



Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Department of Economic Opportunity](#)



Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy

Tuesday, Nov. 26
3: 30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance

Wednesday, Nov. 27
9: 15 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board

Monday, Dec. 2
8 a.m.
ELC Board Room

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ELC News Alert

Issue 11
November 2013

President's Message



Dear Friends,

I can think of no better message for this edition of the news alert than the speech given by Dave Lawrence this month before the Florida Council of 100 in Palm Beach. Dave makes five important points that touch on all the things that we hold dear and can fully support.

It is a profound speech. Please take a few moments to [read it](#) and feel free to share it with your friends. I know you and they will enjoy reading it as much as I did.

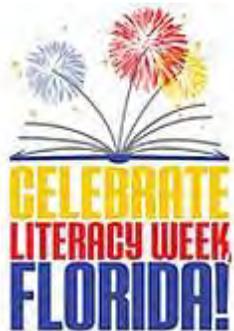
Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

Important Announcements

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

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

Contact Us

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Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-646-7220

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Join Our Mailing List!

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 encourage 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.

Updates from the Office of Early Learning

November Highlights

The November newsletter from the Office of Early Learning includes:

- Great opportunities for early learning from local to state and national levels
- Literacy Research Alliance Early Learning Workshop registration
- Monthly state reports for SR and VPK
- A message from the Governor
- News from Coalitions around the state

To view the full issue, please click [here](#).

HB 7165 Update

Executive Director Shan Goff released an update on the implementation of HB 7165. To read the full update, please visit our [website](#).

Tune in to "Luchando por Nuestros Hijos" Every Tuesday at 11:30 AM

Luchando por Nuestros Hijos

A weekly radio show with Senator Rudy García

Every Tuesday at
11:30AM



Children's Health
Education
Safety
Family Life
And much more!

As parents, let us keep "Luchando por Nuestros Hijos"

Brought to you by:



"When I served in the State Senate, fighting for our children and families in Tallahassee was a key part of my agenda, and it continues to be. Now that I am a father to three children, it's even more important to me." - Senator Rudy García



Opportunity for Homestead Providers

Miami Dade College School of Education's Teach Now Campaign at the Homestead Campus is hosting an event on Friday, December 6, at 9 a.m. Center directors are invited to meet with School of Education leadership to discuss center needs for professional development, teacher support, and MDC SOE assistance. The event will be held in Room F-222. Lunch will be provided.

To RSVP, please contact Nathalie Cajuste at ncajuste@mdc.edu or 305-237-2721 no later than November 26.

Article Published by the Council for Exceptional Children

Bethany Sands, Director of Inclusion and Assessment for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, coauthored an article published by the [Council for Exceptional Children](#).

The article, titled "Patterns of Referral Recommendations for Ethnically Diverse Children in Subsidized Child Care," stated how important it is for researchers and practitioners to understand how early referral decisions are made in communities and the long-term consequences of an at-risk child being referred (or not) to an agency for evaluation and intervention.

To read the full article, please visit our [website](#).

Post Attendance Monitoring Information

The Office of Early Learning requires daily attendance documentation to be maintained by each School Readiness and VPK provider. At a minimum, this documentation shall include a sign-in/sign-out process as approved by the Early Learning Coalition. (Please note: School Readiness providers agree to maintain sign-in/sign-out sheets. VPK providers continue to provide the long form.)

The Early Learning Coalition will be conducting visits to ensure correct attendance practices are in place. Post Attendance Monitors will be visiting providers and auditing attendance files for children in both programs.

Here are a few reminders for providers about the attendance sheets:

- The provider agrees to maintain sign-in/sign-out sheets and child files for a period of six (6) years.
- Child care facilities need to make sure all sign-in/sign-out logs are signed daily and include the actual time of submission, not an estimated time.
- If the parental sign-in/sign-out form is missing a complete authorized signature for the entire day, the child care facility will not be paid for that day.
- A crossed out signature will be considered the same as a missing signature, and the child care facility will not be paid for that day.
- The sign-in/sign-out sheet may vary by provider, but must contain at least the following information: provider's name; child's name; time in; time out; date; and an authorized signature that verifies the child's attendance. (An authorized signature is a signature from a parent/guardian or person authorized to pick up child.)

All sign-in/sign-out sheets must have a complete legible signature. Legible signatures include the full first name or first initial of the parent with the full last name.

Join us for our 2013 Thanksgiving Art Contest



THANKSGIVING CONTEST 2013

Help the Early Learning Coalition celebrate all the things we are grateful for by taking part in our latest contest. This is a chance for you to share your child(ren)'s artwork via Facebook. All we need is a drawing, sketch or painting that will complete this sentence:



Contest Rules:

- Child(ren)'s artwork should only be submitted on a 8.5"x11" (letter size) sheet of paper
- No glitter or 3D materials
- Include child's first name and age in the submission

If the artwork does not fall within these guidelines, it will not be uploaded to Facebook for voting.

Artwork can be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Mailed to 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134
ATTN: Christina Vila (must be received by Nov. 21)
- A scanned version or photo emailed to contest@elcmdm.org

Artwork received by Nov. 21 will be uploaded to our Facebook page and be eligible for voting. Voting will take place between Nov. 22 and Nov. 26. The child who submits the photo that receives the most "Likes" by 4 p.m. on Nov. 26 will win a special prize. The winner will be announced on Nov. 27.

So "Like" our page today and tell all your friends too!



Programs Information

VPK Readiness Rate Update

In early December 2013, letters will be sent to VPK providers from the Florida Office of Early Learning listing dates to verify attendance, release preliminary rates, and dispute the rating process, as well as information on where to access the rates. Providers can access the system by using the 4 or 5 digit identification number given to them.

The timeline is as follows:

- **December 18, 2013:** Target date to release preliminary rates, verify attendance and dispute the rate process
- **January 31, 2014:** Complete process
- **February 28, 2014:** Final Readiness Rates released

VPK Assessment Schedule

VPK programs are required to administer the VPK Assessment and enter scores online three times per program year. Below is the VPK Assessment schedule.

- **Assessment Period 1 (AP1)** should be completed by the end of November 2013.
- **Assessment Period 2 (AP2)** begins the week of January 13, 2014. All scores for AP 2 should be entered online by January 31, 2014.
- **Assessment Period 3 (AP3)** begins 3 weeks before the close of your VPK program. All scores for AP3 should be entered online by June 30, 2014.

The VPK Assessment Teacher's Manual 4th Edition contains instructions on how to use the VPK Assessment Online Scoring System. The website address can be found in the manual.

Provider Identification Numbers are assigned by the Office of Early Learning. You can call 1-866-247-1159 for more 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 Apprentice Program. Participants will receive, free of charge:

- Coaching and training from the University of Florida School of Education
- Two 1-day peer facilitator apprentice 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.

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 Maggie 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

2014 Competency Exam Dates

The following Competency Exam dates have been confirmed with Miami-Dade College:

- Saturday, February 22, 2014
- Saturday, May 10, 2014

Location: ELC Marathon Office training room, 5800 Overseas Hwy., Suite 36, Gulfside Village Shopping Center

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

Upcoming United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education Trainings

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 12**

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 18**

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

Children's Day in Bayview Park, Key West



The Monroe ELC team participated in the largest children's event in the Keys. The new outreach tent with the ELC logo provided a professional appearance and brand recognition. Educational and promotional materials on program services were provided to parents. More than 100 books were distributed along with information to parents on the importance of reading to their children. The children were able to take part in free play in sensory tables filled with water (calming), colored rice (textured) and flour/sequins (smooth and cool).

Quality Counts

Free Voluntary Assessments for QC Providers

As Quality Counts transitions from 1.0 to 2.0, we are offering the opportunity for programs to be observed using the new assessments with no risk and no cost to you. The assessments used in centers will be the **CLASS Pre-K** and **ECERS-R Provisions for Learning** factor for preschool classes, and **ITERS-R** for infant and toddler classes. The assessments used in family child care homes will be the **CLASS Pre-K** or **CLASS Toddler**.

This is available to all Quality Counts centers and family child care homes for free.

If you would like to know more about the quality of your early learning program using these assessments, take advantage of this free opportunity. Devereux will work with

you to schedule it, will visit your early learning program one morning to observe, and then will provide a short report explaining your results. Space is limited, and assessments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve your spot or get more information, contact Ana Maria Farkas from Devereux at 786-287-2844 or afarkas@devereux.org.

Free Resources Through Shared Resources Florida Support QC 2.0 Standards

As Quality Counts transitions to our new system, resources for many items in the new standards can be found in 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.

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.

Start Early, Start Smart: *Let's Move!*

This is the first of several articles highlighting program experiences in the anti-obesity project brought to you by the Centers for Disease Control, Nemours and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: GLENDALE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

What we like most about the Let's Move Childcare Program is that it provides an easy

outlet for teachers, students and staff to interact while promoting wellness and healthy dietary habits that reach beyond the classroom, reaching the homes and families of all involved. The Nemours Early Childhood Leadership team includes Angela Ford, Director of Kitchen Operations; Lajaer (Jill) Simmons, Cafeteria Manager; and Lois Reittie, the Director of Glendale Christian Academy. We believe that good dietary habits are formed early in a child's life and can be taught as soon as twelve months of age.



It is the mission of Glendale Christian Academy's Food Service Department to teach our students about healthy food choices and their impact on the body while providing a variety of nutritional and tasty menu options. To achieve this goal, the food service department in connection with the Academy will utilize the OrganWise Guys program for the 2013-2014 school year. This program highlights two food groups each month and connects their importance to the body's organs through songs, games, menu options and academic based activities. With the aid of this program, we hope to help our students explore the joy of eating healthy.



The Glendale Early Childhood Leadership team has implemented several practices in an effort to educate our staff, students and families on wellness. We serve portion controlled meals for both staff and students, including a well balanced meal that includes three food groups for breakfast and four food groups for lunch. We will host

a parent information session during Open House to spotlight healthy eating options at home. We have also provided active music play and outdoor play time daily, as well as removed all screen time from our Academy.



In the coming months, we will host several interactive workshops for staff and students using OrganWise Pal and try our hand at potted gardens.

There are a limited number of spaces available for child care programs in the Let's Move Child Care Program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Magalie Thomas, Nemours Project Coordinator, at 786-400-8737 or Maggie.Thomas@nemours.org.

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.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP?

The Child Care Regulation application form must be signed by the individual owner, prospective owner, or the designated representative of a partnership, association, or corporation, and must include background screening clearance documents for the owner/operator/director, and an approved fire inspection.

A change in the Corporate Document number and Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) constitutes a change of ownership. This is true even if the owner of both corporations is the same. The corporation must be active and have a designated representative in the State of Florida.

Scenario

Daisy Mouse owns Smile Corporation who owns Happy Feet Child Care Center. However, she decides to form another corporation named Jolly Corporation to be the owner of Happy Feet Child Care Center. Although Ms. Mouse is the owner of both corporations the document number and FEIN# has just changed, and that constitutes

a change of ownership.

In this same scenario, if Ms. Mouse changed the name of Smile Corporation to Jolly Corporation and did not change the document number and FEIN# then it would not be a change of ownership.

Read the latest issue of the Child Care Communique [here!](#)

Early education. Lifelong success.

