

# NEWS ALERT

A monthly newsletter for the early care and education community

## Quick Links

- [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#)
- [VPK Online](#)
- [Provider Portal](#)
- [School Readiness Application](#)
- [Office of Early Learning](#)
- [Department of Economic Opportunity](#)

## Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

- **Program Policy & Provider Services:** Tuesday, March 25; 3:30 p.m.; ELC Board Room
- **Finance:** Wednesday, March 26; 9:15 a.m.; ELC Board Room
- **Board:** Monday, April 14; 8 a.m.; ELC Board Room



For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit our [website](#).

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

The 2014 Legislative Session began on March 4th. I spent most of the week in Tallahassee and came away feeling like we got off to an excellent start.

"Luchando por Nuestros Hijos," our Spanish language radio program cosponsored by The Children's Trust, kicked off our week with an interview featuring [Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera](#) who spoke about the importance of early learning and other issues important to Florida's families. The radio program also included conversations with [Representative Jose Felix Diaz](#), a member of the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; [Representative Manny Diaz, Jr.](#), a member of the Education Committee; and [Representative Erik Fresen](#), chair of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. As usual, former Senator Rudy Garcia hosted the program.

The radio program was followed by a gathering of Early Learning Coalition executive directors and board chairs at the Historic Capitol. The group was joined by [Representative Marlene O'Toole](#), chair of the Education Committee and sponsor of this year's early learning bill; [Representative Marti Coley](#), member of the Appropriations Committee and Education Committee; [Representative Joe Saunders](#), member of the Education Committee and the Choice and Innovation Subcommittee; and [Senator Bill Montford](#), member of the Appropriation Subcommittee on Education, the Education Committee, and the Appropriations Subcommittee.

The [Early Learning Advisory Council \(ELAC\)](#) also met that week. This group is made up of private sector members appointed by the governor to serve as chairs of Early Learning Coalitions. Among other things, they discussed the status of the funding allocation formula. ELC board chair Adrian Alfonso spoke about the need to maintain a hold harmless position so no coalition will lose resources needed to serve children, of the need to increase provider

reimbursement rates and to continue our work to improve the quality of the programs.

We made good progress in the first week. We will continue to provide updates as the session progresses.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO



## Important Announcements

### **Join us on March 21 for our Children's Week 2014 Event!**

The Early Learning Coalition is proud to be collaborating with the Miami Children's Museum and community partners to bring a fun-filled afternoon for families in Miami-Dade County through our Children's Week event celebration.

On March 21st, between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., we will be hosting our annual Children's Week Event at the Miami Children's Museum. Families will have the opportunity to enjoy a free afternoon at the museum and participate in activities sponsored by several community organizations. Parents will receive information on services from our local partners. For a schedule of the day's events, please click [here](#).

Children's Week aims to raise awareness for children's issues and call attention to the [events](#) taking place in Tallahassee from April 7 to 12, 2014.

For more information, please contact [Leeana Sanchez](#) or [Christina Vila](#).

join us in celebrating  
**CHILDREN'S WEEK**  
at the  
miami children's museum  
play • learn • imagine • create

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Stop by for a fun and  
informational afternoon for  
the whole family!

**Dental screenings**  
**Guest readings**  
**Giveaways and more!**

March 21, 2014  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Miami Children's  
Museum  
980 MacArthur  
Causeway, Miami,  
FL 33132

This event is part of the statewide Children's Week celebration. Join us in strengthening Florida's families by sharing a commitment to improve our community through events and outreach efforts aimed at promoting the health, safety and well-being of our children.

Early Learning Coalition  
of Miami-Dade County

ELC Contacts  
Christina Vila, cvila@elcndm.org, 305-646-7220 ext. 266  
Leeana Sanchez, lsanchez@elcndm.org, 305-646-7220 ext. 246

## **ELC and Local Center Featured on Channel 10**

On March 4, Local 10 News aired a segment featuring the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. The story focused on the "Taking Steps to Healthy Success" project, a national anti-obesity and wellness initiative targeted toward early learning programs. The initiative is funded by the Nemours Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implemented by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. The objective is to provide information and action-packed learning sessions for childcare teachers who then bring the information back to their centers to engage staff, children and their families.



The Early Learning Coalition is serving 87 programs, more than 240 teachers and more than 800 children and the significant adults in their lives through "Taking Steps to Healthy Success."

The segment was filmed at Sheyes Young Achievers, an ELC center participating in the program that has placed a junk food ban and increased physical activity for the children and staff.

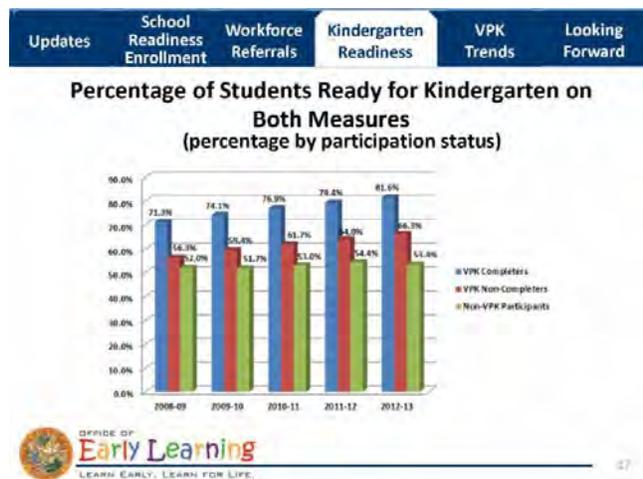
You can view the report on [Local10.com](http://Local10.com).

## **Governor's Office: Continued VPK Gains Among Florida's Youth**

Governor Rick Scott highlighted a report demonstrating for the fifth consecutive year that Florida students who completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program were better prepared for kindergarten than those who only attended part of the program or did not participate in VPK at all. Governor Scott's 2014-15 "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget" calls for investing more in VPK. This would be the first increase in the VPK student allocation in three years.

Governor Scott said, "This kind of year-after-year improvement among Florida's children shows the results of focusing on factors that help young child learn what they need to know to be ready to start kindergarten. I congratulate Florida's early childhood educators for their hard work and am proud to recommend an increase in funding to boost in the base student allocation by \$100 per child for both the school-year and summer programs."

The results of the 2013 Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) showed that almost 82 percent of children who completed a VPK program were ready for kindergarten, compared to about 53 percent of those who did not participate in VPK. Florida's children who attended some VPK fared better than those who did not attend at all. Approximately 66 percent of those who attended some VPK were kindergarten-ready.



*Graph provided by the Office of Early Learning*

The full release can be accessed on Governor Scott's [website](http://www.flgov.com).

### **Governor Rick Scott Highlights Early Learning at Academy of Science and Discovery in Panama City**

On March 12, Governor Rick Scott highlighted increased funding for early childhood education. This was announced at the Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida. The Governor's "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget" proposes \$1.1 billion in state funding for early childhood education and care, an increase of \$59 million and the largest boost for early learning in the past decade.

Governor Scott said, "A quality early learning system is essential to provide Florida children with the tools they need to succeed. This \$1.1 billion investment will result in an increase of \$100 per child for Voluntary Prekindergarten. This funding will help to better prepare children as they start school. As the grandfather of three young boys, I appreciate just how important these early years are and I want to be sure Florida's children have the best early learning opportunities possible."

You can access the full release on the Governor's [website](#).

### **CEO Evelio Torres Invited to Aguamarina Preschool Opening**



On February 22, CEO Evelio Torres appeared at the opening of the new Aguamarina Preschool campus. Mr. Torres was asked to cut the ribbon at the ceremony. He also shared a few words about the importance of high quality early learning.

## Registration Open for 2014-2015 VPK



**Early Learning Coalition**  
of Miami-Dade/Monroe

# VPK Online registration is now open!

If you live in Florida, and your child turns 4 years of age by September 1, your child is eligible to participate in Florida's FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program.

**Register online at [www.vpkhelp.org](http://www.vpkhelp.org)**

- ★ Fill out the application online
- ★ Print your Certificate of Eligibility at home
- ★ Avoid lines and wait times

**Visit [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) to learn more about the program and register your child today.**

**VPK**

### **VPK Troubleshooting 101**

**Problem: I tried to log in and it says I'm expired.**

**Solution:** Please email [vpkhelp@elcmdm.org](mailto:vpkhelp@elcmdm.org). Include the child's name, last 5 digits used to start the application and the child's birth date. In the subject line, put "Unexpire Client."

**Problem: I can't click Submit.**

**Solution:** If you are using Internet Explorer 10 or 11, please use Google Chrome instead. You can download Google Chrome for free at <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/>. Still having a problem? It may be because you have a Spanish translation setting on - sometimes the buttons don't work with this feature.

**Problem: I can't upload my documents.**

**Solution:** Documents have to be a PDF and less than 1mb. There are many online programs you can use to convert to PDF for free. You can use [this site](#) to convert your image to a PDF. Select your file and click convert, skipping steps 2 and 3.

For more information about how to apply and the documentation needed, please click [here](#). For assistance with VPK registration, please email us at [vpkhelp@elcmdm.org](mailto:vpkhelp@elcmdm.org).



### **Miami-Dade's Carvalho Named Superintendent of the Year**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho was recently named National Superintendent of the Year by the School Superintendent's Association. The announcement was made at the organization's national conference in Nashville, Tenn. In December, Carvalho was named Florida's Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, representing Florida for consideration as national superintendent of the year.

Read the full release [here](#).

### Enrollment Open for Miami SEED School



The SEED Foundation in Washington, DC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Our Kids, the county governments, public school districts in South Florida and local nonprofits recently launched the SEED School of Miami, South Florida's first public, college-prep boarding school for children starting in the 6th grade. The school is located in Kendall and will open in August 2014 with 60 6th grade students (30 boys and 30 girls).

SEED Miami opened enrollment and is accepting applications from families. Enrollment is open until March 31. To learn more about this wonderful and life changing educational opportunity, please visit their [website](#).

### New Time and Station for "Luchando por Nuestros Hijos"

**Luchando por Nuestros Hijos**  
A weekly radio program

Every Tuesday at  
2:30 p.m.

**Radio Mambi**  
WAQI 710 AM

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

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

Brought to you by:

The Children's Trust

Early Learning Coalition  
of Miami-Dade/Monroe

"Luchando por Nuestros Hijos" is now on a new station and at a new time. Tune in every week to Radio Mambi 710 AM at 2:30 p.m. to hear about important topics for the families of our community.

You can listen online by following this link to [Radio Mambi 710 AM](#).

### 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.

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.

**Join Miami Dade College in their Celebration of Day of the Young Child**

**Day of the Young Child**  
*Nourishing the Next Generation*  
Saturday, April 5, 2014  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
MDC Homestead Campus  
Central Lawn  
500 College Terrace, Homestead, FL 33030

Story Telling  
Music & Dance  
Parenting Resources  
Face Painting  
Health and Safety  
Hands on Activities

For more information call:  
305-237-5134  
305-237-1632

Free Admission  
Event Sponsor  
The Children's Trust  
In Partnership With  
Miami Dade College  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

<http://www.mdc.edu/homestead/youngchild.aspx>

**School Readiness Curriculum Approval Process: Informational Webinar Recording**

The office of Early Learning posted the PowerPoint presentation and webinar recording of the school readiness curriculum approval process informational webinar hosted February 19 on their [website](#). This webinar contains general information for both curriculum submitter sand interested committee members.

Please direct your questions related to the school readiness curriculum approval process to Dr. Noelle Bee at 850-717-8550 or email [ael.trainings@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:ael.trainings@oel.myflorida.com).

---

## Upcoming Conferences



### **FACCM Annual Conference**

May 16 - 18, 2014  
Hyatt Regency  
Miami, FL

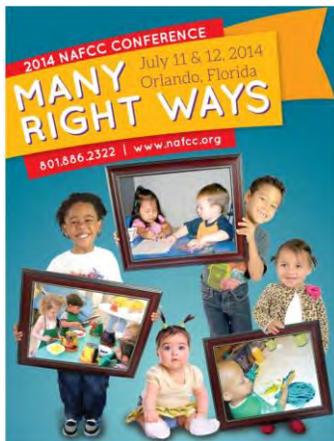
The Florida Association for Child Care Management will be holding its 2014 Annual Conference where attendees will explore early learning through multiculturalism. This

year's conference is taking place in downtown Miami. Packed with amazing speakers, timely session topics and unprecedented networking opportunities, the annual conference is a valuable membership tool for creating a more relevant and successful business.

**Hotel Registration Deadline:** April 25, 2014

For more information, please click [here](#).

### **NAFCC Annual Conference**



July 10 - 12, 2014  
Caribe Royal  
Orlando, FL

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is holding its annual conference July 10 - 12. This year's conference is taking place at the Caribe Royal in Orlando. This conference will provide the highest quality training specific to the family child care community.

For more information, please visit the [NAFCC website](#). For registration information, please click [here](#).

### **2014 One Goal Summer Conference**

July 16 - 18  
Hilton Hotel  
Tampa, FL

The Office of Early Learning is pleased to be a sponsor of the 2014 Summer Conference One Goal: Building the Future Together, "Putting Families and Children First."

This year the conference is celebrating 28 years of bringing together early education and care providers and leaders from around the state. It is important that we continue to work together to demonstrate how we can do more with less in our programs, practices and techniques to improve the services and outcomes for all of Florida's children.

The itinerary will include general sessions, concurrent presentations and interesting exhibits of appropriate materials.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Frankie Allen at 850-893-6270 or email [frankieallen\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:frankieallen_2000@yahoo.com), or visit the conference [website](#).

---

## Programs News and Information

### **Managed Enrollment in the Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP) Now Open**

The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program for early care and education providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties allows centers to provide care for an employee's child at the center and be partially reimbursed for that care by the Early Learning Coalition.

Similar to the School Readiness grant, this program serves center employees with low to moderate wage earnings who qualify for the program. The eligibility requirements are the same, with the exception that they can earn up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

Increased employee morale and productivity, among other benefits, makes this an exciting work-life benefit for your employees.

The Coalition is currently enrolling children in the CCEP program. If your employees are interested in participating, please have them download an application from our website at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) and return by mail to:

**Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.**

**ATTN: CCEP Program**

**P.O. Box 144070**

**Coral Gables, FL 33134**

### **SCHOOL READINESS CONTRACTS DUE BY APRIL 15TH**

A Contract for School Readiness Services is required to be completed every year. The requirements set forth in the Provider Contract are mandated by 45CFR98 (Code of Federal Regulations), Chapter 402.25 and Chapter 1002 of the Florida Statutes, and Rule 60BB-4 of the Florida Administrative Code.

#### **Required Documents:**

- Private Pay Rate Schedule for FY 2014-2015
- Holiday Schedule for FY 2014-2015
- IRS W-9 (please use the updated version found on <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>)
- Copy of Department of Children and Families (DCF) issued license or copy of DCF license exemption form (Religious Exempt Providers only)
- Copy of Gold Seal Certification (if applicable)
- Copy of Accreditation Certification (if applicable)
- Liability Insurance

Payment for children who receive financial assistance through the School Readiness Program will only be made to providers who have an approved 2014-15 Provider Contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. The contract is effective from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

The contract must be submitted to the Coalition through the [provider portal](#) by April 15, 2014. Reimbursement for services will not be made to any provider who does not have a signed contract executed by this date. Retroactive payments for services provided without an executed contract will not be allowed.

Providers should submit their contracts and required documents through the provider portal at <http://providers.elcmdm.org/>.

### **VPK CONTRACTS DUE BY APRIL 4TH**

**2014-2015 VPK Provider Contracts Are Due Friday, April 4. You may not be able to start your VPK program if a complete application is not received by the due date. Incomplete applications cannot be processed.**

To submit a VPK Contract, please visit the Provider Portal at <http://providers.elcndm.org>.

**Required Documents:**

- **Form 20:** Statewide Provider Agreement
- **Form 10:** Statewide Provider Registration Application
  - Copy of Current DCF license or License Exemption
  - Copy of Gold Seal Certificate (if applicable)
  - Copy of Accrediting Certificate (if not licensed and exempt)
  - Copy of Director Credential (with VPK Endorsement or VPK Exempt Director Credential - issued before Dec. 31, 2006; if VPK Exempt Director - must have completed VPK Emergent Literacy and Staff Credential as of July 1, 2010)
  - Copy of Level 2 Screening (FBI and FDLE Clearance within 5 years)
  - Affidavit of Good Moral Character (Notarized)
- **Form 11A:** Class Instructor Application
  - School Year VPK Instructor (Lead Teacher) Documentation Required (same for substitute teacher)
  - Copy of one (1) of the following credentials:
    - Child Development Associate (CDA) or Florida Child Care Professional Certificate (FCCPC) earned within the last five (5) years; or
    - An Associate's Degree or higher in Child Development; or
    - As Associate's Degree or higher in an unrelated field, with at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or providing childcare services for children any age from birth to 8 years of age; or
    - A Bachelor's Degree or higher in early childhood education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool education, or family and consumer science; or
    - A Bachelor's Degree in elementary education, if the Pre-K instructor has been certified to teach children any age from birth through 6th grade, with a Florida's Educator's Certificate, regardless whether the certificate is current or not, and has not had this educator certificate suspended or revoked.
  - Please note that a teaching degree from another country must be evaluated and translated by an accredited organization and submitted to DCF for approval.
    - Copy of a five (or more) hour Early Literacy training certificate. If Literacy training was completed after October 1, 2005, it must be the VPK Emergent Literacy course.
    - Copy of Level 2 Screening (FBI and FDLE Clearance within 5 years)
    - Affidavit of Good Moral Character (notarized)
  - School Year VPK Instructor Aide Documentation Required
    - Copy of Level 2 Screening (FBI and FDLE Clearance within 5 years)
    - Affidavit of Good Moral Character (Notarized)
  - Please note class size may not exceed 20 student during school year
- **Form 11B:** Calendar Worksheet
  - Form indicates VPK days and Non-VPK days. If calendars vary for classrooms, then a calendar must be submitted for each classroom.
- **Attachment A:** Notification of Changes
  - All changes must be submitted to the Coalition within 14 calendar days of the change. Changes must be turned in with appropriate amended forms and VPK Notification Form - Attachment A.
  - Forms should be updates to the Provider Portal. Forms that are faxed, copied, mailed or brought in person will not be accepted. Supporting documentation can be uploaded to the portal, mailed, faxed or brought in person to the Coral Gables office.
- **Attachment B**
  - To be used only if you have multiple sites

If you do not submit your Fall 2014-2015 VPK Contract by **Friday, April 4**, the earliest start date for your program will be **Monday, October 6**.

Two VPK PowerPoint presentations are now available: "[Provider Portal: Document Library Helpful Tips](#)"

and "[Provider Portal: VPK Form Guide Helpful Tips.](#)" Please use these PowerPoints as guides while uploading and completing your VPK forms for 2014-2015.

### **Information for VPK Providers on Probation (POPs)**

The VPK Readiness Rates for 2012-2013 were released Wednesday, March 5. The minimum Readiness Rate was set at 70. Programs scoring below 70 are on probation. Providers will receive notification of their status from the Office of Early Learning. Providers on Probation (POPs) will be categorized as Year 1, 2, 3 or 4.

POPs must acknowledge their VPK Readiness Rate status as well as submit an improvement plan.

- Step 1: Log into <https://vpk.fldoe.org> using the OEL Provider ID (4 or 5 digit number) and password.
- Step 2: Click on the blue link for the "Final Readiness Rate and Improvement Process"
- Step 3: Complete Acknowledgement. **Note:** Upon immediate completion of the Acknowledgement, continue to the VPK Provider Improvement Plan. If you choose not to complete it at that time, you have **30 days** from the date the Acknowledgement is submitted to complete the plan.
- Step 4: Begin improvement process by clicking blue link for "VPK Provider Improvement Plan."
- Step 5: Select a Self-Assessment Instrument. Choose one from the drop down menu or click "Other" to insert an instrument not on the drop down menu.
- Step 6: Target Areas: You must choose Staff Development or Developmentally Appropriate Curricula as one target area.
- Step 7: Choose a second target area. In the "Description of Activity," make a clear statement of the activity and enter a completion date.
- Step 8: Save and push the submit button.

Your plan will then be reviewed and the response will be posted online. Please check the website to see if it has been approved or disapproved.

Your summer and/or fall VPK application will not be reviewed until you complete the Acknowledgement, submit an improvement plan and have it approved by the Coalition.

### **Good Cause Exemptions**

The Office of Early Learning will be contacting VPK providers who have attained their third consecutive year of probation about Good Cause Exemption training webinars. OEL will conduct trainings to review the procedure to submit a Good Cause Exemption, distributing information about how to complete the application as well as guidance about what data is acceptable to submit. OEL will provide the meeting link and phone number to the providers. The schedule is below:

#### **Wednesday, March 26:**

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **Thursday, March 27:**

- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Good Cause Exemption applications are due April 9, 2014. The applications from summer programs will be reviewed first in order to determine if they can open in June 2014. If OEL requires additional information, they will send a "recommendation" to the provider to submit additional information. The provider has 14 days to submit the

information.

The Coalition does not have control over the final decision. Decisions come directly from OEL. However, providers need to submit assessment data and narrative information to explain the data. The following are unacceptable submissions:

1. Pictures of the school/classroom
2. Assessment Scoring Booklets
3. Samples of children's work
4. Child's Individual Education Plan

Please note Good Cause Exemption applications cannot be emailed because they contain child information. They can be faxed to 850-921-0028 or mailed to the Office of Early Learning, c/o GCE, 250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

### **ASQ-3 Trainings**

Training sessions have been scheduled to assist early care professionals with the ASQ-3 portal process. These trainings will be for administrators and teachers. Participants will discover effective ways to administer and score the ASQ-3, access and enter ASQ-3 scores in the provider portal, and choose methods of referral for children who have been identified as having concerns.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Location:** United Way Center for Excellence, 3250 S.W. 3 Ave., Miami, FL 33129

*English Session*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 16

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Location:** United Way Center for Excellence, 3250 S.W. 3 Ave., Miami, FL 33129

*English Session*

To reserve your space in either session, please contact Tamara Ryland at [tryland@elcmdm.org](mailto:tryland@elcmdm.org).

Stay tuned for information regarding dates and locations for trainings in Spanish.

### **ASQ-3 Online Update**

Thank you to the many providers already using the ASQ-3 online portal and successfully entering children's ASQ-3 screening results.

To know how you are doing with your ASQ-3 screenings, visit the [Provider Portal](#) and open the ASQ tab. If you see children that are highlighted RED or YELLOW, you still need to submit their ASQ-3 screening. If you need assistance with the online entry or have any questions regarding the online entry, please contact **Tamara Ryland** at 305-646-7220 ext. 350 for assistance in English or **Terri Camejo** at 305-807-4271 for assistance in Spanish.

**Providers who have not administered and entered the ASQ-3 for SR children with birthdays occurring from July 2013 through February 2014 are out of compliance.** Payments may stop in 30 days until compliance is achieved. If you need assistance to get caught up, please call or email **Dr. Christine Hughes** at 305-646-7220 ext. 321 or [chughes@elcmdm.org](mailto:chughes@elcmdm.org).

To determine the correct screen, please refer to the [chart attached](#).

To access the online system, please follow the instructions below:

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

- Click on the blue Provider Portal found on left side of page
- Log in with your personal information
- Click the ASQ tab at the top
- Find the children with birthdays in the current month
- Click on "Do Screening"
- Click "Accept"
- Enter results of the ASQ-3
- Click "Complete"
- Review and save or print

As providers helping providers, please share the ASQ-3 information provided above.

---

---

## Quality Counts

### Quality Counts Portal

Want to learn more about Quality Counts? Are you currently working on your Self Study? Log in to the [Quality Counts Portal](#) to see the resources available!

### 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.

---

---

## Monroe County News

### Two Marathon Providers Recognized at March 3rd ELC Board of Directors Meeting



Pictured L-R: ELC Board Chair, Adrian Alfonso; Director Karen MacCroy, Kreative Kids Christian Academy; ELC Board Member, Hon. Cindy Lederman; Director Barbara Rodgers, Community Cooperative Preschool; ELC CEO, Evelio Torres

The elimination of the waitlist in Monroe County has resulted in a capacity issue in Marathon in the Middle Keys. Two providers in Marathon stepped up to help meet their community's needs to increase available child care slots. Kreative Kids Christian Academy opened a new infant room and Community Cooperative Preschool opened a new 1-year-old room. In recognizing that opening new classrooms are cost prohibitive, the ELC assisted in providing needed equipment and materials to open these new classrooms.



**The new infant room at Kreative Kids Christian Academy in Marathon**

### **Save the Dates**

#### **Math and Science Preschool 4 Year Old Classrooms**

English Session

Saturday, March 15

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

- CEUs will be provided
- Registration limited to 30 participants
- Deadline to register: March 10

#### **Lesson Planning with Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers**

##### **Spanish Session**

Saturday, April 12

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

- CEUs will be provided
- Registration limited to 25 participants
- Deadline to register: April 4

For additional information or to register, please contact [Trina Rodriguez](#).

### **Children's Week Events Scheduled for April 8 - 10**

The ELC Monroe team is co-sponsoring Children's Week events with the three child care providers listed below. Monroe providers were asked to submit their ideas and one provider from each area of the Keys was drawn at random. Please join us to spotlight the importance of early care and education and celebrate Children's Week.

#### **St. James Children's Center**

**87500 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada**

April 8, 10:30 a.m.

"Pete the Cat - I Love My White Shoes"

VPK classes will be reciting/performing scenes from the book, "Pete the Cat - I Love My White Shoes."

2- and 3-year-olds will exercise to "I like to Jump" while using Organwise Anne & ELC Maxine dolls to promote nutrition and exercise.

#### **Banana Cabanna Academy**

**2267 Pieces of Eight Rd., Cudjoe Key**

April 9, 3:30 p.m.

### "Every Child Can"

This activity will show that every child can participate no matter their age. Children of all ages will use available butcher paper and numerous painting tools to paint a group painting.

### **Wee Care Learning Academy**

**707 Catherine St., Key West**

April 10, 10 a.m.

### "Fun and Fitness with Yoga"

This activity will highlight yoga poses that help young children develop strength, balance, and flexibility. The program will combine pretend play poses with a physical challenge that promotes relaxation.

---

---

### Stay Connected

Join Our Mailing List!



Miami-Dade: 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Suite 500, coral Gables, FL 33134 305-646-7220  
Monroe: 1111 12 St, Suite 206, Key West, FL 33040 305-296-5557

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