



Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Department of Economic Opportunity](#)



Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy

Tuesday, Oct. 29
3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance

Wednesday, Oct. 30
9:15 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board

Monday, Nov. 4
8 a.m.
ELC Board Room

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ELC News Alert

Issue 10
October 2013

President's Message



Dear Friends,

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has partnered with the **Advocacy Institute for Children** to engage parents meaningfully in the areas of advocacy, evaluation, program development and outreach.

This initiative is in alignment with the **Parent Leadership Ambassador Training (PLAT)** commissioned by the Florida Office of Early Learning on behalf of the Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care.

One of the most exciting pieces of this initiative is a weekly radio show brought to you by the Early Learning Coalition and The Children's Trust and hosted by former Senator Rudy Garcia, who served in the legislature from 1984 to 2010.

"**Luchando por Nuestros Hijos**" features segments on health, education, child development, safety, family life and much more. I encourage you all to tune in to [WQBA 1140 AM](#) each week to hear from Senator Garcia and his special guests.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

Important Announcements

Provider Update Form

School Readiness and VPK providers contracted with the ELC are required to complete a Provider Update form. All providers must fill this out in order to be included in referrals by the ELC's Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) team.

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., Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-646-7220

Monroe

1111 12th St., Suite 206
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-5557

info@elcmdm.org

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

To access the form, please click [here](#). Once completed, it may be emailed to your program's assigned Provider Specialist or sent via fax to 305-443-9107.

Implementing Early Learning Legislation - HB 7165

During the 2013 session, the Florida Legislature passed important early learning legislation impacting the School Readiness Program. The legislation, HB 7165, requires coalitions to apply new priority criteria to all families that coalitions determine or redetermine to be eligible for services effective August 1, 2013.

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions about the new legislation. Click [here](#) to access the complete document.

Q. Does this new legislation change the responsibility for collection of parent copayments?

A. No. Section 1002.84(8), F.S., requires providers to collect the parent copayment which is consistent with Rule 6M-4.401, F.A.C. This applies to all eligibility groups to whom the coalition assesses a copayment. If a parent chooses not to pay, the parent is not meeting the terms and conditions of service and therefore, the coalition should discontinue services. Providers who choose not to collect copays (when assessed) will be violating statute and subject to corrective actions that may include termination of the school readiness contracts. Statute and rule apply only to parent copayments and does not include additional fees that a provider may charge the parent.

Q. Can parents transfer their child care service to a new provider if they owe parent fees to their current provider?

A. Section 1002.84(8), F.S., states, "A parent may not transfer school readiness program services to another school readiness program provider until the parent has submitted documentation from the current school readiness program provider to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation."

The provider is responsible for collecting the parent fee from the parents. The fees should be collected within 30 days of the service being provided. If the provider fails to notify the parent of the outstanding balance within 30 days of the service being provided, the provider should submit documentation to the early learning coalition authorizing the transfer to another provider. If the provider failed to notify the parent within 30 days of the outstanding fees, the parent and the provider may establish a repayment schedule for the remaining balance. The provider should also notify the coalition if the parent fees are greater than 20 days in arrears.

For more questions and answers about HB 7165 related to Eligibility Criteria for the School Readiness Program, please click [here](#).

Max the Bear Available to Visit Your Program



Max the Bear, the Early Learning Coalition's community outreach bear, is available to visit your center or family child care home. If invited to your program, Max will interact with the children, read, participate in activities and learn new things to share with our community.

If you would like for Max to visit your early care and education program, please send an email to contest@elcmdm.org.

Programs Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month



The 2nd House Daycare & Learning Center

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated between September 15 and October 15 each year. Local early care and education providers took the opportunity to enrich children's learning experiences about history throughout the month. The Early Learning Coalition received photos from activities at Children's Paradise Academy, Smart Starts Child Development Center and The 2nd House Daycare & Learning Centers.



Smart Starts Child Development Center

The Early Learning Coalition also hosted its first Instagram contest. The winner of received a bilingual CD collection from Jose-Luis Orozco. Follow the ELC on [Instagram](#) for your chance to participate in future contests and giveaways.



Children's Paradise Academy

Save the Date for 2014 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!



The Just Read, Florida! Office and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), in partnership with other FDOE offices, the Office of Early Learning (OEL), school districts, Early Learning Coalitions and numerous other state agencies are pleased to announce the sixth annual statewide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* The event is scheduled for the week of January 13-17, 2014.

The goal of *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* is to promote literacy throughout the state by raising awareness of the many exciting things happening in school districts along with the programs and projects offered by the FDOE and its partner agencies and organizations. The most important objective of all is to advance the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages.

For more information about the events and activities taking place that week, please visit www.justreadflorida.com/literacyweek.asp.

Scholarships Available through Step Up For Students



Florida has help for schoolchildren who are low-income, in foster care or homeless.

Many families still don't know this option exists, but Florida has the nation's largest K-12 scholarship program giving low-income families the ability to choose the school that best meets their children's needs. Families who qualify for the free or reduced-price school lunch program, and children who are in foster care or who are homeless

could be eligible.

Those interested in applying for the 2014-15 School Year can visit www.StepUpForStudents.org to join the interest list. Messages will be sent by the organization when applications are available.

Important Documents Now Available on the Provider Portal

Effective immediately, the Early Learning Coalition's Provider Portal will contain all completed eligibility, redetermination and transfer documents previously sent to providers by mail. These documents will be readily available, and you will no longer need to wait for them to arrive through the mail.

Documents uploaded to the portal will include:

- processed transfer forms
- terminations of children previously at your program
- new child enrollments to your program
- redeterminations that have been deemed eligible for continuation of services

The folder is found in the Document Library on the portal and is titled "ELC Docs."

If you have any questions, please send them to info@elcmdm.org.

Programs Information

Exciting Opportunity for Past CLC Participants to "Pay it Forward"

Are you a Curriculum Learning Communities graduate? If yes, the CLC has an exciting professional development opportunity for you as a Peer Facilitator Trainer.

All you have to do is apply to the CLC's Peer Facilitation Apprenticeship Program. Participants will receive, free of charge:

- Coaching and training from the University of Florida School of Education
- Two 1-day peer facilitator apprenticeship sessions
- An opportunity to practice your skills at 5 peer facilitator sessions for current CLC cohorts
- 1.2 CEUs upon successful completion of the program

To apply, email Georgia Thompson at gthompson@elcmdm.org with the following information:

- Contact information
- Resume
- CLC Certificate of Completion

All trainings are full day sessions and will take place on weekdays. Sessions will begin this fall.

Registration Reopened for Curriculum Learning Communities

The Curriculum Learning Communities is pleased to announce the start of the 5th Cohort of Curriculum Trainings for Early Childhood Professionals. The Curriculum Learning Communities (CLC) will begin the 2013-2014 Year with an orientation for selected programs and follow with intensive curriculum trainings and peer facilitation trainings.

This year's CLC will feature Creative Curriculum, with one track for Infant/Toddler teachers and another for Preschool teachers. Both tracks will be offered in English this year. The trainings run from early Fall until the beginning of summer. Participating early childhood programs select two teachers to receive the curriculum trainings as well as peer facilitation training over a period of 8 months, which prepare teachers with techniques and strategies to train the remaining staff at their programs.

A few spaces have opened up for programs who have not participated in CLC in the past. If you are interested in applying, please visit our website or contact Georgia Thompson, Professional Development Manager, at gthompson@elcmdm.org or 305-646-7220 ext. 282.

VPK Assessment Information for New VPK Providers

All new VPK providers must obtain a Provider ID and temporary password to access the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System. The Provider ID is assigned by the Florida Office of Early Learning. The temporary password is the VPK provider's physical address zip code.

The VPK Administrator should send an email to request a Provider ID for the program. To send a request, please follow the instructions below:

- Visit the Bright Beginnings website: <https://www.brightbeginningsfl.org>

- Click on the blue **Contact Us** tab in the top right-hand corner
- Once on the **Contact Us** page, click on the **Send Us an Email** link to access the **Request Assistance** page
- Enter the required information and include the following in the Description box:
 - Provider Type: Faith-based or School Readiness (if applicable)
 - Phone number

Support for the VPK Assessment and Online Reporting System

The Florida Office of Early Learning (OEL) has provided answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions about the [VPK Assessment](#) and the [VPK Assessment Online Reporting System](#). Providers should take the time to look through these documents for guidance and support. Both documents are now available on the Early Learning Coalition [website](#).

ASQ-3 Online Entry Information

Most providers are already using the ASQ Portal to enter children's ASQ-3 screening results. For those providers NOT already familiar with the process, please follow the instructions below to access the portal:

- Visit www.elcmdm.org
- Click on the blue Provider Portal button on the left side of the page
- Log in
- Click the ASQ tab at the top
- Find the child highlighted in either Red or Yellow
- Click "Do Screening"
- Click "Accept"
- Enter the results of the ASQ-3
- Click "Complete"
- Review and save or print

Providers DO NOT need to get the Parent Consent Form signed anymore.

For newly enrolled children: Many ASQ-3 screenings are occurring during the Eligibility interview. Please check the information packet for newly enrolled children. If the ASQ-3 is already completed, enter the results in the ELC website as soon as the child appears on your attendance screen.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact:

- **North Service Center:** Tamara: 305-646-7220 ext. 350

- **South Service Center:** Rosa: 305-710-1849
- **Central Service Center:** Terri: 305-646-7220 ext. 386

Join Our Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative Aimed at Combating Childhood Obesity

Did you know 1 in 5 children are overweight or obese by age 6? Join the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nemours and the Early Learning Coalition and become a part of a national effort to reduce childhood obesity in early care and education programs.

Programs participating in the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative will receive:

- \$500 stipend per program
- CEU credits
- In-service hours
- Technical assistance
- Resources & toolkits

For more information, please contact South Florida Project Coordinator Magalie Thomas at maggie.thomas@nemours.org or 786-400-8737.

About Nemours: Nemours' founder, Alfred I. duPont, firmly believed that "it is the duty of everyone in the world to do what is within his power to alleviate human suffering." Mr. duPont's words and his legacy of compassion have lived on for more than 70 years through the care and services provided to children and families at Nemours. In 1936, The Nemours Foundation was formed under the terms of Mr. duPont's will; it began to deliver on his vision in 1940 when the Alfred I. duPont Institute, a pediatric orthopedic hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, opened its doors. Today, Nemours has grown to become one of the nation's largest integrated pediatric health systems, providing hospital- and clinic-based specialty care, primary care, prevention and health information services, and research and medical education programs aimed at improving the lives of children and families throughout the Delaware Valley and in Florida.

About the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The CDC is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to collaborate to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health - through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

Monroe County News

United Way Early Education Trainings Begin

Twenty-seven (27) teachers and directors attended the 1st United Way sponsored training in the Keys "Creating Literacy Rich Classroom Environments." The training was held on Saturday, October 19, in Marathon.



Upcoming United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education Trainings Scheduled

Supporting the Development and Learning for Infants and Toddlers (English)

Saturday, November 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (30 minute lunch break)

Marathon ELC Office, 5800 Overseas Hwy., Suite 36, Gulfside Village Shopping Center

- CEUs will be provided
- Registration limited to 30 participants

Overview of the Florida Early Learning Standards: Birth to Four Years

Saturday, November 16, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (30 minute lunch break)

Marathon ELC Office, 5800 Overseas Hwy., Suite 36, Gulfside Village Shopping Center

- CEUs will be provided
- Registration limited to 30 participants.
- Deadline to Register: November 6

Supporting the Development and Learning for Infants and Toddlers (Spanish)

Saturday, November 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (30 minute lunch break)

Professional Plaza, 1111 12th St., Suite 304, Conference Room, Key West

- CEUs will be provided
- Registration limited to 25 participants
- Deadline to Register: November 13

For additional information or to register, please contact Trina Rodriguez at trodriguez@elcmdm.org.

Klaus Murphy Foundation Grant Award

The ELC has received a \$18,512 grant to use as a dollar-for-dollar match to draw funds from the state's Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP). Through this program, families whose income exceeds the School Readiness cap of 150% of the Federal Poverty Level may qualify up to a cap of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This grant will provide child care assistance to approximately 10 children, ages birth to five, for a period of one year in the Foundation's service delivery area of Key West-Stock Island.

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.

This platform consists of cost savings programs; free templates/forms; posters;

links to State (DCF) and Federal regulations; free online trainings for teachers; parents handouts; and much more.

Some of the new content users can access include:

- Teacher resources: Daily reports and schedules for school-age
- Event templates: Family Member Sign-Up Sheet
- Cost savings program: Constructive Playthings
- Health/Common Health Concerns: Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease
- Parent handouts: General Parenting Guidance, Preventing Bullying, Traumatic Stress
- Family communication topics: Dental health, physical activity, puberty
- Transitions: Self-Care Readiness Assessment
- Enrollment Agreements: Before/after school care programs

To access the site, please visit www.sharedresourcesfl.org.

- Click on "Interested in becoming a member?"
- 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.

Information About Quality Counts 2.0

To learn more about Quality Counts 2.0, log on to the Quality Counts Portal at www.miamiqualitycounts.org. There you can view the training "Introduction to Quality Counts 2.0."

The QC 2.0 Center Standards and Supplemental Guidelines to Quality Improvement are also available on the portal.

If you have any questions, contact the Quality Counts Department at 305-646-7242 or by email at qualitycounts@elcmdm.org.

Find Quality Counts on Facebook!

Get the latest news and updates on Quality Counts 2.0 by liking the Quality Counts page on Facebook. Search for [Quality Counts Miami](#) and you'll have access to resources and info regarding Quality Counts, the ELC and our partners in early care and education.

Licensing News & Updates

**From the Desk of Suzette Frazier, Regional Safety Program Manager
Department of Children & 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 child care licensing and will serve as a guide to new regulations, information about recalls, licensing updates and much more.

ACCREDITATION

How to Become an Approved Accrediting Association Gold Seal Quality Care Program

The Department of Children and Families, through a contract with the Florida Children's Forum, accepts and reviews accrediting body standards for possible approval as a Gold Seal accrediting body.

Accrediting bodies interested in becoming approved as Gold Seal Accrediting Agencies must meet the requirements outlined on the application found on the Department of Children and Families [website](#) under "Forms and Applications."

Religious Exemption from Licensure

Any accrediting agency wishing to be recognized for the purpose of Religious Exemption must submit its published standards for health, safety and sanitation to the Department of Children and Families for recognition. Once recognized, the name and contact information of the accrediting agency will be posted on the Department of Children and Families [website](#) under "Religious Exemption Information." It is the responsibility of the Religious Exemption Accrediting Agency to keep the Department informed of any changes to its standards and contact information. To assist with recognition of each religious exempt child care program, the accrediting agency is asked to issue a certificate of religious exemption, membership or accreditation, which includes an expiration date, for the purpose of religious exemption to each of its members.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Accreditation

Any accrediting agency wishing to be recognized for the purpose of Voluntary Prekindergarten Accreditation must contact one of the following agencies for details:

- National Council for Private School Accreditation: www.ncpsa.org
- Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation
- Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools: www.faans.org



**Early
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of Miami-Dade/Monroe

www.elcmdm.org



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