



Provider News Alert

MAY 2009

Issue 7

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ELC Mission & Vision

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

President's Message



In Acknowledgement of Our Providers and with Sincere Thanks...

Friday, May 8, 2009, was designated as **Provider Appreciation Day**. This special day is celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day to recognize early care and education providers; teachers; school-age program staff; center directors and staff; and every individual who is responsible for young children's education and care. I offer my most sincere thanks to the many professionals in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, as well as other communities throughout Florida for the important work they do to ensure our children have the best possible chance of succeeding in school and in life.

In the proclamation issued to commemorate this special day, Governor Charlie Crist stated, "...our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today..." On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and community, thank you for doing your part to teach our children so that we can all live in healthier communities and have a better future. If you wish to read Governor Crist's proclamation of Provider Appreciation Day, please visit <http://elcmdm.org/newsroom/ELC%20update/ELCU050809.pdf>.

As always, I remain at your service.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Important Announcements

The Assessment Program in Miami-Dade County, 2008-2009

At the Coalition's April 6th board meeting, Miami-Dade County's Child Development Services (CDS) in collaboration with Florida International University (FIU), presented information on the Assessment program for the current school year, which began in July 2008.

This descriptive presentation provided numerical outcomes and comparative successes of School Readiness children over the past several years. Highlights included measurements of environmental factors that positively or negatively influence

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.

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.

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Nominating
May 19 at 8:00 a.m.
ELC Executive Conference Room

Finance
May 26 at 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Program & Strategy
May 27 at 1:00 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Board of Directors
June 1 at 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Recall of Jardine Cribs

Model # | Description | Date Code

0102B00 | Drop-side Natural Olympia Single | 9/2005-1/2007

children's learning, strategies for improving early learning skills and how these skills affect outcomes of children as they progress through kindergarten and higher grades of elementary school.

Background on the Assessment Program:

Florida Statute 411 (s. 411.01(5)(c)2.c., F.S.) mandates that the Coalition ensures all children ages birth to 5-years-old in School Readiness programs receive an age-appropriate developmental assessment. The following statutory requirements must be met to satisfy the mandate:

1. Age-appropriate developmental assessment of all School Readiness children, ages birth to 5-years-old
 - a. Communicate results to parents and family child care providers to help the latter focus and improve their teaching practice
2. Administer pre-test and post-test assessments of children enrolled in the School Readiness program
In order to meet the requirements of this mandate, the Coalition via the Assessment Task Force, selected the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), to screen all School Readiness children ages birth to 5-years-old.

To assess children ages 3- to 5-years-old, the Learning Accomplishment Profile-Diagnostic (LAP-D) is used for both pre-tests and post-tests. The Early-Learning Accomplishment Profile (E-LAP) is used to assess young children through 36 months of age.

To learn more about the Assessment program and review the details of the April 6th board presentation, please visit <http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/AssessmentReport4609.pdf>.

Recycle, Reduce, Reuse: The Coalition is Going Green and Reducing Our Use of Paper!

In our continuing efforts to go green as well as be fiscally conscientious, we are reducing our use of paper. This means we will no longer print and mail the Provider News Alert in bulk. In order to keep you informed and up-to-date we will continue to send the news alerts via email and fax blast. The current and archived issues are also available to download from our website. Please visit http://elcmdm.org/newsroom/news_alerts.htm.



If you do not have internet access at your center or home, visiting your library is a wonderful and free alternative. It is also a perfect resource for caregivers and early childhood educators, as you can also check out some great books to read to your children. If a trip to your local library is not a convenient destination, please call us at (305) 646-7220 and we will be happy to mail you a copy of the news alert.

0102E00|Drop-side Dark Pine
Olympia Single|
9/2005-1/2008

0302P00|Black Olympia
Lifetime|11/2005-5/2008

0302C00|White Olympia
Lifetime|6/2006-12/2006

0312D00|Americana Pecan 4-
in-1|5/2006-11/2007

0308L00|Antique Walnut
Capri|4-in-1|12/2005-
11/2007

0108C00|Drop-side White
Capri Single|8/2006-11/2007

Sold at: KidsWorld, Geoffrey
Stores, Toys "R" Us, and
Babies "R" Us stores
nationwide, and at
www.babiesrus.com, from
September 2005 through
April 2009 for between \$220
and \$330.

Remedy: Consumers should
immediately stop using
recalled cribs. Contact
Jardine to receive a full
credit toward the purchase
of a new crib. Detailed
instructions for purchasing
cribs in retail stores and
online will be provided.

Consumer Contact: Call
Jardine at (800) 646-4106
between 8 a.m. and 4:30
p.m. Monday through Friday,
or visit the firm's website at
www.jardinescalbreacall.com/.

Early Childhood Education is the Foundation for Success in School and in Life

Early education programs such as School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) prepare children to enter school ready to learn. Young children can enhance their pre-reading, pre-math, language and social skills, so that by the time they transition into kindergarten, they already have a solid foundation for future learning and success.

While many studies have been conducted on the short- and long-term benefits for children who attend preschool, many results indicate sizable long-term effects on children's school achievement, grade retention, and social adjustment. One study in particular, the High/Scope Perry Preschool study, which began in 1962 and ended in 1991, randomly assigned at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds to groups of children who would attend a high-quality preschool program and those who would not. The longitudinal study collected data throughout the years from both respective groups of children until the age of 28. Two years after the preschool program was completed, data showed that the preschoolers surpassed the non-preschooler group in intellectual performance. Subsequently, the preschool group achieved a stronger commitment to schooling, higher school achievement and literacy, better scholastic placement, and higher educational attainment than the non-preschool group.

Numerous other studies have demonstrated the importance of the early learning years for a child's developing brain. Over the past four decades studies similar to the High/Scope Perry Preschool study have been conducted, such as the Abecedarian Project, the Chicago Longitudinal Study, and the Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes. Their results also indicated that high-quality early education programs increase children's chances of becoming successful students and citizens, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to recently released FCAT writing scores of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' students, there has been a steadily rising trend over the past three years of 4th and 8th graders scoring a 4.0 or above on the writing assessment. The percentage of students in the same grade levels who scored a 3.5 or above remained stable or also increased. These scores are particularly notable as almost 60% of the students are from low-income families (compared to 46% throughout the state) and 15% are English language learners (versus 9% statewide).

To learn more about the High/Scope Perry Preschool study, visit the Google Book Search website, <http://books.google.com/books> and type "Perry Preschool study" in the search engine.

Seminar for Afterschool Providers on *The Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs*

The Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) is pleased to announce it has received sponsorship from AWI's Office of Early Learning to host 15 regional seminars throughout Florida featuring *The Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs*.

WHO: Afterschool providers from all venues, serving children grades K-5

WHAT: Participants will receive a print copy of *The Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs* and will be introduced to all seven categories and 45 elements

WHEN: Saturday, October 24, 2009; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Trinity Church
17801 NW 2nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33169

Registration is FREE to all afterschool providers who register through FAN's website at www.myfan.org or by submitting the registration flyer available for download at <http://www.elcmdm.org/events/trainings/MiamiRegForm.pdf>.

ELC Board of Directors

As seen in previous news alerts, we have featured our board members to familiarize our community with the dedicated professionals who serve on the Coalition's board of directors. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Board Director P. Morgan Hill.



P. Morgan Hill was appointed by the Florida governor to the Coalition's board of directors in 2005. As a respected professional in the real estate industry, Ms. Hill is well known locally, statewide, and nationally for her expertise in realty sales and management, and land-use planning and development. She has hosted real estate shows on both television and radio and her commentary has often been sought for inclusion in newspapers and magazines.

Since 2000, Ms. Hill has assumed the role of broker of record at Florida Keys Rentals, a management company handling over 300 vacation rentals in the Florida Keys. She is also the top-producing broker/associate and vice president of Exit Realty Florida Keys, a prominent real estate company with five sales offices located throughout Monroe County.

Ms. Hill has long been involved in the Florida Keys community. She has participated in the creation of land development regulations for the city of Marathon as both a chairperson and commissioner on the City of Marathon Planning commission; serves as the director and vice president of the Middle Keys Community Land Trust which is dedicated to finding and arranging property-purchases designated for affordable housing; and directs the Crest Title Company, an A-rated title company and exclusive area agent of the Old Republic Tile Company.

Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work he accomplishes in bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Fred Hicks, CIO.

Fred Hicks celebrated his one-year anniversary as the Coalition's chief information officer (CIO) last week. Since then he has made it his personal mission to inspire Coalition staff to think about information technology (IT) and software in a different way--as tools that empower people to better serve others, particularly our most valued "clients," our community's children. After all, Fred believes in working smarter, not harder, and IT is just the means to put this philosophy into practice.



Fred makes no bones about his professional approach; it's "in your face" he says. More aptly, it's proactive. He doesn't like to wait for problems to occur; rather he prefers to tackle them before they even become an issue. Every day he walks through the office, looking at each computer monitor to ensure there is no red or yellow warning-icon at the bottom of its respective desktop. This also gives Fred a chance to get to know his co-workers and address any of their IT questions or concerns.

"My role is ultimately to teach," Fred says. "For example, Word and Excel have over 10,000 functions each. Of them, the average person may only use about 30. The programs are primarily thought of as a notepad and a calculator. I want to make the software work for the Coalition, to make the programs "buzz."

Born and raised in Perrine, Fred currently resides in Broward County with his fiancée, two sons, and daughter. He has worked in IT for almost 16 years and previously worked for the Children's Services Council of Broward County which he opened with the organization's original senior staff. He admits he was on a learning curve when he first arrived at the Coalition but took the time to observe and take mental notes about the staff's perception of IT. By empowering staff members to improve their hand, mouse, and database skills; instructing lunchtime learning sessions; and emailing IT tips, Fred is confident the Coalition is evolving into a truly "data-rich" organization.

Senior administration also believes in the power of IT. Is it a worthy investment? The answer is yes. Fred readily acknowledges the high level of support he's received from ELC leadership, "They have a clear understanding of the important role IT plays in achieving the Coalition's goals and mission. We're actively striving to create a seamless system of care at all different levels."

Our Partners

Much of our success is attributed to the contributions of our valued partners. After all, they play a key role in helping us bring high-quality early care and education programs and services to our children. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight the University of Miami.



The University of Miami (UM) is a private four-year university and center of excellence in the promotion and integration of educational, psychological, and physical wellbeing in multicultural communities.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has partnered with UM, along with several other human service organizations, to

carry out an exciting action research project called SPEC (Strengths, Prevention, Empowerment, Community Change). This collaborative initiative aims to assist community agencies in transforming service-delivery in the region. The project promotes child and family wellbeing in the County by introducing professionals to an innovative model based on SPEC. Using the Learning and Changing by Doing (LCBD) approach, participants infuse their organizations with SPEC principles and document outcomes.

The Coalition is also participating in a three-year research study called "Early School Readiness in Children Within and Outside the Child Welfare System: An examination of the impact of child care quality, family stability and developmental status," with UM's Linda Ray Intervention Center to compare the development of 50 children in the child welfare system with 50 children who are not. All 100 children are enrolled in child care centers in Miami-Dade County.

Another Coalition-UM collaboration is a study with the Frost School of Music, "Infants of Mothers with Depressive Symptoms: Responses to Infant-Directed Singing," that compares 40 mothers who suffer from depressive symptoms and their infants (3 to 9 months) to 40 mothers with infants who do not.

The University of Miami Pediatric Oral Health Care (PATCH) project is another Coalition partnership program; it is funded by The Children's Trust. The primary purpose of PATCH is to provide oral health screenings, preventive fluoride varnish applications, and dental hygiene education to School Readiness-funded children in Miami-Dade County.

Parents of these children also receive literature on the importance of proper dental hygiene and health as a means of preventing future problems with gum disease and tooth loss. So far this year the PATCH program has screened 249 School Readiness children and plans to continue screenings in the summer for those children who are still in care.

Lastly, UM provides technical assistance to family child care homes enrolled in the five-star-rating program, Quality Counts.

To learn more about the University of Miami, visit www.miami.edu.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness

REMINDER to All Providers Receiving School Readiness Funding

The new provider agreement for 2009-2010 will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. **All providers who serve School Readiness children are required to complete and submit the agreement to the Coalition no later than July 1, 2009.**

Failure to submit an agreement by the July 1st deadline will affect your ability to provide, and receive payment for, School Readiness-funded services.

Please check our website, www.elcmdm.org, often for updates and other information related to the provider agreement. Thank you.

Daily Attendance Codes and Approved Standard Reimbursable

Holidays Listing

Daily Attendance Codes

Attendance must be recorded in blue or black ink on a daily basis using the codes listed below:

X	=	Reimbursable day a child is present
E	=	Reimbursable excused absence (Days 1 through 3)
A	=	Reimbursable absence beyond three days (Days 4 through 10) to be approved by the central agency with appropriate documentation
N	=	Enrolled, not reimbursable and provider voluntary closure
H	=	Reimbursable holiday (Miami-Dade County recognizes 12 holidays per year which are identified below on the Standard Holidays Listing)
T	=	Day child is dis-enrolled (taken out of care)
D	=	Disaster or hurricane (Days must be approved by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/ Monroe)

APPROVED STANDARD REIMBURSABLE HOLIDAYS LISTING

The following is the list of 12 standard holidays approved by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe in concurrence with Miami-Dade County, Department of Human Services, Child Development Services Bureau for the

Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2009	2009-
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2009	2010
Columbus Day	Monday, October 19, 2009**	contract
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 11, 2009	year.
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26, 2009	
Day After Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 27, 2009	
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2009	
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2010	
Martin L. King's Birthday	Monday, January 18, 2010	
President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2010	
Good Friday	Friday, April 02, 2010	
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2010	

** Teacher's Planning Day

Reimbursement will be paid for each day a child is authorized for care. Reimbursement may be paid automatically for a total of three (3) absences per child per calendar month. (Attendance Code "E" must be used for such days).

Absences beyond three (3) days will be honored only in the event of extraordinary circumstances (i.e., illness, medical emergency, death in family, etc. Attendance Code "A" must be used for such days). All absences beyond three (3) days must be recorded on the "Approval of Absenteeism" form and submitted monthly with the corresponding Provider Attendance Roster, Parental Signature Sheets, and the appropriate back-up documentation (i.e., doctor's note, emergency room slip, obituary, court documents). A copy of the submitted Approval of Absenteeism form must be maintained on file by the provider for auditing purposes.

\$2 From the Purchase of Every "When Elmo Grows Up" Event Ticket Goes Right Back to the Coalition!



When Elmo and his Sesame Street Live friends think about growing up, it's a musical show-and-tell! Elmo thinks about becoming a "weather monster," but has a hard time predicting his own forecast; he wants to be anything and everything all at once!

"When Elmo Grows Up" includes lessons on perseverance, teamwork and the power of imagination. Children learn that if they believe in themselves and are willing to try, the

possibilities are endless.

Purchase tickets online at:

<https://www.heatlife.com/WebSell/Default1.aspx?promcode=elmomdm116>.

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Saturday, June 13: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14: 1:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Seats are only \$10.75 with a \$4.00 service charge per order. Remember that \$2 from the purchase of every ticket benefits the Coalition! For questions regarding ticket sales, please contact Basit Hasan, American Airlines Arena Group Sales Manager, at (786) 777-4386 or via e-mail at bhasan@heat.com.

Tips to Help Complete Your ASQs

Providers, we need your help! Please return your pending Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQs) as soon as possible. If you need additional or updated age protocols please call (305) 270-2905 (south of Flagler Street) or (305) 953-6007 (north of Flagler Street).

Child Development Services (CDS) is responsible for implementation of the annual screening mandate. Please support them in this important undertaking.

Tips on completing your ASQ screenings:

- Please complete each ASQ within two weeks from the day received.
- Please have parents sign the yellow consent form.
- Complete the white and pink answer sheet entirely.
- Return the package to us in a self-addressed envelope.

Children's Day at the Park!

Location

Amelia Earhart Park
401 East 65th Street
Hialeah, Florida 33013

Date & Time

Friday, May 29, 2009; 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Transportation

You are responsible for your own transportation

Cost

\$2 per student and \$2 per adult



Miscellaneous

- Snack lunches should be brought and labeled on the outside with your child's name and his or her teacher's name
- Volunteers will be on-hand to assist with parking
- CDS must be apprised of all adult chaperones

Deadline

The registration form is due by Monday, May 4, 2009; it has already been sent under separate cover.

For questions regarding the field trip, please contact:

Sara Morales

Tel: (305) 514-6201 or 514-6000

Fax: (305) 514-6226

Please make checks payable to *Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners*. They should be mailed to:

Child Development Services Bureau
2525 N.W. 62nd Street, 4th Floor
Miami, Florida 33147

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Updates

VPK Standards Training for May 2009

What's New in VPK*

Reference #170

Thursday, May 21, 2009; 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

MDC Homestead Campus Room G103

500 College Terrace

This class is taught in English and begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. Arrivals after 5:15 p.m. will not be allowed into the training. To register, visit <http://www.myflorida.com/childcare/> and select 'Training Requirements.'

*What's New in VPK is for VPK teachers and directors who have a 2005 VPK Standards book and a 2005 VPK Education Standards Certificate of Completion.

VPK Registration Information for the 2009-2010 School Year

Children must be 4-years-old prior to or by September 1, 2009, to enroll in the VPK 2009-2010 School Year program.

Registration Sites

Miami Gardens Neighborhood Service Center
16405 NW 25th Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Frankie Shannon Rolle Neighborhood Service Center
3750 South Dixie Highway
Miami, FL 33133

Naranja Neighborhood Service Center
13955 SW 264th Street
Miami, FL 33032

Dates and Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday (Starting May 18, 2009 throughout the school year)
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturdays: May 16; June 13, 20; August 1, 8, and 15, 2009
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

*Please be mindful that the VPK registration process is continued throughout the year during regular hours.

Note--Services are rendered on a first-come, first-served basis. Numbers will be distributed to the maximum number of parents that can be seen in the scheduled time allotted. Once these numbers are used up, the line will close. For more information, please call (305) 373-3521.

Monroe County News Briefs

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Updates

Registration for 2009-2010 VPK School-Year Program

Ongoing registration is currently being conducted at all Wesley House locations as follows:

Key West: 1304 Truman Avenue; Monday - Friday; 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marathon: 2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 202; Tuesday and Thursday; 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tavernier: 175 Wrenn Street; Monday - Friday; 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Any parents interested in signing up their child for VPK are encouraged to register early. Enrollment is based on class-size limits and space availability.