive feeling.



Activities

Take advantage of this special coupon, and receive a discount for tickets to the show!

SAVE \$3 PER TICKET!

123
SESAME STREET LIVE
 A VEE CORPORATION PRODUCTION

ELMO makes J MUSIC

©2008 Sesame Workshop. All Rights Reserved. JUNE 4/08

sesamestreetlive.com

Present this coupon at the American Airlines Arena Box Office or use the code **ELMO** at Ticketmaster.com and save \$3.00 per ticket! (excludes Gold Circle & Premium Seating)

JUNE 7 & 8

SHOW SCHEDULE:
 Sat 6/7 • 10:30AM, 2PM & 5:30PM
 Sun 6/8 • 1PM & 4:30PM

American Airlines
Arena

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:

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

Name	Date	Time	Location
Provider Services Committee	June 4	12:00 pm	Hialeah City Hall
Finance Committee	June 17	8:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Spending Plan Committee	June 18	10:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Board of Directors	June 23	8:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room
Program & Strategy	July 8	1:00 pm	ELCMDM Board Room
Spending Plan/ Enrollment	July 17	10:00 am	ELCMDM Board Room

ELC Knowledge Center

Welcome to the ELC Knowledge Center. This section on our News Alert serves to provide parents, educators, and caregivers more accessible information about services in addition to the programs administered by the ELC. The Knowledge Center is a place where you can learn about upcoming trainings, special reports on early education and care, and other issues, like inclusion and special needs services, that are related to early childhood education and care. The Knowledge Center will also be available on our website very soon. We welcome you to contact us, or any of the partner organizations for more information.

Inclusion and Special Needs

Including All Children

Welcome to this new feature in our News Alert. In this section, we will highlight different inclusion programs, and inform you of services that assist parents and teachers of children with special needs. Additionally, you will also get information about support services and community and family events for you and your children. We will give you simple and fun activities to promote a quality environment for families and children.

For more about inclusion programs and services for children with special needs, the

Coalition and Miami-Dade County Child Development Services have partnered together to create a warm-line telephone number. You can call this number for provider information on special needs and referral services:

Warm line: 305-953-5166

Call us with your questions regarding finding early care and education for your child or visit our website, www.elcmdm.org, and click on the Knowledge Center link on our homepage. You will be guided to a page that includes a link titled Inclusion and Special Needs, which provides more information that can help you and your children.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to answer your requests through this new column. Or you may fax us at:

Fax: 786-888-9281

Let us celebrate the uniqueness of every child!

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

VPK Updates

VPK Provider Verification

You have been receiving on a quarterly basis, the names of children who have attended your VPK program. We ask that you verify the list for accuracy. Please pay attention to the spelling of the child's name, the number of hours attended, and the number of paid and unpaid absences. You are required to send your response back to CDS; even when there are no changes, you must sign and return the form. Please note Agency for Workforce Innovation has requested we hold the last VPK payment until the provider has submitted the verification of children.

VPK 2008-2009 Applications

Reminder: Providers must reapply each school year in order to provide the VPK program. You will receive a letter with a certificate from our office once you have been certified. It is not necessary to call to follow-up on an application you have submitted. **Only new VPK providers will be seen to review the VPK application package. Please remember you must make an appointment if you need to see a Certification Specialist.**

2008-2009 VPK Provider Rates

- Effective July 1, 2008, the new VPK provider rate for the School Year Program is \$2,666.11 (or \$4.93 per hour) for the 540 hour program.
- The new rates affect the 2008 Summer Program as of July 1st, with the new VPK provider rate of \$2,666.11 (or \$8.88 per hour) for the 300 hour program. Providers will be paid \$9.05 per hour for programs operating in May and June, and \$8.88 per hour for the months of July and August. The VPK provider rates were reduced during the recent legislative session.

Staff Credential Verification Form (#5206)

If your staff has "Formal Education " listed on their verification form from DCF but the form does not list the specific degree, we are asking for the back-up documents, such as a copy of the evaluation of the degree (if from another country) or a copy of the actual degree (if issued in the U.S).

VPK Director Endorsement

You must have all of the following in order for the VPK Director Endorsement to be valid:

- A DCF Director Credential certificate
- A VPK Standards certificate
- A VPK Emergent Literacy certificate
- A VPK Director Endorsement course certificate

The VPK Director Endorsement course certificate is different from the VPK Director

Endorsement.**VPK Trainings**

Attention Providers - Please remember that only the ELC, through the DOE, can offer VPK Standards and Emergent Literacy training for VPK instructors; therefore, please be sure to register for these trainings with the Coalition. These trainings are free of charge.

You can obtain additional information by visiting our website at www.vpkhelp.org.

Monroe County News Briefs**VPK Updates****2008-2009 Monroe VPK Provider Rates**

Effective July 1st, the new VPK provider rate for the School Year Program is \$2667.16 (or \$4.93 per hour) for the 540 hour program. Effective July 1st, the new VPK provider rate for the Summer Program is \$2,667.16 (or \$8.89 per hour) for the 300 hour program. The VPK provider rates were reduced during the recent legislative session.

VPK Program Update

2008-2009 School Year Registration: Continues at all Wesley House locations from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday in Key West and Tavernier; Tuesday and Thursdays in Marathon). Evening hours are available by appointment. VPK providers are asked to remind parents of eligible four year olds to register as soon as possible in order to receive their Certificates of Eligibility. Without the certificates, children may not be officially enrolled into your VPK program. Documentation required at the time of registration includes 1) Proof of the child's age (birth certificate, passport, certificate of baptism, immunization record, etc.) and 2) proof of residency/physical address (utility bill, bank statement, pay stub, government document, etc.). The child's Social Security number is requested, but not mandatory, if available, at the time of registration.

VPK Provider Information

Providers are asked to complete the VPK Form 10 and Form 11 for the upcoming 2008-2009 VPK School Year Program. Attach required supporting documentation and forward to Mary Williams at the ELC Monroe office as soon as possible. Upon review and approval of the application package, a Provider Agreement will be mailed to the provider. Until this process is completed, children may not be officially enrolled in your VPK program and payments may not be authorized.

VPK Stats

08/09 School Year Certificates of Eligibility issued to date: 173
08/09 Prospective VPK Providers: 22 (10 school district sites and 12 private providers); including 2 new VPK providers in the Upper Keys and 2 new VPK providers in the Lower Keys. For additional information regarding VPK registration or program information, please contact Val Taylor, Wesley House at 292-7150 or Mary Williams, ELC Monroe office at 296-5557.

Upcoming Monroe County events**Provider Workshop**

Using Recycled Materials in the Creative Curriculum Learning Process

Date: Saturday, June 14th

Time: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Location: First Baptist Church, 200 62nd St., Marathon

*Note: This workshop is offered free of charge and lunch will be provided by the Provider Association of the Fabulous Florida Keys. For additional information or to register, please contact Michele Morgan at 292-7150 ext. 236.

Quality Counts

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 or 1-888-506-9898.

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>

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to info@elcmdm.org by info@elcmdm.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



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