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# ELC News Alert

Issue 7  
July/August 2011

## President's Message



Dear Friends:

At the Early Learning Coalition, children are our greatest priority. We share with you the enormous responsibility of the safety and well-being of the children in our counties. Therefore, I urge you to learn about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles in order to prevent tragic accidents.

The Coalition's Look Before You Lock Campaign strives to educate parents and childcare providers by supplying them with valuable information to keep children safe. On a sunny day with temperatures in the low 80s, it only takes 20 minutes for a car to reach deadly temperatures. Hyperthermia, or higher than normal body temperatures, can cause seizures, organ damage, brain damage, stroke or even death, especially in children.

I urge you to bring these points to light with parents and caregivers. Remind them of the dangers of leaving children alone inside vehicles and of the unintentional consequences it may bring. Help them come up with a routine that includes placing reminders to check the car to make sure they have dropped their children off at school. Ask them to place a purse or briefcase in the backseat to make sure they have to look in the back of the car before leaving. Ensuring their child's safety could be as easy as placing a teddy bear, a toy or the diaper bag on the passenger seat as a reminder that their little one is in the car. Set a plan with parents to call if a child has not arrived as scheduled.

I sincerely thank you for serving as ambassadors for our Look Before You Lock campaign. If you or any of your parents would like more information about the campaign, I highly encourage you to stop by our office to pick up brochures, window decals and other materials to help spread awareness about this child safety initiative. Please feel free to call or email our office for more information; our staff would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can also find information on our Website at <http://www.elcmdm.org/LBYL.html>.

Tuesday, August 16  
8:00 a.m.  
Board Room  
Program &  
Strategy  
Tuesday, August  
30  
3:30 p.m.  
Board Room  
Finance  
Wednesday, August 31  
8:00 a.m.  
Board Room

For a complete  
list of upcoming  
Coalition  
meetings and  
events,  
please visit our  
website at  
[www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org)

## Contact us

**Miami-Dade**  
2555 Ponce de Leon  
Blvd., 5th Floor  
Coral Gables,  
FL 33134  
305.646.7220  
305.447.1608 (fax)  
**Monroe**  
1100 Simonton  
Street, Suite 1-204  
Key West,  
FL 33040  
305.296.5557  
305.296.5588 (fax)

[www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org)

Join Our Mailing List!

As always I'm at your service.

Sincerely,

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

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## Important Announcements

### David Lawrence Addresses State Board of Education in Tampa



As David Lawrence, president of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, said in his Aug. 2 speech to Florida's Board of Education, the path to genuine education "reform" in Florida and America most wisely begins with the early learning years. The window of learning is open most widely in the years from birth to age 5. Florida's early education system cannot be built in a day or a decade, but we can build better quality care by taking significant steps quickly, prudently and inexpensively.

There are three steps that could be implemented early, realistically and inexpensively to ensure quality care in Florida:

- Require an evidence-based curriculum in every VPK classroom.
- Require pre- and post-assessments for every child in a VPK program.
- Require the state, using those assessments of progress, to tell the people of Florida which programs and which providers are most effective and what the common factors were in their success.

We do some things well in Florida's VPK program. Our state arrived at comprehensive early learning standards, rightly connecting what children will learn throughout their years of schooling. Also, there can be no more than 20 children in a classroom with at least two adults. There are many outstanding programs in Florida, though room for improvement remains. We want to help ensure that Florida's VPK is of the highest quality in order to give our state's children an even better chance to succeed in school and in life. The people of Florida deserve and need to know that their money is being spent on high-quality programs that deliver real outcomes for children.

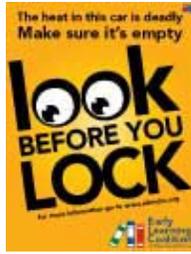
To read Mr. Lawrence's full speech to the Board, visit  
<http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/davelawrencespeech.pdf>.

### Florida's 2011 Hurricane Season Continues through November 30th

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reported that this particular Atlantic hurricane season will be above normal. Accordingly, please take some time to review your emergency plans for both home and work. To learn how you can increase your family's preparedness for what is forecast to be a busy hurricane season, please visit

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/eoc/PressReleases>.

## Look Before You Lock Campaign in Full Swing



Look Before You Lock, our latest child safety initiative, is starting to make an impact in the community. The Coalition is providing hangtags, window clings and window shades to parents in order to help prevent any unfortunate casualties. Our campaign also includes a wrap on a Miami-Dade Metrorail car, all to remind you to check the car for your little ones before you walk away. Please stop by our office to collect available materials.

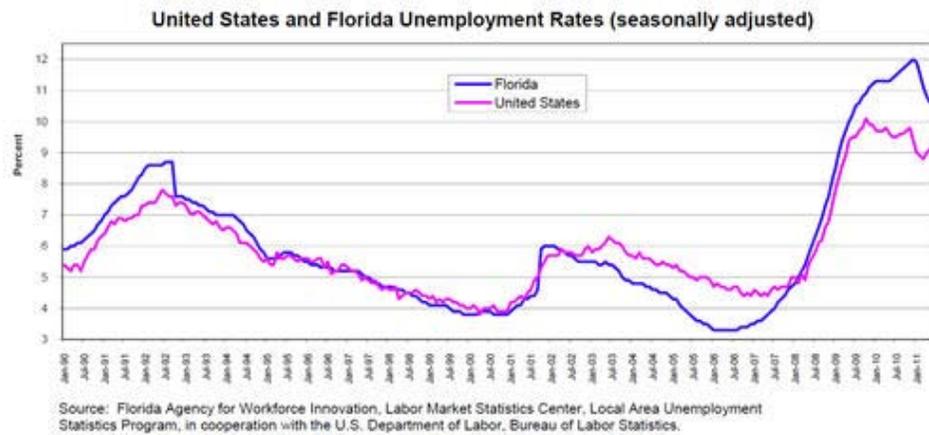
You can view our latest commercial at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/elcmdm#p/u/6/6IN0EEhiyNw>.

## Florida Releases Its Employment Figures for June

For June 2011, Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) reported that the State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 10.6 percent, a rate unchanged since May 2011. Florida has gained 85,500 jobs from January to June 2011.

Florida was recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce last month as the top state for workforce training programs in its "Enterprising States" report.



To read more about the current state of Florida's labor force, please visit [http://www.floridajobs.org/publications/news\\_rel/LMS%20Release%2007-22-11.pdf](http://www.floridajobs.org/publications/news_rel/LMS%20Release%2007-22-11.pdf).

\*Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) press release, "Florida's July Employment Figures Released - July 22, 2011; 10:00 AM."

Save the Date: Poverty Symposium



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SYMPOSIUM ON POVERTY**  
"Engaging Key Partners in Addressing Poverty"  
Thursday, October 6, 2011  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Miami-Dade College, Wolfson Campus Auditorium  
300 Northeast 2nd Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33132  
Presented by  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FACA Action  
Community Action Agency & The Florida Association for Community Action  
For additional information call (786) 469-4600

The ELC will sponsor 10 providers to attend the Symposium on Poverty. To be considered, please email your name, center name, and contact information to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) no later than the close of business on Wednesday, September 28th. Please make sure that "Symposium on Poverty" is typed in the email's subject line. The first 10 applicants will be sponsored by the ELC and will be notified shortly thereafter.

### New Teacher Resource Center Provides Educators with Supplies

Aug. 22 is quickly approaching, and with it comes the stresses of preparing for the first day of school. Thanks to the generosity of The Children's Trust and Ready Schools Miami, a Teacher Resource Center has opened to assist educators. Here they can use professional-grade laminating machines and Ellison dye-cutting equipment to prepare for the new school year. The center also offers a variety of job-related support services including job listings, DCF-approved Level II LiveScan fingerprinting and in-service workshops.

The Teacher Resource Center is open Monday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 786-999-8596.

*Information provided by The Alliance for Early Care & Education.*

### CPR Certificate Renewal Classes

Sponsored by the Allegany Franciscan Ministries, free CPR classes will be offered on Aug. 20 and Aug. 27. Module 1 (Aug. 20) is a 4-hour class that reviews DCF Health & Safety standards. Module 2 (Aug. 27) is a 4-hour class on pediatric CPR/1st Aid/AED. Classes earn DCF in-service credit and a CPR/1st Aid/AED certificate valid for 2 years.

To register for classes, visit

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e4jpinx7gr2xuycu/a00ggr5egjbc/greeting>.

*Information provided by The Alliance for Early Care & Education.*

## Light Up A Landmark: A Lights on Afterschool Contest

JCPenney is giving communities the chance to shine a light on the importance of afterschool programs. Lights on Afterschool, the nation's celebration of afterschool programs, has already lit up the Empire State Building and Mount Rushmore. Now they are asking you to nominate a landmark in your community. Eleven winners will be chosen nationwide to receive up to \$5,000.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 23. The winner will be chosen by Oct. 1.

For more information on the contest and for the entry form, go to <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loalandmark.cfm>.

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## Children's Movement of Florida



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. To learn more about the movement, please visit [www.childrensmovementflorida.org](http://www.childrensmovementflorida.org).

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## Team Member Spotlight

Trish Alonso joined the Early Learning Coalition in February of 2007, as the Director of Human Resources, Professional Development & Administrative Services. Trish is very involved in almost every aspect of what goes on in the agency. One of her proudest moments is when she applied on behalf of the Early Learning Coalition for the 2009-2010 GMSHRM Diversity and Inclusion Award and won.



Prior to joining the Coalition, Trish held positions in various non-profit organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and Kids Hope United. She has also worked in education as an adjunct professor for two local universities. "Because of the focus the ELC has on education and the incredible impact it has on the community this organization is very important," she said. "Education is extremely important to me; it helps develop new interests and leads to more job opportunities."

Trish holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources Certification, a Master of Arts Degree in Management, a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources, and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She loves seeing a new hire's face when she tells them that they have been selected for the job. "It's definitely my favorite part," she said. She loves spending quality time with her family, singing to her children at bedtime, and planning vacation time together.

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## Miami-Dade County News Briefs

*School Readiness (SR)*

[ASQ-3 Trainings and Kit Distribution](#)

PROVIDERS, please be sure you have signed up for an Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 training and for distribution of new ASQ-3 kits. Starting in October, ASQ-3 questionnaires will not be mailed to you and you will need your kits to complete your ASQ-3 required screenings. The following trainings are scheduled for August:

**Kendall Lakes Branch Library**  
15205 SW 88 St.  
Miami, FL 33196

- August 4 1:30-4:30 English
- August 5 10:00-12:30 Spanish
- August 5 2:00-4:30 Spanish

**West Dade Regional Library**  
9445 Coral Way  
Miami, FL 33165

- August 11 9:30-12:00 English
- August 11 1:30-4:30 Spanish
- August 12 9:30-12:00 Spanish
- August 12 1:30-4:30 English

**South Dade Government Center**  
10710 SW 211 St (second floor)  
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

- August 15 9:30-12:00 English
- August 15 2:00-4:30 Spanish
- August 16 9:30-12:00 Spanish
- August 16 2:00-4:30 English

A training for all Miami Beach providers will be scheduled separately for late August and will be conducted on the Beach.

Please fax registration information to 305-447-1608. Registration should include:

- Center/FCCH provider name
- Center address and phone number
- Name of person attending (Owner/director)
- Date and time of training session (Please note English or Spanish)

If you have questions, you may email them to Bethany Sands at [bsands@elcmdm.org](mailto:bsands@elcmdm.org).

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## Monroe County News Briefs

### FCCPC Training Programs Sponsored by Wesley House Family Services

Two 10-month/120 hour Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) training programs commence in August 2011. Eleven (11) teachers are enrolled in the Key West class with instructor Kathy Inners of Sunbeam Christian School. Five (5) teachers are enrolled in the Upper Keys class with instructor Nilda Bernaldez of Burton Memorial CDC. Teacher scholarships were provided by the Klaus Murphy Foundation, Wesley House provider services donated funds, and TEACH. Wesley

House is licensed by the Commission for Independent Education to sponsor the FCCPC training programs.

### Klaus Murphy Foundation Teacher Scholarship Recipients

Sponsored by the ELC through a Klaus Murphy Foundation grant, eight (8) Key West child care teachers received a \$750 scholarship to enroll in the 10-month FCCPC training program provided by Wesley House.



Pictured Back Row (L to R): Jade Scapin (Inez Martin CDC); Jerlyn Matthews (Sunbeam Christian School); Lori Wilder (Sunbeam Christian School); Kunia Rodrigues (The Learning Center). Front Row (L to R): Yovanna Ramos Castro (Inez Martin CDC); Nicole Rhodes (Sunbeam Christian School); Julia Ann Parker (Sunbeam Christian School); Andrica Rhodes (Inez Martin CDC).

Completion of the program earns the Florida Department of Children and Families' professional childcare credential.

Visit <http://keysnews.com/node/33690> to view the complete story as featured in the Key West Citizen.

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## Quality Counts

### Congratulations to Newly Accredited Care Homes

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe was pleased to recognize four Family Child Care Providers who achieved first time accreditation in 2011 through The National Association of Family Child Care Homes.



Evelio Torres, President and CEO of the ELC, and Octavio Verdeja Jr., Board Chair, congratulated Jenine Swain, owner of Swain Family Child Care Home; Collette Parvez, owner of Parvez Large Family Child Care home; Maria Avila, owner of Avila Large Family Child Care Home; and Maria C

Fernandez, owner of Fernandez Large Family Day Care home, for their engagement and dedication to providing quality care.

Significant research has proved that warm, loving and home-like settings are natural environments for children, especially vulnerable children. The Coalition is committed in our ongoing effort to support providers that voluntarily engage in the accreditation process to enhance their quality of care.

The Early Learning Coalition congratulates all accredited providers for their outstanding achievement.



Early Learning Coalition  
of Miami-Dade/Monroe

[www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org)



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