



**Early
Learning
Coalition**
of Miami-Dade/Monroe



ELC News Alert

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

On November 19th, our community will come together to celebrate National Adoption Day. The celebration will take place at the Miami Children's Museum. On behalf of our entire community, we recognize Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe and all community partners that contribute to this special day - a day when more than fifty adoptions will be finalized.

National Adoption Day is an occasion of celebration throughout our entire nation that brings together adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and volunteers to honor adoptive families.

Having been honored with the Angels in Adoption Award on two separate occasions, Our Kids is renowned for its advocacy on behalf of South Florida's vulnerable children. Six months ago Our Kids became Florida's leading agency with the highest number of adoptions in the state. To learn more about the agency and the important work it accomplishes for the children of our community, please visit their website at www.ourkids.us, and for additional information about National Adoption Day 2010, please visit <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/>. If you are interested in adopting, please visit <http://www.adoptflorida.org/>.

Sincerely,

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

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, November 30; 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance
Wednesday, December 1; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Provider Services
Friday, December 3; 1:00 p.m.
Monroe County School District
241 Trumbo Road, Board Room
Key West

Board of Directors
Monday, December 6; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at www.elcmdm.org.

Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Agency for Workforce Innovation](#)

Get Connected with ELC!



Important Announcements

ELC Board Member Alan Eckstein Helps Kick Off the RIF Book Distributions with a Little Help from Dr. Seuss and the Cat in the Hat

GRANT IN THE HAT



Key West attorney and Early Learning Coalition Board Member Alan Eckstein takes on the role of 'The Cat in the Hat' Tuesday morning by reading to children at the Inez Martin Child Development Center in Key West. The coalition recently received a Reading Is Fundamental grant that will provide books for 1,252 Monroe County children.

A front-page photo of Board Member Alan Eckstein reading to children at the Inez Martin Child Development Center in Key West was featured in the November 10, 2010 issue of *The Citizen*. Dressed in a red and white striped hat like that of Dr. Seuss's quirky Cat in the Hat storybook character, Mr. Eckstein's reading kicked off the Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) book distributions in Monroe County.

The ELC was awarded a grant from RIF, the largest literacy organization in the nation. Early care and education centers throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties were selected by the Coalition to receive thousands of books free of charge so that the children of our community can build their own personal libraries.

Contact Information for Ms. Shaleen Fagundo, Your New For-Profit Provider Representative on the Board of Directors

Ms. Shaleen Fagundo
Interamerican Learning Center
1521 NW 28th Street
Miami, FL 33142

Business: 305-663-1000

Email: shaleen@interamericanpreschool.com

New Online Process Will Assist Employers in Applying for Federal Tax Credit

A new electronic application process for Florida employers wanting to apply for a federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is now available, says the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) in a recent press release. The secure online system will help employers save time and money as mailing hard-copy applications to AWI will no longer be necessary. Employers may monitor the status of their application on the Agency's website, www.floridajobs.com, and will be notified via email if it has been approved.

For more information and to read AWI's press release in its entirety, please visit http://www.floridajobs.org/publications/news_rel/wotc_automated.html.

*Source: "AWI Announces Automated Tax Credit Application Process: *New e-system saves employers time, money*" press release, November 4, 2010.

Class I Violations Result in Loss of Gold Seal Designation

Please be advised that should you have a class I violation and your center is accredited, your Gold Seal status will be revoked per Florida Statutes Section 402.281. This is Florida law. You will also lose the additional 20% reimbursement rate the Seal provides. Please take a moment to review the state statutes regarding the Gold Seal Quality Care designation and applicable licensing standards below:

As per Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, in order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider and retain the 20% premium on the reimbursement rates paid by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, a child care facility, large family child care home, or family day care home must meet the following criteria:

(a) The child care provider must not have had any class I violations, as defined by rule, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

(b) The child care provider must not have had three or more class II violations, as defined by rule, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

(c) The child care provider must not have been cited for the same class III violation, as defined by rule, three or more times within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of the same class III violation three or more times during a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III violations for a period of 1 year.

Don't Miss out on Your Chance to Participate in the CCEP Program for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you are already participating in the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program* and wish to continue doing so for the 2010-2011 school year, you must re-submit an agreement via mail or drop it off at the Early Learning Coalition's Coral Gables office (2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134). Please note however, you do not need to submit a pre-screening form for employees. Please visit our CCEP webpage at http://www.elcmdm.org/our_services/ccep.html for further information and to download the necessary paperwork.

*The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program for early care and education providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties will allow

centers to provide care for an employee's child at the center and be partially reimbursed for that care by the Early Learning Coalition.

Children's Movement of Florida



Led by a 27-member committee of influential Floridians, the Children's Movement of Florida is a statewide, citizen-led, non-partisan campaign with the objective of educating political, business and civic leaders - and all parents in Florida - about the urgent need to improve the way we care for our children, making the well-being and education of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, Florida's highest priority. The need is clear: By almost every objective standard, Florida ranks poorly in measure after measure of how we invest in children.

For information about the origins, objectives and leaders of the Children's Movement of Florida, and about the current state of Florida's children, please visit www.childrensmovementflorida.org.

The Children's Movement also has a Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/childrensmovementfl. Please visit the page and click on the "like" button, and encourage family and friends to do so as well. Thank you.



Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work she accomplishes in bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Martha Borbolla, VPK Certification Specialist.

Martha Borbolla began her tenure at the Coalition as a temporary employee in VPK Client Services in April of 2006. A few months later she assumed a permanent position as a VPK Certification Specialist. Martha is responsible for certifying almost 300 centers in Central Miami-Dade County. Her work entails ensuring that all paperwork for her assigned providers is properly prepared for certification. She is also responsible for reviewing all changes received throughout the contract period.

Martha's previous professional experience included tenures in the banking field that added up to over 20 years. After that time she took a sabbatical to raise her son.

In her free time Martha enjoys cooking.



Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

Ensure you are Properly Licensed by DCF to be a School-Age Provider

If you serve school age-children and your program is not licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the children in your program must be at least five years of age as of September 1st of the beginning of the school year. This means that you may not legally serve children younger than five years of age in your program. You are also not eligible to receive school readiness funding for any children who do not meet this age requirement.

If you have questions regarding your status as a school-age provider or any licensing concerns, please contact DCF Child Care Licensing at 305-377-5494.

Child Screening and Assessment

The Early Learning Coalition in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Child Development Services is continuing to provide an annual developmental screening for every School Readiness child with signed parental consent. The results of the screenings are helpful in determining if a child is developing typically, may be at risk for delays, and/or should be referred for further evaluation.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is being mailed monthly as School Readiness children are screened in their birth month rather than all at the same time. This should ease the burden on teachers having to complete many screenings in a short period of time. Additionally, there will be no need to determine which ASQ a child will need; it will be the 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, or 60-month questionnaire. At the beginning of each month centers will receive the ASQs in the mail. They should be completed immediately and returned by the 20th of the month. A self-addressed envelope in which to return the completed questionnaires will also be provided.

For more information or assistance in completing the ASQs, please call Miami-Dade County Child Development Services at 305-953-6007 in the North or 305-270-2905 in the South.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

2008 VPK Standards Training

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at St. John the Apostle, 479 E 4th Street, School Cafeteria, in Hialeah from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Tuesday December 7, 2010; Reference #972

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Building G, Room 206, in Homestead from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Thursday, November 18, 2010; Reference #969
- Thursday, December 9, 2010; Reference #974

Please note that there is a **\$10.00 class-fee which must be paid by credit card at the time of registration**. As a result of the class-fee, walk-ins will no longer be accepted. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class; anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

Joint ELC Provider Services Committee and Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, December 3, 2010; 1:00 p.m.

Monroe County School District Board Room, 241 Trumbo Road, Key West

Please join ELC Provider Services Committee board members, Monroe Advisory Committee board members, President and CEO Evelio Torres, ELC staff and our community partners as we discuss important information of interest and concern to our early education and care provider community. Provider participation is strongly encouraged in person, via conference call or via videoconferencing.

*Note: Participation via school district videoconferencing is available at Marathon High School, Room 2106, and at Coral Shores High School, Library Media Center Conference Room in Tavernier.

To participate via conference call, the call-in number is 1-888-813-8477, pass code 143130.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) 2nd Book Distribution - Week of December 13th

There has been an excellent response from Monroe providers, who have signed up to participate in the second year of RIF book distributions. Approximately 1,252 children (including subsidized and non-subsidized preschool children) at 19 centers and 27 family child care homes will receive books to take home in the second of the three scheduled book distributions. Providers are reminded to start planning their literacy activities and contact the Monroe ELC office if they need assistance and/or resources. Also, please keep this office informed of any special events planned during the distribution week.



2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 500; Coral Gables, FL 33134

