



August/  
September 2016



Early education. Lifelong success.

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## President's Message



Dear Friends:

In the month of August, we collaborated with many community partners to help parents prepare their children for the school year through our participation in book bag drives and back to school events throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The Early Learning Coalition board of directors and staff coordinated an in-house initiative to provide new backpacks filled with school supplies, bringing smiles to kindergarten students in the foster care system. We continue to promote early literacy and a life-long love of reading by distributing books and school supplies to thousands of young children.

Our [Professional Development Institute \(PDI\)](#) reconvened our ELC Lunch Café series in August. We invite you to join us for September's café as we highlight [Hunger Action Month](#). As always, we welcome you to visit the [ELCMDM Youtube Channel](#) to view the videos of any missed cafés. Last month's café included an information-filled panel on the [First 1000 Days](#) of a child's life. Again, each café is open to the community and free of charge. To register, visit [trainings.elcmdm.org](http://trainings.elcmdm.org).

We thank you for your continued partnership.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information on programs and events.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO

# TALKING IS TEACHING MIAMI



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



**TALK, READ, AND SING TOGETHER EVERY DAY!  
IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN.**

Learn more about your baby by watching for developmental milestones. Smiling, cooing, and babbling are just a few. Your baby will show you many more milestones in how he plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves! Look for your child's milestones regularly and share his progress with the doctor at every well-child visit.

**TIP:** Respond to your baby's first smiles, gurgles, and coos — she's talking to you and wants you to talk, too!

**BIRTH TO 2 MONTHS**

- Coo, makes gurgling sounds
- Turns head toward sounds

**4 MONTHS**

- Begins to babble
- Babbles with expression and copies sounds he hears

**6 MONTHS**

- Responds to sounds by making sounds
- Responds to own name
- Begins to say consonant sounds (jibbering with "m," "b")

**9 MONTHS**

- Understands "no"
- Makes a lot of different sounds like "mamamama" and "bababababa"

**TIP:** Hold and talk to your baby, smile and be cheerful while you do.

**TIP:** Read books to your baby every day. Praise him when he babbles and "reads" too.

**12 MONTHS**

- Uses simple gestures, like shaking head "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- Tries to say words you say

**TIP:** When you read with your child, have her turn the pages. Take turns labeling pictures with your child.

**TIP:** Describe what your baby is looking at; for example, "red, round ball."

**18 MONTHS**

- Says several single words
- Points to show someone what he wants

**2 YEARS**

- Points to things or pictures when named
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words
- Follows simple instructions

**3 YEARS**

- Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps most of the time
- Talks well enough for strangers to understand
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences

**4 YEARS**

- Tells stories
- Can say first and last name
- Knows some basic rules of grammar, such as correctly using "he" or "she"

**5 YEARS**

- Speaks very clearly
- Says name and address
- Uses future tense; for example, "Grandma will be here."

## 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 **Sanjuana Chavez-Torres** from **Small Wonders of Miami, Inc.** She has more than 19 years of experience in early education. Congratulations Sanjuana Chavez-Torres.



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



# Teacher Spotlight: August



*Sanjuana Chavez-Torres*

Teacher Name

*Small Wonders of Miami, Inc.*

Program Name

*VPK*

Classroom/ Age Group

*19*

Number of Years in Early Education

Sanjuana Chavez-Torres is a teacher who strives to promote an inclusive learning environment. As a teacher who is never absent, she inspires children to attend daily, actively engages children in all activities, and raises the bar through each learning experience. Through each of her activities, students think outside of the box and are constantly receiving praise and affirmation. As a parent mentioned while describing Ms. Chavez-Torres, "She is a gem." She celebrates all of her student's achievements, regardless of depth. She is the example followed by her peers and is always the go-to person to learn new methods, strategies and innovative practices for the profession.

Quality Counts would like to recognize and thank Ms. Sanjuana Chavez-Torres for her commitment to quality early childhood education!

## Early Learning Coalition in the Community

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

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## In Early Education News

1. [Office of Early Learning Updates](#)
  2. [Free Immunizations for Children Ages \(0-18\)](#)
  3. [Read for the Record](#)
  4. [National Childhood Obesity Month](#)
  5. [Say "Hello" to No-Flu Season](#)
  6. [Fight Mosquitos with These Simple Tips](#)
  7. [Daily Florida Zika Tracker](#)
  8. [Drain and Cover](#)
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## Early Learning Program Updates

[VPK Pre-and Post-Assessment Updates 2016-2017](#)

[VPK Eligibility](#)

[Provider Orientations](#)

[Early Learning Florida Overview](#)

[Early Learning Course Flyer for Practitioners](#)

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## Early Learning Professional Development Institute

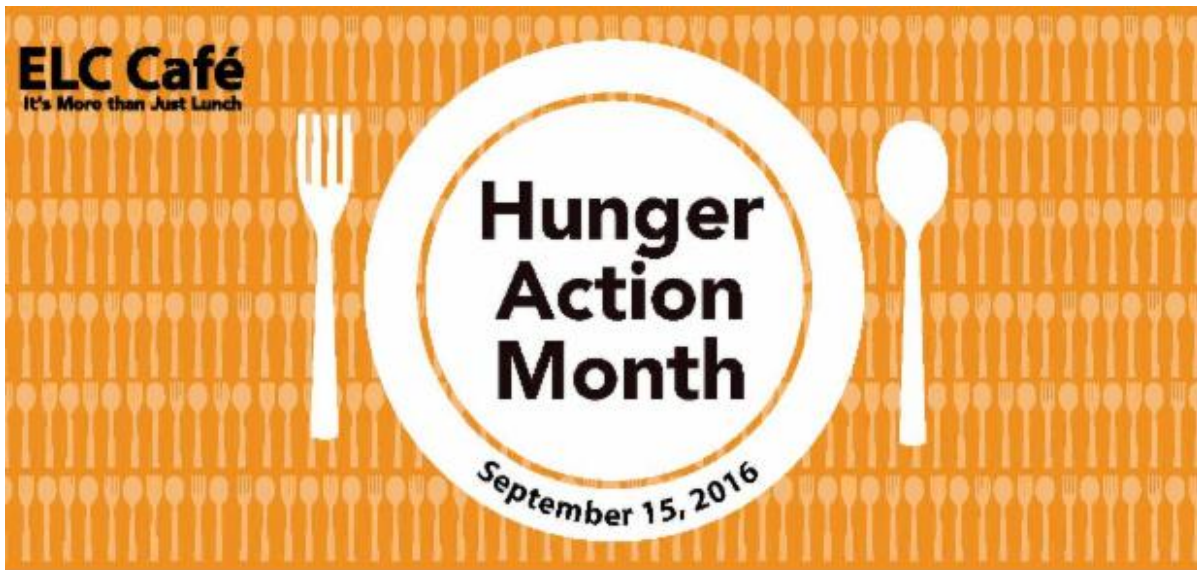


Miami-Dade/Monroe  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE  
A division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

The Professional Development Institute has a brand new website with great new features! Now users are able to search and register for courses in their area, find upcoming events in the community, and have access to great online resources. Visit our site and create your user account today: <http://trainings.elcmdm.org>.

### Training Calendar

The Professional Development Institute is pleased to provide continuous education courses for our early education providers. **To register for these professional development opportunities, visit [trainings.elcmdm.org](http://trainings.elcmdm.org).**



The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe invites you to join us for a curated panel of experts on a guided discussion to raise awareness about the issue of hunger. We will be discussing how we can all support and take action to help eradicate it.

*One of the greatest feelings in the world is knowing that we as individuals can make a difference. Ending hunger in America is a goal that is literally within our grasp.*

*- Jeff Bridges*



**PANELISTS**

**Paco Velez**  
President and CEO  
Feeding South Florida

**Shante' Haymore-Kearney**  
Program Manager, Miami  
COMMON THREADS

**LaVerne Holliday**  
Assistant Director  
Curley's House of Style, Inc/  
Hope Relief Food Bank

Join Us!

Thursday, September 15, 2016  
12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

David Lawrence Jr.  
Community Meeting Room  
Early Learning Coalition of  
Miami-Dade/Monroe  
2555 Ponce De Leon, Suite 500  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Register to participate at  
<http://trainings.elcmdm.org>



**Upcoming Events**

[Sensory Saturday at the Children's Museum](#)

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

[Cooking for Life Family Takeover Day](#)

Stay Connected

Join Our Mailing List!



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