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June/  
July 2016



Early education. Lifelong success.

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### Connect With Us!




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## President's Message



Dear Friends,

Summer is in high gear, and so is the Early Learning Coalition. The Professional Development Institute of the Early Learning Coalition continues to expand its trainings to enrich early childcare providers, teachers and classrooms. In June, the Professional Development Institute filled nearly 60 percent of all available seats for the upcoming Children First Conference featuring the Emmy-Award winning, Sonia Manzano,

"Maria" of Sesame Street. This multi-dynamic conference continues to expand and grow to promote best practices in early childhood education, and we invite you to be a part and register at [trainings.elcmdm.org](http://trainings.elcmdm.org). This July, the Professional Development Institute in conjunction with the Coral Gables Police Department will offer free active shooter trainings to early childhood education providers. These trainings are designed to inform and prepare early childhood education centers in the case of a crisis situation.


[The Early Learning Coalition in partnership with Too Small Too Fail](#) continues to promote the "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" campaign. This self-empowering strategy reminds parents and caregivers that interaction through talking, reading and singing builds the necessary skills for children to learn, bond and develop in multiple ways. We would like to thank both [Commissioner Xavier Suarez of District 7](#) and [Mayor of Miami Gardens Oliver Gilbert III](#) for taking the time to express the importance of talking, reading and singing with children and the impact it has had on their lives in these linked videos. In the community, we partnered with the City of North Miami Library as it unveiled its Little Library initiative, a series of little libraries throughout the city where children can take a book and leave a book, encouraging both a love of reading and sharing that love of reading.

In June, the Early Learning Coalition celebrated fatherhood through the [ELC Lunch Café: It's More than Just Lunch series](#). The café explored the topic of fatherhood and its changing dynamics in a new millennium. If you have not been to one of our monthly cafés, we invite you to come and join us for these informative, thought-provoking sessions with dynamic panels featuring local leaders, activists, organizations and more. Each café is open to the community and free of charge.

We thank you for your continued partnership.

As always, please follow us on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date information on programs, early education and events.

Sincerely,



Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO

# TALKING IS TEACHING MIAMI



LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW CAMPAIGN!  
**#LETSTALKMIAMI**





Teacher of the Month

As a part of our continuous commitment to quality early learning programs, we would like to highlight the Quality Counts Teacher of the Month. Working in conjunction with our program partners, Florida International University, the United Way, Family Central and Children's Forum, we highlight instructors who have been recognized for applying excellence in the classroom. This month, we recognize **Silvia Serrano** from **RCMA South Dade Child Development Center**. She has more than 15 years of experience in early education. Congratulations Silvia Serrano!



**QUALITY COUNTS**  
Striving for High Quality Early Learning



# Teacher Spotlight:

## June



*Silvia Serrano*

Teacher Name

*RCMA South Dade Child  
Development Center*

Program Name

*Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*

Classroom/ Age  
Group

*15+*

Number of Years in Early  
Education

Silvia Serrano has worked with the migrant population for over 15 years at RCMA. Her passion for early childhood education is evident in her eagerness to further her knowledge and develop as a professional. Recently, she completed coursework in preschool education through Miami Dade College's bilingual program. As a result of her determination and dedication, Silvia is now focusing on infant/toddler course work. As she progresses through formal academia and takes advantage of professional development opportunities, she is able to apply her knowledge in the classroom with more intentionality and skill.

RCMA promotes continuity of care in their program. Silvia understands the importance of this and has established meaningful, caring relationships with the parents and children she serves. Because of her excellent rapport with parents, she is able to actively involve them in their children's education in a meaningful way. Through Silvia's willingness to learn, she has been a great asset to not only the program, but also to the community.

**Quality Counts would like to recognize and thank Ms. Silvia Serrano for her commitment to quality early childhood education!**

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## Early Learning Coalition in the Community

Early Learning Coalition Around Town. Stay up-to-date with community events on our Facebook page.  
[Early Learning Coalition in the Community](#)

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## In Early Education News

1. [Preschool Suspensions](#)
2. [New Law Changes That Impact Child Care Programs Including Afterschool Programs Operating in Public Schools](#)
3. [M-DCPS to Feed Thousands of Children This Summer](#)
4. [2016 Summer Activities - Time for Families to Have Fun Learning Together](#)

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## Early Learning Program Updates

Early Learning Coalition Satellite Office Locations and Hours  
[Satellite Office Locations](#)

VPK Eligibility Extended by New Law  
[Recent Changes in VPK Eligibility](#)

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## Early Learning Professional Development Institute



Miami-Dade/Monroe  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE  
A division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

For full training calendar, visit: [trainings.elcmdm.org](http://trainings.elcmdm.org)

**This month's featured trainings:**

The Professional Development Institute, a division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, in collaboration with The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) will be providing this upcoming training opportunity to learn the most current information about the Zika Virus.

# ZIKA

## Information Session

In this one hour session, the following information will be reviewed:

- What is the Zika Virus?
- Symptoms
- Transmission
- Zika & Pregnancy
- Prevention
- Current Status
- Resources

Target audience: Individuals who work with pregnant women and families in our community and who would like to be informed about this health crisis. Note: This overview will not provide detailed information on clinical guidelines or treatment protocols for medical professionals.

**We hope this session will provide useful information that you can share with pregnant women and families to better educate them about the Zika Virus and ensure they remain healthy.**



## Join Us!

Registration via the PDI training website is required.

For information on training dates, times, and locations please visit the Professional Development Institute at [trainings.elcmdm.org](http://trainings.elcmdm.org).



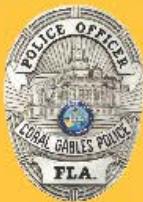
# HOW TO HANDLE AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

Presented by  
Officer Kelly Denham  
**The Coral Gables Police Department**

Join us for a scenario-based workshop featuring facilitated discussions to inform participants on the best practices associated with preparing for and responding to an active shooter incident. Through a dynamic exchange of information participants will have an understanding of how to plan and aid in the development of an initial draft of an emergency action plan for the early care and education settings.

## JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JULY

- July 6, 2016 - 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- July 13, 2016 - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- July 20, 2016 - 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- July 27, 2016 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.



BE INFORMED.  
BE PREPARED.

Edward J. Hudak  
Chief of Police



For more information, contact:  
Coral Gables Police Department  
2801 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
Non-emergency: 305-442-1600  
Emergency: 911

## Upcoming Events

[Storytime at North Miami Library with Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph](#)

[Need Help Finding a Summer Camp](#)

[Summer Youth Employment Program](#)

[Ready to Work](#)

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Monroe: 1111 12 St, Suite 206, Key West, FL 33040 305-296-5557

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, 2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard,  
Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134

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