



Early education. Lifelong success.

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

The year is rapidly coming to a close with many accomplishments that are making a big difference in the education of our community's youngest learners. We look ahead to 2017 as a year when new partnerships will be forged and new and exciting initiatives launched.

We encourage parents and caregivers to take advantage of the opportunities offered during the holiday season

when children are out of school. Incorporating reading into children's daily routine is important to their academic success, but so is play. Play is an integral part of a child's development as they grow and explore the world around them. For tips about choosing developmentally appropriate toys for young children this holiday season, please visit <http://www.naeyc.org/ecp/resources/goodtoys>.

The Coalition continues to work with community partners such as Florida International University, Family Central the United Way and others to bolster the quality of early education programs across Miami-Dade and Monroe. This month, we honored first-time accredited early education programs at our monthly board meeting. For further details on newly accredited programs, please see the Early Learning Coalition news below.

As the new year approaches, we prepare for Celebrate Literacy Week which will be January 23rd - January 27th. This year's featured books are from Head to Toe by Eric Carle (for infants and toddlers) and I Don't Want to Be a Frog by Dev Petty (for preschoolers). During Literacy Week, Early Learning Coalition board members, community partners and staff will visit early education providers and read with selected classrooms. Books will also be available for early education providers.

In January, the ELC Lunch Café will delve into the issue of human trafficking and its impact on South Florida. We invite you to attend this informational session and network with a cause. Lunch will be provided courtesy of [Corporate Caterers](#). To R.S.V.P, please contact ymartinez@elcmdm.org.

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

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





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 **Tina Ali** from **Growing Angels**. She has more than 10 years of experience in early education. Congratulations **Tina Ali**.



QUALITY COUNTS

Striving for High Quality Early Learning



Teacher Spotlight: November



Tina Ali

Teacher Name

Growing Angels

Program Name

Mixed Age Group

Classroom/ Age
Group

10

Number of Years in Early
Education

Tina Ali is a dedicated practitioner in the field of early education. She is not only motivated and eager, but also inspires and encourages others in the field. Active in the community, she searches for ways to engage and provide support for parents in the education of their children and sometimes, for the parents themselves. Ms. Ali's commitment to her children is evident in the care and attention she provides each child. Growing Angels (Ali's Family Child Care Home) was recently accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). We would like to congratulate Ms. Ali on this wonderful accomplishment!

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

Community Events

[November/December Community Events](#)

Early Learning Coalition Program Information and Updates

Featured Article:

Congratulations to the newly accredited early education centers and family child care homes who received accreditation for the first time in 2015-2016. We applaud you. At the Early Learning Coalition's December Board of Directors' meeting, we shared certificates with accreditation awardees. For the full list see link below. If you would like to learn more about Quality Counts, please contact qualitycounts@elcmdm.org.



1. [Full List of Newly Accredited Centers for 2015-2016](#)
2. [VPK Snapshots](#)
2. [ELC 2016-2017 Lunch Café Calendar](#)
3. [New Online Tool to Empower Florida Families](#)
4. [Early Head Start Now Accepting Applications](#)
5. [Child Care Resource and Referral Updates](#)
6. [Rule 6M-4.620, Health and Safety Checklists and Inspections](#)

In Early Education News

1. [Science Proves Reading to Kids Really Does Change Their Brains](#)
2. [Pretending to Understand What Babies Say Can Make Them Smarter](#)
3. [The Power of Routines](#)



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.

Featured Training:

Join us Thursday, January 12, 2017! Network, Learn, Change the World. ELC Lunch Cafés are **open to the public** and **free of charge**. To join one of our dynamic cafés, register at trainings.elcmdm.org.

ELC Café

It's More than Just Lunch: It's Networking



Networking Lunch
Learn something new!
Change the world!

Join the Early Learning Coalition as we raise awareness and connect members of the community. Business card exchange and raffle.

Thursday, January 12, 2017
11:30 a.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

RSVP to Yusneli Martinez
ymartinez@elcmdm.org or call 305-646-7220 x2266



Free lunch courtesy of
Corporate Caterers Miami

HUMAN TRAFFICKING in South Florida

What does it look like?
What can you do about it?
Why Miami?
Who is at risk?

This cafe raises awareness and gives a voice to the voiceless. Take a critical look at human trafficking impacts and how we, as a community, can take action for change.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

PANELISTS

Esther Jacobo
Chief Assistant State Attorney
Office of the State Attorney

Nathan Earl
Founder and CEO
Ark of Freedom

Tisha M. Pierre, LCSW
Regional Human Trafficking
Coordinator
Southeast and Southern
Region
Florida Department of
Children and Families

**Maria Clara Rodriguez
Harrington, MS**
Project GOLD Director
Kristi House

**Shawn Schwane, Ph.D.,
MBA, MSCM**
Professor in the Criminal
Justice Department
Miami Dade College



#networkforchange #elcmdm

Upcoming Events

[Celebrate Literacy Week!](#)










Early literacy is integral. Join the Early Learning Coalition as we celebrate the benefits of reading! Please click the link for this year's selected books and more details about Celebrate Literacy Week: [Celebrate Literacy Week Information](#)

SAVE THE DATE

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRESENTS THE 9TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK, FLORIDA!
LITERACY CHANGES OUR WORLD
JANUARY 23-27, 2017

Additional information concerning the Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! (CLW) POP-UP Literacy-Civics Quiz Show and the CLW Literacy-Civics Service Project Contest will be available soon. Start brainstorming today!

Follow us on Social Media @EducationFL using #CLW2017
Email CLW@fldoe.org for additional information.

[Free Kids Workshop at Home Depot](#)

[Wellness Wednesdays in the Gables](#)

[Koubek Center Launches Free Bilingual Family Series](#)

[Toddler Storytime at Palmetto Bay](#)

[42nd Annual Miami Harvest Festival](#)

[Lantern Light Festival](#)

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

Stay Connected



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Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

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