



## Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Department of Economic Opportunity](#)



## Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

### Program & Strategy

Tuesday, July 30  
3:30 p.m.  
ELC Board Room

### Finance

Wednesday, July 31  
8:30 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

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## ELC News Alert

Issue 7  
July 2013

### President's Message



Dear Friends:

As part of our Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative aimed at combating childhood obesity, I am pleased to announce our newest partnership launching this summer. Together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Nemours Foundation, the Early Learning Coalition will be working with early care and education providers in South Florida to support families who want to learn more about the benefits of good nutrition and exercise and how they can get their young children to participate.

To find out more about how your center can participate, please write us at [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO

### Programs Information

#### Information about the VPK Assessment

The Florida Department of Education has mandated that all VPK providers administer the VPK Assessment to all VPK children. The Coalition has requested School Year VPK Providers administer Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 and enter all scores online at the Bright Beginnings website within two weeks of completing each assessment period. Please refer to page 17 of the VPK Assessment Teacher's Manual, 3rd Edition, for instructions on how to input scores online. The Teacher's Manual can be found inside the box in which the assessment was delivered.

Providers must keep all VPK Assessment scoring booklets for three (3)

### **Audit**

Wednesday, July 31  
9:30 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

### **Board**

Monday, August 5  
8 a.m.  
ELC 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**  
1111 12th St.  
Suite 206  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-296-5557  
305-296-5588 (fax)

[info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org)

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years. Parents can be given a copy of the scoring booklet, but providers must keep the originals for reporting purposes to the Florida Department of Education.

### **Training Dates for VPK Providers**

The VPK Training Schedule for July 2013 is below. Additional training dates will be released soon. All trainings will be conducted Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. If you have already taken any of these classes, you do not have to retake them.

The Standards for Four Year Olds trainings are scheduled for center directors who received their DCF Director Credential after January 1, 2006. If you fall into this category, you must take the following courses in order to host VPK in your center:

1. Standards for Four Year Olds: Face-to-face training; free of charge
2. Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors: Online course; costs \$10.00
3. VPK Director's Credential: Online course; costs \$10.00

The online courses can be found at [www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care](http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care).

The training sessions listed below are free of charge. Credit for attending the training will be posted on your DCF transcript.

Participants must be on time. No one arriving at 1:15 p.m. or later will be admitted. Registration can be completed online at [www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care](http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care).

### **North Dade: Berlinda Good, Trainer**

#### **Standards for Four Year Olds**

##### **Course #4012**

Date: Thursday, July 25

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Miami Children's Initiative, 5200 N.W. 22 Ave., 4th Floor, Miami, FL 33142

##### **Course #3993**

Date: Tuesday, July 30

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Miami Shores Baptist Church, 370 Grand Concourse, Miami Shores, FL 33138

#### **Instructional Implications of the VPK Assessment**

##### **Course #4034**

Date: Tuesday, July 16

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Miami Shores Baptist Church, 370 Grand Concourse, Miami Shores, FL 33138

##### **Course #4011**

Date: Thursday, July 18

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Miami Children's Initiative, 5200 N.W. 22 Ave., 4th Floor, Miami, FL 33142

**Course #4035**

Date: Tuesday, July 23

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Miami Shores Baptist Church, 370 Grand Concourse, Miami Shores, FL 33138

**South Dade: Terri Camejo, Trainer**

**Standards for Four Year Olds****Course # 4015**

Date: Thursday, July 25

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Kids for Kids Academy, 14465 Country Walk Drive, Miami, FL 33186

**Instructional Implications of the VPK Assessment****Course # 4014**

Date: Thursday, July 18

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Kids for Kids Academy, 14465 Country Walk Drive, Miami, FL 33186

**VPK Materials Provided by the Florida Department of Education**

The Florida Department of Education will be sending the assessment items to VPK providers free of charge.

For the 2013-14 School Year, providers will receive:

- VPK Revised Scoring Booklets for Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3
- The VPK Revised Teacher's Manual
- The VPK Revised Training DVD

Please note that the actual VPK Assessment has not changed.

VPK Assessment deliveries will run through the month of July. If you do not receive your delivery by the end of July, please contact Kerry M. Allen at 305-646-7220 ext. 239.

We will be releasing the VPK Assessment schedule in the August 2013 News Alert.

**Miami-Dade ASQ-3 Screening Update**

The Early Learning Coalition is constructing the ASQ-3 online portal for online data. When the portal is complete, providers will be notified. For now, providers should continue administering ASQ-3 screenings for each child in their birth month **on paper** and save them until the portal is ready for data entry.

Providers will access the ASQ-3 monthly list by going to the [ELC website](#), clicking on the blue Provider Portal button on the left side of the homepage, and then the ASQ-3 button at the top. More information will be sent out soon. A "How-to Manual" will be available in English and Spanish.

Beginning this year, the Parent Consent will be a decline only form that will be attained at time of eligibility and will be reflected on the ASQ-3 child online entry screen.

This transition will be relatively easy for all and will provide valuable information to both providers and families regarding each participating child's development. An **ELC Screening Specialist** will be located at each Service Center and will make training and assistance available to all providers either

online and/or on-site.

For an ASQ-3 kit or more information on child screening, please call 305-646-7220 ext. 281 and leave your name and telephone number or email [bsands@elcmdm.org](mailto:bsands@elcmdm.org).

## Important Announcements

### Publix Super Markets Charities Awards Donation to ELC

The Early Learning Coalition received a \$10,000 donation from Publix Super Markets Charities. Established by Publix's founder, George Jenkins, the foundation was established to improve life in our communities. This donation will be used by the ELC to support our school readiness programs.

Thank you, Publix Super Markets Charities, for your continued support of our mission.

### Welcoming Magalie Thomas, South Florida Project Coordinator



Magalie Thomas, a Miami native, joins the Early Learning Coalition as the South Florida Project Coordinator for Nemours Health and Prevention Services. She is a dedicated and passionate advocate for early childhood prevention programs. In her own words, "Early brain development, nutrition and health are interrelated and critical for healthy development of children; it's an investment in our future workforce."

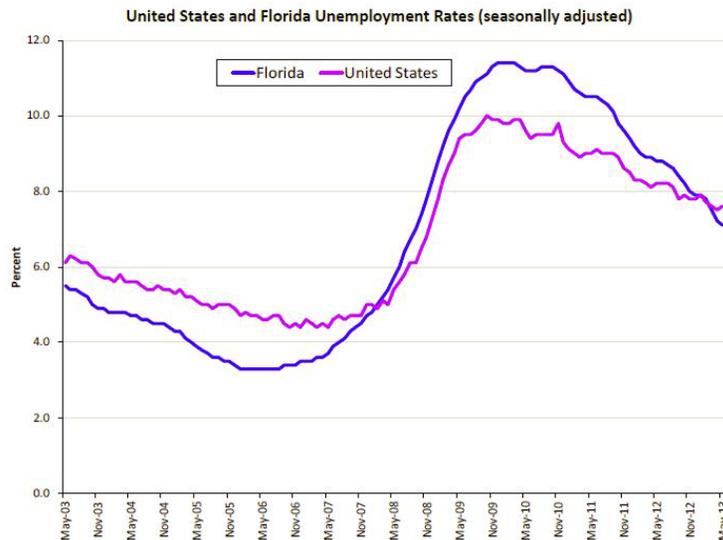
Prior to joining Nemours, Magalie held various positions on a variety of public health initiatives. She has played a critical role in increasing awareness in injury prevention and obesity prevention in diverse and hard to reach communities. Her most recent experience has been working for the University of Miami on the Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant aligned with the Let's Move! Campaign - an initiative by First Lady Michelle Obama aimed at reducing the overall incidence of overweight children. Working with early learning centers throughout Miami-Dade County, Magalie provided bilingual trainings, technical assistance and consultation on adopting policies for healthier beverage, nutrition, physical activity and limiting screen time. Her experience is in education, research and advocacy for non-profit programs.

Magalie holds a Master of Business of Administration in Management from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Miami.

### Florida Releases Its Employment Figures for May

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment dropped to 7.1 percent in May 2013, the lowest it has been since September 2008 when it was 7.0 percent. The May rate was down 0.1 percentage points from the April rate of 7.2 percent, and 1.7 percentage points lower than the May 2012 rate. There were 671,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,427,000.

In May 2013, Monroe County (4.0 percent) had the state's lowest unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade County was 8.7 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

For more information, visit the Department of Economic Opportunity's [website](#).

## Transition FAQs

### VPK ONLINE

**I am a provider. Who do I send the COEs to?**

COEs can be sent to the ELC's Finance Department. Fax them to 786-433-3237.

### PROVIDER PORTAL

**What changes have been made to the ELC's Provider Portal?**

We have made several enhancements to the Provider Portal. In addition to submitting your VPK and SR contracts through the portal, now you can also submit attendance information. Providers will also be able to enter ASQ-3 information in the near future. Additionally, the blank parent/caregiver sign-in/sign-out sheets and a blank attendance roster are available in the portal. Visit [providers.elcmdm.org](http://providers.elcmdm.org) to view these changes.

**I am a new provider and can't access the portal. Who can I contact?**

New providers should contact Fred Hicks at [fhicks@elcmdm.org](mailto:fhicks@elcmdm.org) in order to create an account on our portal.

**I am still having trouble with the new attendance process on the ELC portal. Will there be any trainings?**

An [instructional video](#) about the attendance process has been posted on our website. The training video will be available in English, Spanish and Creole. In addition, training sessions will be scheduled in Miami-Dade and Monroe in the coming months. For immediate assistance, contact our Help Desk staff at 305-646-7220.

**If I have a child who attends part-time and full-time and has dual fees assigned to them, why isn't that showing up on the portal?**

The ELC portal is being adjusted to show both fees.

### TRANSFERS

**I need to submit a transfer. Whom do I send that to?**

All transfer information should be faxed to our waitlist specialist at 305-447-1608.

### BECOMING A NEW PROVIDER

I am interested in becoming a new provider. Whom should I contact?

Providers are assigned to a Provider Specialist according to zip code. To obtain information on becoming a new provider, please refer to [this list](#) and contact the individual assigned to your zip code area. If you still have questions, please contact Maria Canelas at [mcanelas@elcmdm.org](mailto:mcanelas@elcmdm.org).

### COMMUNICATIONS

How can I stay informed of news and updates that may affect my early care and education center or home?

All news and updates are posted on our homepage at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org). In addition, all news regarding the transition can be found on our [Transition page](#). All providers should also be receiving emails from the ELC's email system. If you would like to make sure your email address is on our contact list, please send an email to Christina Vila at [cvila@elcmdm.org](mailto:cvila@elcmdm.org).

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## ELC Team Member Spotlight



Sandra Marrero joined the ELC team on April 1, 2013, as the Early Learning Specialist Lead. This position entails VPK online processing, Early Learning Specialist training as needed, client services for eligibility and any tasks that require immediate attention.

Sandra lists the moment she realized she was working in a family atmosphere as part of a team as her proudest moment at the organization. She feels the most rewarding part of her job is making a difference in a child's life.

Prior to working at the ELC, Sandra worked for the School Readiness Program in Hillsborough County. In 1999, she began working as a file clerk. After one month on the job, she moved her way up to Eligibility Counselor and to Supervisor of Eligibility after that. Her experience has always been in this area, and she has a great passion for what she does.

Sandra received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. She believes education is a top priority because without it one is limited, and with it the possibilities are endless.

During her free time, she likes to spend quality time with her children, who she regards as her biggest reward in life. She also enjoys reading, playing board games, and listening to music.

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## Monroe County News

### Save the Date: VPK Standards for Four Year Olds Training

Training for new VPK instructors will be offered in two locations on July 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Key West: Professional Plaza, 1111 12th St., Suite 304 (DCF Conference Room)  
Key Largo: Pink Plaza, 103400 Overseas Hwy., Suite 232

For registration information, please contact Trina Rodriguez at [trodriguez@elcmdm.org](mailto:trodriguez@elcmdm.org) by July 19.

### Monroe Provider Reimbursements and Attendance Update

**June Provider Reimbursements:** Reimbursements are being processed the week of July 8. Monroe providers should expect their direct deposits in the bank by

July 15-16. If you have any questions, please contact Aileen Martinez at 305-646-7220.

**Provider Rosters:** June attendance rosters have already been submitted and are being processed. Paper attendance rosters will be mailed out at the end of July to ensure all enrollments/changes are reflected for the month. Providers will submit these paper rosters as they always do. Provider trainings will be scheduled in the near future to prepare Monroe providers to use the online attendance portal in August.

### Monroe Office Information

The Key West ELC office relocation from the Gato Building to the Professional Building took place June 7. All Monroe offices are now fully operational. The main phone number remains the same. All Monroe staff can be reached at 305-296-5557. This number will also serve as the Keys-wide number.

ELC Monroe offices are located at the following addresses:

#### **Key Largo**

Location: Pink Plaza

Address: 103400 Overseas Highway, Suite 232

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday: Not open to the public
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Last Saturday of the month)

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

#### **Marathon**

Location: Co-location with Keys AHEC, Gulfside Village

Address: 5800 Overseas Highway, Suite 36

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

#### **Key West**

Location: Professional Plaza

Address: 1111 12 St., Suite 206

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday: Not open to the public

- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Last Saturday of the month)

Note: Closed daily from 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch.

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## Quality Counts

### Free Resources Available to Programs in Miami-Dade Through Shared Resources Florida

Shared Resources is a free, membership-based website that offers an array of resources and tools for program directors, owners, and teachers to enhance the business and educational environment of centers and family child care homes.

Program Benefits:

- Cost savings on child products, books, office supplies and more
- Quick links to DCF Regulations
- Helpful templates
- Free printable posters
- Community message boards

Classroom / Teacher Benefits:

- Free online training for teachers
- Literacy activity ideas
- Physical activity ideas and videos
- Parent handouts
- Teacher resources

To access the site, visit [www.sharedresourcesfl.org](http://www.sharedresourcesfl.org).

- Click on "Interested in becoming a member?" and enter requested information.
- A login and temporary password will be emailed within two business days.

Shared Resources Florida is brought to you through the collaboration of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, and Quality Counts in partnership with The Children's Trust.

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Early education. Lifelong success.

