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Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Board

Monday, August 6
8:00 a.m.

**Program & Strategy
and Provider Services**

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ELC News Alert

Issue 8
August 2012

President's Message



Dear Friends,

The first day of school is just around the corner. As we tie-up loose ends with 2012 VPK enrollments there are still thousands of parents throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties in a frantic rush to buy much-needed school supplies for their children.

Thankfully, there are a number of resources in our community to help children begin the new school year ready to learn. At the Early Learning Coalition, we often piece together funding from different sources and join community partners to assist families in preparing children for school.

Just last month we provided more than 1,000 4-year old children who attend programs in low poverty zip codes with backpacks filled with educational materials. In the same month, more than 700 childcare providers received books to be used during classroom exercises.

We are so very fortunate to have strong community partnerships and a network of child care providers and family child care homes that are fully committed to getting children off to a positive start in school.

Following is a list of upcoming events sponsored by local organizations and elected officials scheduled before school begins August 20, including ways to help those in need:

Chapman Partnership, the private sector partner of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust has begun a school supplies donation drive to help its youngest residents, homeless children prepare for the upcoming school year. To donate, call 305-329-3000 or visit www.chapmanpartnership.org.

Back to School Blessings
Thursday, Aug. 16
7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 28
2:00 p.m.

Finance

Wednesday, August 29
8:30 a.m.

Audit

Wednesday, August 29
9:30 a.m.

Board

Tuesday, September 4
8:00 a.m.

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

Join Our Mailing List!

Alpha & Omega Church, 7800 S.W. 56th St., Miami 33155

Sponsored by Latin Mission Ministries, there will be bookbags will be distributed to help families in need. For more information, call Rev. Esther Jivajec at 305-273-1263, ext. 214.

Back to School in Hialeah

Saturday, Aug. 18
10 a.m.

Hialeah Church of the Nazarene, 310 E. 5th St., Hialeah

A bookbag giveaway for families in need. For more information, call 305-888-8651 or Obed Santiesteban at 786-402-8771.

District 104's 2nd Annual Back-to-School Fair

Saturday, Aug. 18
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center Ballroom, 3000 N.E. 151st St., North Miami

Hosted by Florida State Rep. John Patrick Julien (D-104) and the Positive Impact Foundation, there will be a variety of fun-filled activities for the entire family. For more information, call 305-650-0022.

Back to School Night

Saturday, Aug. 18
6 p.m.

Family Life Center, 7205 S.W. 125th Ave., Miami 33183

The Family Life Center will host a family fun night with games and activities for children, and information and resources for parents. For more information, call Esperanza Martinez at 305-273-0028, ext. 214.

Overtown NET Back to School Giveaway

Sunday, Aug. 19
11 a.m.

Gibson Park, 401 N.W. 12th St., Overtown

Sponsored by the Overtown Neighborhood Enhancement Team, the City of Miami, and other community organizations. For more information, call Loren Daniel at 786-385-0101.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Always at your service,

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

Important Announcements

Faith-Based Provider Position Available on ELC's Board of Directors

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami- Dade/Monroe is seeking a candidate to fill a position as a representative of faith-based child care providers on its Board of Directors.

The candidate must reside in Florida and be associated with a faith-based child care center or family child care home conducting business in Miami-Dade or Monroe County. An accredited provider is preferred.

If interested, please contact Christina Vila at 305-646-7220 ext. 266, for an application; or visit www.elcmdm.org, and click on the Board of Director's

Application link on the homepage.

Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2012.

ELC's Upcoming Community Forums

The Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and Florida's Office of Early Learning will hold five Community Forums in both counties during the months of August and September.

The purpose of these Forums is to discuss the many upcoming changes to Florida's early care and education system and how those changes impact providers, parents, and community partners.

The topics to be discussed during these Forums will include:

- Florida's new web-based Early Learning Information System (ELIS). This new system is significantly different than the current and antiquated data system and will make use of the latest technology to improve services to children, families, providers and the community at-large
- A status report on our community's Quality Rating Improvement System "Quality Counts." We will address system enhancements, how soon additional providers will be able to join the program, and the progress that has been made to date
- The impact of the just-released state funding allocation formula on communities in Miami-Dade and Monroe.

For more information about these community forums, contact the Early Learning Coalition at 305-646-7220 or email info@elcmdm.org.

The community forums will be held as follows:

Venue: North Dade Regional Library
Date: Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2012
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: 2455 N.W. 183rd St., Miami Gardens 33056

Venue: South Dade Regional Library
Date: Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: 10750 S.W. 211 St., Cutler Bay 33189

Venue: West Dade Regional Library
Date: Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: 9445 Coral Way, Miami 33165

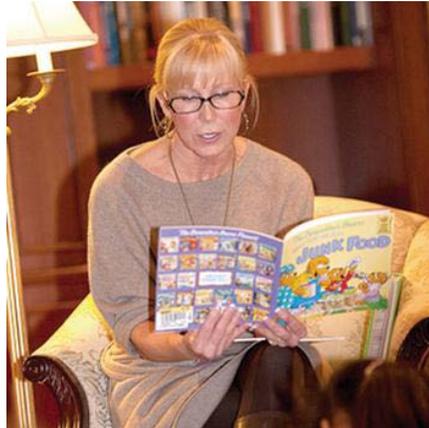
Venue: Monroe School District Board Room
Date: Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012
Time: 1-3 p.m.
Location: 241 Trumbo Road, Key West 33040
*Joint meeting with the Monroe Advisory Committee Meeting

Venue: St. Justin Martyr Preschool Church Hall
Date: Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012
Time: 6-7:30 p.m.
Location: 105500 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo 33037

About Florida's Child Care Funding Allocation Formula

Under this formula, both Miami-Dade and Monroe counties are projected to lose \$22,334,067 in funding over the next six years which will be reallocated to other Florida counties. This number represents approximately 23 percent of the counties' total School Readiness budget and more than 6,000 children. The first year's reduction of \$3,771,397 became effective with the state fiscal year that began July 1, 2012.

First Lady Ann Scott Announces the Child of the Month for August



Florida's First Lady Ann Scott reads one of her daughters' favorite books.

You can do something today to change the life of a child forever. First Lady Ann Scott presents the August Child of the Month on the **Explore Adoption** website.

During the month of August, the statewide adoption initiative Explore Adoption will feature Emmanuel, an amazing teenager who loves music, dancing, and basketball.

Every month a different amazing child or sibling group available for adoption is being featured in videos and photos on the Explore Adoption website: www.adoptflorida.org.

The featured children are the teenagers, sibling groups and children with medical needs who dream of being adopted but often linger the longest in foster care. Please encourage your family, friends and colleagues to visit www.adoptflorida.org and meet these beautiful children.

With your help, they can find their loving forever families. While a private adoption can be expensive, adopting one of Florida's children in foster care costs little or nothing. Benefits include a monthly adoption subsidy and federal adoption tax credit for the adopted family and free health benefits and college tuition for the adopted child.

Please meet the amazing children, including teenagers, sibling groups, and children with medical needs waiting for a permanent loving family to call their own at www.adoptflorida.org. Florida is now a national model for its success in increasing adoptions of children from foster care because Florida's families have stepped forward to adopt these beautiful children.

For more information on how to adopt Florida's amazing children in foster care, please call 1-800-96-ADOPT (1-800-962-3678), visit www.adoptflorida.org, or follow @ExploreAdoption on Twitter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection at (850) 717-9261.

Parenting Tools: Teen Drinking & Learning Webinar

Informed Families/The Florida Family Partnership will host the **Teen Drinking & Learning: What Every Parent Needs to Know** webinar, from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24. Presented by Dr. Sandra A. Brown, vice chancellor for research

at the University of California - San Diego, the webinar will explore the connection between teen drinking and learning.

Dr. Brown is one of the nation's leading researchers on the impact of alcohol on the developing brain and author of the Brain Development section of Informed Families' Parent Pilot Kit.

There are two ways to participate in the webinar: 1) Attend in person. It will be held at Informed Families office located at 2490 Coral Way in Miami; or 2) Attend online and RSVP by visiting www.InformedFamilies.org/events.

For more information about this webinar, call 1-888-474-0008.

ELC's Summer Learning Day Photo Contest Winner

A few months ago, Florida Governor Rick Scott dedicated June 21 as **Summer Learning Day** to reflect on the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities for young children and to support local summer programs that benefit children, families and communities. We appreciate the Governor's support.

To honor the governor's declaration, the Early Learning Coalition hosted a Facebook photo contest where providers were asked to submit photos of students at their center engaging in activities to celebrate Summer Learning Day.



The children of Star Babies Learning Center, winners of ELC's Summer Learning Day Photo Contest.

In response to the contest, ELC received several submissions and the Star Babies Learning Center of Miami Springs was declared the winner after receiving the most votes.

Congratulations to Star Babies Learning Center and to all participating providers!

Be sure to check ELC's [Facebook page](#) regularly for news, updates and contests.

VPK Assessment Information for the 2012-2013 Program Year

As the 2012-2013 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program year nears, the Department of Education (DOE) would like to remind all VPK providers that new legislation requires the use of the Florida VPK Assessment.

This September, training sessions will be held at locations throughout Miami-Dade County. **The September training schedule will be released the week of Monday, Aug. 27.**

Please stay tuned for more news and updates regarding these training dates/locations from the ELC.

National Black Child Development Institute's 42nd Annual Conference - Oct. 6-9



**NATIONAL
BLACK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE, INC.**

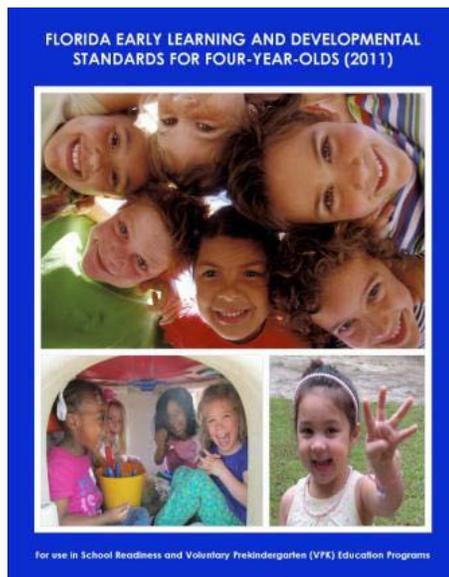
The National Black Child Development Institute will host its 42nd Annual Conference on Oct. 6-9, 2012 at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Spa in Fort Lauderdale. The conference is a national meeting of parents and

professionals from a variety of disciplines who are working to improve the lives of children, with a focus on Black children and other children of color.

The NBCDI conference attracts thousands of leaders, educators, administrators and professionals from around the country in early care and education; elementary and secondary education; health services; child welfare; youth development; research and evaluation; and local, state and federal policy, who convene to share best practices; learn from and inspire one another; gain new knowledge; and acquire additional skills needed to ensure a bright, equitable future for our children, youth, families and communities.

For more information or to register, visit www.nbcdi.org or call 1-800-556-2234.

Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011) Manual Available Online



The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011) Manual is now available to purchase online. These standards create a common framework and language for early childhood programs serving Florida's 4-year-olds; identify the skills and knowledge children should have before they enter kindergarten; and provide supportive instructional strategies for teachers.

To purchase your copy, please visit www.flstandardsfouryearolds.com. Acceptable forms of payment include credit cards, checks, money orders and purchase orders.

For assistance with the website or with placing an order, please contact PBD

Worldwide at 1-855-352-7826 or by email at

orders@flstandardsfouryearolds.com.

Please check the [ELC Calendar](#) for upcoming training dates.

Updates on Good Cause Exemptions

The State Board of Education (Board) met on July 17, 2012, and rendered decisions on VPK Providers on Probation who requested Good Cause Exemptions for 2012. The Department of Education (DOE) sent email messages and faxed letters to each VPK provider where the recommendation was to deny the application. This was in order to allow providers the opportunity to respond to the recommendation in writing per rule 6A-1.099824.

Additional information on the Good Cause Exemption process and a list of providers by Coalition may be found at http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2012_07_17/gce.pdf.

Providers who were denied a Good Cause Exemption are not eligible to deliver the VPK program. Any VPK Certificates of Eligibility held by these providers must be returned to the parents to allow parents time to select another VPK provider.

Child Development Associate (CDA) Renewal Amnesty

The Renewal Amnesty Program began on March 1, 2012. This will allow anyone who has earned or renewed a CDA in the last 10 years to apply for renewal, even if your CDA has expired. This means that if your CDA has a credential date of January 2002 or later, you are eligible for Renewal Amnesty.

Make sure to take advantage of using the online application to renew. It's faster, and you can easily check your status as you go through the process.

This program will only last until December 31, 2012, so don't delay. Renew your CDA today.

For further information about the Child Development Associate (CDA), please visit www.cdacouncil.org for the National Credentialing Program and related professional improvement opportunities.

Read to Learn Book Club Offers Free Books to 3-Year Olds

All 3-year-olds in Miami-Dade County are eligible to receive a free book each month through The Children's Trust Read to Learn Book Club. By registering for the program, children can receive books in the mail each month for a year of fun and learning.



"No child should want for a book in Miami-Dade County, and this book club is just one tool in the comprehensive Read to Learn strategic plan," Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez, president and CEO of The Children's Trust, said in a statement.

The Read to Learn Book Club is funded and administered by The Children's Trust, the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership and the Early Learning Coalition of

Miami-Dade/Monroe.

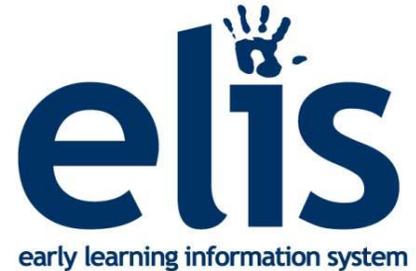
To sign a child up for the program, complete the [registration form online](#).

To read more about the program, please visit the [Miami Herald's website](#).

ELIS: Early Learning Information System

ELIS Updates for Child Care Providers

ELIS, the new statewide computer information system coming July 2013, will improve things providers care about, such as attendance. Providers will be able to submit their child attendance data online - at any time.



ELIS will validate that the entries are complete and correct. This will eliminate many categories of attendance errors, such as posting attendance before or after the child's eligibility date or on days when the provider calendar shows their child care center is closed.

Managing attendance data online will be easy using the ELIS Provider Portal. What is the ELIS Provider Portal? Since a portal is a doorway or entrance, the ELIS Provider Portal serves as the entrance that child care providers will go through to access ELIS online. Through this portal, providers will be able to see their own ELIS data and complete many tasks that, today, must be done over the phone, by mail, or in person.

If you are thinking of the words 24 / 7 and self-service and paperless you are on the right track.

No special software or network equipment will be required. If you are already using the Internet for anything, then you already have what you need to start using ELIS online.

Getting to the ELIS Provider Portal will be easy. Once you are there, simply register and set up your user ID and password. To learn more about ELIS and the Provider Portal, visit Florida's Office of Early Learning website.

**Source: Florida's Office of Early Learning:
http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/_SysDev_ELIS.html*

Children's Movement of Florida

Reading Pals - An Early Literacy Initiative



The Children's Movement and United Way, in conjunction with numerous local and statewide partners and Carol and Barney Barnett, are in the process of launching a three-year initiative focused on engaging, training and deploying volunteer "reading pals" in 10 Florida regions to increase the number of students who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Working with local school districts, Women's Leadership

Councils, Early Learning Coalitions, Children's Services Councils and others, this initiative will focus on engaging students from prekindergarten to third grade. The focus of this initiative will be working with students in lower-performing schools to encourage and enhance early literacy.

The Children's Movement and United Way of Miami-Dade are working to recruit 300 volunteers for Year One of ReadingPals - and they need your help.

To volunteer, please sign up at <http://childrensmovementflorida.org/action/literacy/>.

ELC Team Member Spotlight

Aileen Martinez originally joined the Early Learning Coalition in August 2006 and returned in 2009 after a brief period working with a software company. She currently holds the position of Finance Special Projects Manager. In this position, her duties include the administration of accounting and financial systems, budget monitoring, coordinating the monthly accounting cycle and close, and more.

Aileen has worked in the nonprofit sector for almost 15 years. Before joining the ELC team, she served as the Director of Accounting at the Miami Museum of Science, as well as the Fiscal Manager for the Child Care Division at Catholic Charities. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education, a Master of Business Administration and a Master's degree in Accounting.

The most rewarding part of Aileen's job is coming up with an idea or a system that helps someone work better. "We in finance are not only stewards, but we must also be facilitators," she said.

In her free time, Aileen has always made time for reading. She recently made the transition to a Kindle and now reads more than ever. She also enjoys watching her favorite series on TV, especially "Lost." She and her children had a "Lost" marathon a few months ago where they watched all six seasons of the show.

Monroe County News Briefs

Registration Continues for August FCCPC Training Program

There is still time to register for the 10-month Florida Child Care Professional Credential training program sponsored by Wesley House Family Services. The Lower Keys class begins on August 21 with instructor Michele Morgan. The Upper Keys class begins on August 22 with instructor Nilda Bernaldez. For information on available scholarships or to register for a class, please contact Laurie Dunn at 305-809-5000.

SAVE THE DATES:

ELC Community Forum and Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting (Lower Keys)

Wednesday, September 12, 1 p.m.

Monroe County School District Board Room, 241 Trumbo Rd., Key West

ELC Community Forum (Upper Keys)

Thursday, September 13, 6 p.m.

Quality Counts

Quality Counts Reaches Spartanburg County, South Carolina

The Early Learning Coalition and the Quality Counts Hub is pleased to name First Steps Spartanburg County among its many partners.

Spartanburg County rolled out its own version of Quality Counts on January 5, 2013 based on Miami-Dade's standards and benchmarks.

Spartanburg County Quality Counts is funded by First Steps, South Carolina's School Readiness initiative signed into law in 1999 to help improve school readiness for the state's youngest learners, and the Mary Black Foundation.

Spartanburg County's many diverse childcare providers have been very responsive to the initiative and the voluntary project already boasts a waiting list.



From left, Sharon Burton, Carolyn Gibson, Pam Hollingsworth (ELC Quality Counts Director), Barbara Manoski, and Julie Greer.

The Spartanburg Quality Counts implementation team visited the ELC in early July for a listening and learning tour. The visit included site visits to Quality Counts providers, a daylong meeting with Miami Quality Counts systems partners and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observer training.

The Spartanburg/Miami collaboration is one of our many state and national partnerships and reinforces the notion that while communities have many needs that are individual and unique, the importance of high quality early learning experience for children, especially our most vulnerable children, is universal.

The Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts Team is expertly led by Barbara Manoski, director of Quality Counts and a seasoned educator; Carolyn Gibson, technical assistance specialist; Julie Greer, assessor; and Sharon Bruton, technical assistant.

[From the Desk of Suzette Frazier, Regional Safety Program Manager
Department of Children and Families Child Care Licensing](#)



This section of the News Alert is designed to inform and remind providers of the licensing requirements of the Department of Children & Families. This licensing corner is a new and innovative way for providers to stay connected to childcare licensing and will serve as a guide to new regulations, information about recalls, licensing updates and much more.

The Department of Children and Families, Child Care Regulation Program Office, will be conducting three public hearings for proposed rule changes to Chapter 65C-22, F.A.C., Child Care Licensing Standards.

The hearing times and locations are listed below.

Hearing 1:

August 28, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Fifth Floor Board Room, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Hearing 2:

August 29, 2012, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Institute for Early Childhood Professionals
8413 Laurel Fair Circle, Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33610

Hearing 3:

August 31, 2012, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Boulevard, Building 4, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700

The Department of Children and Families is aware there is an interest in the development of these rules and encourages attendance at one of the sessions listed above. If you are unable to participate in this scheduled hearing, you may email your comments/suggestions for consideration by close-of-business, **Sept. 7, 2012** to Dinah_Gallon@dcf.state.fl.us.

Early education. Lifelong success.



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