



November 2008

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Provider News Alert

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school 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 with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Subscription for our School Readiness Children

As part of our mission to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of our community's children, the Coalition recently ordered subscriptions to National Geographic Little Kids magazine. These were sent out to all providers serving children under the School Readiness program, with the first issue being the October edition. The magazine is an fun educational piece that can be used by teachers and enjoyed by all children.

Going Green

The Coalition is making strides towards going green in our office environment. One of the first processes we are changing is the distribution method of our News Alert and other mass communications. This will help lessen the need for paper, and reduce the

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amount of waste in our environment.

To encourage those providers who are not yet on our e-mail list to sign up for the electronic delivery service, we have created a contest. The first 20 Providers that are able to set up an official organization e-mail where they can receive Coalition correspondence will receive a Gift Card to AMC Movie Theaters. To be eligible, providers must provide an e-mail address that is not currently included in our contact database. This contest will end on November 30, 2008. Please send your e-mails to gcarreras@elcmdm.org.

Child Care Executive Partnership Program

Take advantage of a great program! Congratulations to those providers who have submitted their CCEP agreements to Alina Soto at the Coalition. The next step is to fax the Step One Pre-Screening Form with your employee's information to Sharon Gordon at (305) 514-6152 if you are in Miami-Dade County, and to Kathy Snyder at (305) 292-7156 if you are in Monroe County.

Send only the two page form per employee; there is no need to send supporting documentation to Ms. Gordon or Ms. Snyder. Once the Pre-Screening Form is received, someone will be in touch with the employee to arrange an eligibility appointment.

Clarification: Owners of early care & education centers are not eligible for reimbursement for the care of their own children in their center. For more information on the CCEP program visit our website at www.elcmdm.org, or call Alina Soto at 305-646-7220 ext. 282.

The Children's Trust Service Provider Survey

Last August voters overwhelmingly reauthorized The Children's Trust, an independent special taxing district for children's services that will continue to generate upwards of \$100 million annually for prevention and early intervention in Miami-Dade County. The Children's Trust Board will hold a full-day retreat in December to discuss lessons learned in the first five years, as well as to re-assess community needs. The goal of the retreat is to determine how best to focus The Children's Trust funding to achieve the greatest positive impact in coming years.

In addition, the board and staff will be looking separately at The Children's Trust internal processes and quality improvement to help the organization operate more effectively and efficiently.

For both of these goals, the Children's Trust Board wants to hear from community service providers who support children, youth, and families. Make your voice heard and share your thoughts about needs and priorities of children and families in the online survey.

Just click here:

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001p50h73uQhM1mKFGA6ZYyS2pdl-uh-g9lFUMAJxZ_Qj3jAIVuTCfVd7amPWBxi6vWqB9HZ8eznNbd-93ziP0JJ8Uaao8VXVn_UqjNRtwBhv_PTFkoofB5-mLwgahS6Pi-cyzS8ZCp3rZmWf8DBzSrfnGlm-6jbVVPxat3qw8NzDFP_7zfw8EUJg== />to complete the survey.

[We know you are busy, but hope you will find time to complete this important survey before Thursday, November 6th.](#)

[All responses will be completely confidential. No individual results or identifying characteristics will be reported. Responses will be reported in aggregate with other responses.](#)

Board Committees

In an effort to encourage participation, please see the descriptions of each Board Committee's responsibilities. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings or becoming involved, we have noted upcoming meetings below, and you can also visit our website at www.elcmdm.org, and click on "Events" for our calendar.

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:

Name	Date	Time	Location
Finance Committee	24-Nov	8:00 AM	ELCMDM Board Room
Board of Directors Meeting	1-Dec	8:00 AM	ELCMDM Board Room
Program & Strategy Committee	3-Dec	1:00 AM	ELCMDM Board Room

Featured Partner

Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade was incorporated on April 1, 2001 and serves as a prenatal and infant care coalition. The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade is responsible for the establishment and oversight of the Miami-Dade Healthy Start system, which includes directing funds for continuous care coordination to pregnant women and children birth to age three, evaluating services, and quality improvement and assurance responsibilities.

The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) would like to invite professionals in the field of maternal, infant, and child health to the upcoming "Partners for a Healthy Baby Home Visiting Curriculum" training. This curriculum was developed by Florida State University's Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy. The training will take place November 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2008 from 9am to 4pm at the United Way Center for Excellence.

This training is partially funded by The Children's Trust and the Florida Department of Health.

Below is a brief description of the training:

- * Comprehensive curricula providing monthly guidance for home visitors and others working with pregnant women and their families.
- * Translates the latest neuroscientific research into practical applications.
- * Addresses family issues of prenatal health, baby's development, self-esteem and self-sufficiency, pregnancy concerns, career, and preparations for baby's arrival.

For additional information follow this link: <http://cpeip.fsu.edu/index.cfm>

Vacant slots are still available. To register, visit our website www.hscmd.org, click on "Training Registration," and follow the instructions. Take advantage of this free educational opportunity. Please contact Natalia Coletti at (305) 541-0210 with any questions.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness Updates

Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services Child Development Services has redesigned the Transfer Request Form. Below are instructions for providers and parents on what they need to fill in on the form. You can obtain a copy from our website, www.elcmdm.org, in the Announcements Box on the Home Page.

Current Provider:

1. Completes the top portion of the transfer request form.
2. Makes sure to include when the date authorization for care expires.
3. Attests that there is a zero balance.
4. Completes provider identifying information.

New Provider:

1. The first day of service is the date that payment will begin.
2. Indicates the type of care.
3. Includes the fax number to receive information by fax.
4. Completes provider identifying information, making sure to include the provider ID number.
5. Signs the form certifying child(ren) is/are at the center.

Parent:

Signs the form indicating that they have made the request and they do not owe a balance to the previous provider.

Please contact Debbie Outing at (305) 438-4166 with any questions.

VPK Updates

VPK Attendance

Providers must maintain daily attendance on the CDS roster and the Parental Choice Form. These two forms should reflect the same information. If you do not have a pre-printed roster with your VPK children's names by the start of your program, please contact CDS for a blank form for the month.

VPK allows 3 un-excused absences each month and up to 10 days with a note from the parent. VPK does allow the provider to set their own attendance policy. This means you do not have to allow excessive absences with any child. The provider should inform the parent at the time of enrollment about their attendance policy.

What to Submit for Payment?

Beginning with the 08-09 year, only the CDS roster should be submitted for your VPK payment. All Parental Choice Forms will be kept in the individual child's folder. The monitors will be reviewing them during their visits.

Also, excuse notes must be submitted with your attendance at the end of the month in order to be paid for

those days beyond the 3 un-excused absences.

IMPORTANT:

VPK providers are requested to submit the name and supporting documents for one or two individuals who will function as your VPK staff substitute. This way, the Coalition will already know these individuals have the right credentials and background screenings. Providers had until October 31, 2008 to submit the package for their substitutes. If you have not submitted your package, please do so immediately.

Beginning November 3, 2008, if a monitor finds someone in the VPK classroom other than the teacher, assistant, or substitute on record with the Coalition, the provider will not be paid for that class for that day.

Low Performing Providers:

*If you have not completed your progress reports, please go online to do so as soon as possible. NOTE: Please remember that you must provide comments with each submission of a progress report. Before clicking "submit," insert the comments in the column indicated to show your progress.

*If you have received the materials that were ordered for your center, please submit the packing slips immediately. You can either mail it to the Coalition, attention: Donna Chang, or bring it to our offices. If you have not submitted your slips, you must do so by November 15, 2008, or you will be charged for the materials.

VPK Low-Performing Provider Timeline			
The chart below shows the timeline assuming a provider began offering the VPK program the first year the VPK program began and never achieves a readiness rates above the minimum satisfactory rated adopted by the State Board of Education.			
Fiscal Year	VPK Program Year	VPK Rate	Failure to meet minimum satisfactory VPK readiness rate
2005-2006	Year 1 of offering VPK program	No rate	<i>No action required</i>
2006-2007	Year 2 of offering VPK program	Rate for Year 1 received	Provider required to complete an improvement plan
2007-2008	Year 3 of offering VPK program	Rate for Year 2 received	Provider placed on probation and required to: 1) use a DOE-approved curriculum during Year 4; 2) complete an improvement plan.
2008-2009	Year 4 of offering VPK program	Rate for Year 3 received	Provider begins 2nd year of probation; provider required to: 1) use a DOE-approved curriculum during Year 5; 2) complete an improvement plan.
2009-2010	Year 5 of offering VPK program	Rate for Year 4 received	Provider prohibited from offering VPK again in accordance with F.S. 1002.67(3)(c)4.

Monroe County News Briefs

ELC Board Approves Monroe Provider Agreement to meet State Mandates

In accordance with part 3 of the 2007-2009 State Child Care and Development Fund Plan, the Coalition's Board of Directors has approved an Early Care and Education Provider Agreement that takes effect January 1, 2009. The requirements set forth in the Early Care and Education Provider Agreement are mandated by 45CFR98 (Code of Federal Regulations), Chapter 402.25 and Chapter 411.01 of the Florida Statutes, and Rule 60BB-4

of the Florida Administrative Code.

Beginning January 1, 2009, payment for children who receive financial assistance through the School Readiness Program will only be made to centers, family child care homes, and school age providers who have a signed Early Care and Education Provider Agreement with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

A series of Directors' Meetings have been scheduled Keys-wide to review the new Early Care Provider Agreement for School Readiness Services:

Thursday, November 13th @ 7:00 pm, Wesley House, 1304 Truman Ave., Key West
 *Note: Meeting to be held during regularly scheduled Spanish Provider Association Meeting. *Refreshments will be provided.*

Tuesday, November 18th @ 1:00 pm, St. James Children's Center, Mile Marker 87.5, 87500 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. *Lunch will be provided.*

Wednesday, November 19th @ 1:00 pm, Wesley House, 1304 Truman Ave., Key West.
Lunch will be provided.

Directors are asked to confirm their planned attendance by calling 809-5008 (a special RSVP and question line for providers). All questions and answers will be compiled for discussion during the meetings.

A letter will be sent out to Monroe School Readiness parents to explain this new requirement.

Child Health Screening and Follow-Up Medical Care Project Underway

For the 4th year, 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), ages birth to five, in early education and care centers and homes Keys-wide. Funding for this project has been made available to FKAHEC through a grant from the Human Services Advisory Board of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners with additional support provided by the Coalition.

The comprehensive health screening conducted by the FKAHEC medical team includes:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Ear/nose/throat
- Oral/dental
- Skin/scalp/hygiene (dermatological)
- Asthma/respiratory
- Nutrition, height/weight (proper growth and development)
- Medical history 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 their facilities along with the list of School Readiness children scheduled for screening. There will also be a letter to distribute to the parents of School Readiness children that informs them of the upcoming screenings. 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 ensure that each child's immunization records are up-to-date and a copy is present at the site prior to the scheduled screening appointment.

For questions or for additional information, please contact Cora Yoose, RN FKAHEC Program Manager at 743-7111 ext. 204 or Mary Williams, ELC Managing Director-Monroe County at 296-5557.

Klaus-Murphy Foundation Child Care Teacher Scholarship Grant

The Monroe ELC Office has received a \$24,797 grant to provide assistance to eligible child care teachers to enroll in Florida Keys Community College's new AS degree or certificate program in Early Childhood Education. Eligible child care teachers working in School Readiness centers in the Key West - Stock Island area may receive tuition and book assistance, child care and transportation assistance. (*Note: The funder specifies that funds may only be expended in the Key West area). Applications are currently being accepted and interested child care teachers should contact Mary Williams at 296-5557.

Quality Counts

Quality Rating Improvement System Training Hotline

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>

Here are some program highlights and accomplishments:

- * The addition of Round 4 brings us to a total of 202 centers/homes.
- * Our procurement system is in full gear, with the total of expenditures topping \$500,000 and rising daily! These expenditures take the form of learning materials and equipment to support our providers.
- * Quality Counts will welcome over 120 new center based programs and 35 new family childcare homes into the program during year 2.
- * Head Start has agreed to join the Quality Counts program. The first of 84 Head Start programs begins their self studies in the next couple of weeks and will receive their formal assessments throughout the fall.
- * Miami Dade Public Schools/Ready Schools Miami are our newest partners. Exciting plans are underway to bring more than 75 classrooms into the system this fall.
- * Trainings are provided by the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education under contract with The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/ Monroe.

Upcoming Trainings

Personal Care Routines: Health and Nutrition

This training will provide an overview on hygiene and personal care routines in an early childhood environment. In-service hours will be offered. Please bring a set of All About ECERS and ITERS with you to this training.

Saturday, November 8th
9:00am to 12:00pm
at the Early Learning Center

12907 NE 7th Ave.
Miami, FL 33161

Conscious Discipline® Series

Through slide and video presentation, discussion, interactive role play, music, movement and reflective processes, participants actively learn about the brain and human behavior. Teachers experience for themselves the positive effects of Brain Smart™ routines, "connecting" activities and conscious use of language which they, in turn, can model for the children. All sessions will be conducted by Anna Katja von Elbe, certified Conscious Discipline® Instructor and Loving Guidance Associate.

Session I
Saturday, November 15th
8:30am to 4:00pm
at the United Way of Miami-Dade
Center For Excellence
Main Stage
3250 SW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33129

Legislative Corner

Guiding the Reauthorization for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

The National Women's Law Center is working to improve the quality, affordability, and accessibility of child care, with a special emphasis on ways to expand public and private financing of the changes needed to achieve these goals. The center is focusing on the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and other opportunities for child care improvement in the new administration and new Congress.

You can link to the resources listed below for a more in-depth look at how you can get educated about the initiative:

Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for High Quality Child Care
<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/NewChildCareAgenda.pdf>

A Vision for the Reauthorization of Child Care
<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/ChildCareReauthorizationVision.pdf>

Child Care and Early Education website
<http://www.nwlc.org/details.cfm?id=3355&ion=childcare>

ELC Knowledge Center

This section of our News Alert provides parents, educators, and caregivers more information about services in addition to the programs administered by the ELC and articles of interest. 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.

Inclusion and Special Needs

Infant and Toddler Awareness Part I: Intentional Teaching

As a teacher what you do with children can have a lifelong impact on their learning successes. Teachers who continue to learn about teaching and understand the learning process are best able to promote learning in others. This is called intentional teaching - doing activities on purpose with an outcome in mind, being open to new ideas, learning new teaching strategies and looking at your own teaching.

Research shows that children learn like very young scientists, with intense curiosity.
* Form theories: What will happen if I dump this glass of water?

- * Test out ideas: For example: dumping the glass over, and over, and over.
- * Ask questions: Why? How? When? What?
- * Make mistakes: This is very important: without someone ridiculing them, saying that was stupid.
- * Learn from mistakes: Give children other opportunities and watch how their actions adjust to make outcomes successful.
- * Form new theories: Start again with information that will change their play and exploration.

Tips for Intentional Teachers (and Parents)

- * Watch children: what do they like, what kind of activities interest them.
- * Determine what makes them "light up" as a learner.
- * Are they engaged and learning? Look for smiles, bright eyes and total focus on the task.
- * Allow children to follow their interests or provide activities that the child has shown an interest in.
- * Become a learner- about children, their development and milestones and what "lights you up" as a teacher.
- * Reflect: How do you want to be remembered by your children?

"I think every parent, every scientist, every early childhood educator who has looked at a young child sees that curiosity, that wonder and asks themselves, "What can we do to keep this alive in a child, to foster it, to fan the flames and not dampen that curiosity."

Dr. Andrew Meltzoff

NEXT MONTH:

Social and Emotional engagement = Intellectual Development

Early Childhood Reports

Research findings indicate need for resources in government funded early childhood programs

With help from the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/ Monroe and other early care and learning organizations, psychologists and researchers from George Mason University, Florida International University, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published the report which highlights the significant gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty who attend center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. The study assessed over 3,800 4 year-old preschoolers at the start of the school year and then again at the end of the term. The results showed concrete benefits and improved cognitive, academic, and language skills in the children who participated in the programs over those children who only received parental care before entering kindergarten.

For a copy of the study, visit our website, www.elcndm.org, and click on the Knowledge Center tab, then click on "Early Childhood Reports."

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