



For Immediate Release

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THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MIAMI-DADE/MONROE WILL HOST A BOOK DISTRIBUTION WITH GUEST READER ARTIST AND ILLUSTRATOR, SHERRY SWEET TEWELL

Books to be distributed to 28,000 children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties

WHAT: The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe will host a series of book distribution events for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

WHEN: Official Kick-Off Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2009
10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Inez Martin Child Development Center
1100 Varela St.
Key West, FL

WHY: The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties receive high-quality early care and education, has been awarded a \$125,000 grant from Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF), the nation's largest literacy organization. 28,000 children in 385 early care and education centers were selected by the ELC to receive books and build their own personal libraries. Of this total, 41 early care and education centers and family child care homes in Monroe County will be participating in the distribution of books to 1,292 children. The purpose of the program is to motivate children to develop a love of reading and to encourage parents to read to their children daily.

WHO: Artist and Illustrator, Sherry Sweet Tewell will participate as a special guest reader at the Inez Martin Child Development Center book distribution event. Ms. Tewell will be reading the children's book she created and illustrated entitled *Cosmo the Boat Cat* as well as leading the children in an art activity.

Book distribution dates are during the weeks of August 31, October 5 and November 5.

ABOUT THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MIAMI-DADE/MONROE: The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties receive high-quality early care and education. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary prekindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12-years-old and their families. For additional information, visit our website at www.elcmdm.org.