



Early Learning Coalition
of Miami-Dade/Monroe



In This Issue

[Important Announcements](#)

[Children's Movement of Florida](#)

[Team Member Spotlight](#)

[Miami-Dade County News Briefs](#)

[Monroe County News Briefs](#)

[Quality Counts](#)

Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Agency for Workforce Innovation](#)



Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, Jan. 25
2:30 p.m.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

[Donate Now](#)

ELC News Alert

Issue 1

January/February 2011

President's Message



Dear Friends,

Despite the continued economic challenges, we are excited about the progress we made in 2010 and the momentum we carried into 2011. Based on the growing interest in the Children's Movement of Florida and the turnout at its community events, it is clear that Floridians care deeply about the well-being and education of our infants, toddlers and all children.

The Association of Early Learning Coalitions has launched an initiative to ensure that children remain center stage and that State policies follow the science of how children learn and thrive. Additionally, the Early Learning Advisory Council continues to be very active and their governor-appointed, private-sector membership is fully committed to ensuring that Governor Rick Scott is fully aware of the challenges and economic growth opportunities in Florida's early education system.

We are also blessed that our good friends at the Florida Children's Services Council, the Florida AfterSchool Network, chambers of commerce throughout Florida, private foundations, child care providers and other partners continue to work in partnership with Early Learning Coalitions to ensure that all of Florida's children remain high on the list of funding priorities.

I wish you all the very best for the new year.

I remain at your service,

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

ELC Board Room

Audit

Wednesday, Jan. 26
9:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance

Monday, Jan. 31
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board

Monday, Feb. 7
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

**Joint Provider Services
& Monroe Advisory
Committees**

Friday, Feb. 11
1:00 p.m.
St. James Children's
Center, Islamorada

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, Feb. 22
3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

**Board Strategic
Planning Retreat**
Saturday, Feb. 26
8:30 a.m.

United Way of Miami-
Dade, Miami

For a complete
list of upcoming
Coalition
meetings and
events,
please visit our
website at
www.elcmdm.org.

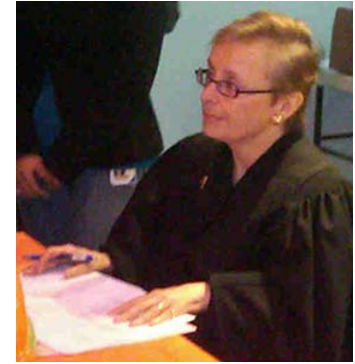
Contact us

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Important Announcements

Our Kids Honors Judge Cindy Lederman on National Adoption Day

On November 19, 2010, the Miami-Dade community gathered to celebrate National Adoption Day at the Miami Children's Museum. Our Kids, renowned for being the leading agency with the highest number of adoptions in the State, honored Judge Cindy Lederman for her tireless dedication to uniting new and loving families in adoption. Judge Lederman's unflinching advocacy was evident in her ruling against the 33-year-old law that prohibited gay couples from adopting in the State of Florida.



Pictured to the right is the Hon. Cindy Lederman performing an adoption at the National Adoption Day celebration at Miami Children's Museum.

AWI's Unemployment Compensation Hotline

For those who are unemployed and wish to inquire about their benefits, they may call AWI's Unemployment Compensation Hotline at 1-800-204-2418 or visit the agency's website at www.floridajobs.org. Hotline hours are 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The schedule is tentative however, and subject to change pending legislative updates.

Traditional Drop-Side Cribs have been Outlawed

After more than 30 infant and toddler deaths last year, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) officially outlawed the manufacture, sale, and re-sale of drop-side cribs. While these cribs were initially designed to aid parents in easily lifting their babies up and out via a drop-down side-rail, the results of malfunctioning and cheaply-made parts often led to tragedy as infants got caught in the partially detached rails.

More than nine million drop-side cribs have been recalled in the past five years. Parents and caregivers are advised to check that each part on the rail of their drop-down crib is properly and securely assembled. Also, please ensure your crib has not been recalled. For more information, please review the CPSC's press release on crib-safety at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml11/11074.html>.

GRANTS/AWARDS:

10th Annual Nonprofit Business NOVO Awards

Award Description: Recognizes non-profits exemplifying innovative excellence in three categories: 1) non-profits with an organizational budget of *less than \$2M*, 2) non-profits with an organizational budget of *\$2M and above*, and 3) outstanding board leader demonstrating the best in non-profit board service.

Deadline: Friday, February 11, 2011

For more information, please contact Jennifer Sanchez from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce at jsanchez@miamichamber.com or by calling 305-577-5451. To view a more comprehensive description and/or the application in its entirety, please visit www.elcmdm.org.

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Join Our Mailing List!



Children's Movement of Florida

The Children's Movement of Florida is a statewide, citizen-led, non-partisan campaign with the objective of educating political, business and civic leaders - and all parents in Florida - about the urgent need to improve the way we care for our children, making the well-being and education of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, Florida's highest priority. To learn more about

the movement, please visit www.childrensmovementflorida.org.

Team Member Spotlight

Nicole Bardin began her tenure at the ELC as the Quality Counts Data and Workflow Manager almost three years ago. Over time she transitioned into her current position, the program's Implementation and Workflow Manager. Nicole is responsible for managing the workflow of Quality Counts' quality rating improvement system (QRIS), assisting in the management of the program's web-based early learning system (WELS), building community partnerships and facilitating collaboration, quarterly and monthly reporting, and other special projects.



In her work at the Coalition, Nicole says she feels proud to be part of the team that administers Quality Counts, a quality enrichment program that impacts the lives of children, families, and early childhood professionals in Miami-Dade County. Also just as meaningful to her is, "my own personal and professional development in this position. I can work full-time and complete my doctorate in educational leadership with a focus in technology."

Nicole's previous professional experience included tenures in child welfare; eligibility, determination, and enrollment (case management); and stints in both early childhood and high-school education as a teacher.

In her free time Nicole enjoys spending time with her husband and yellow lab named Buddha.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

[ELC's BOD Approves a Provider Reimbursement Rate Alignment](#)

The Early Learning Coalition's Board of Directors approved a reimbursement rate alignment for those providers who meet the requirements and have had rate changes since January 1, 2010, as reported on the most recent market rate survey. The goal of this adjustment is to ensure all eligible providers are in line to receive the maximum reimbursement rate provided by the Coalition. For a schedule of the maximum rates, please visit

<http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/schoolreadiness/0809ProviderPayRatesMiami.pdf>.

Please note that reimbursement rates paid by the Coalition cannot exceed the rates charged for private-pay children.

If you have any questions, please contact Jackye Russell at 305-646-7220.

ELC Board Approves Two New Important Provider Policies

Two new important provider policies have been approved by the Coalition's Board. One policy requires that School Readiness providers in Miami-Dade County receiving federal and state funds must become licensed by July 1, 2010.

The other is the Child Safety and Licensing Policy which states that providers who have one Class I violation or two Class II violations within a twelve-month period will be notified of possible suspension from the School Readiness program. Both policies are implemented to ensure that only the highest quality care, education, and safety are provided for our children. To learn more details about each policy, please visit www.elcmdm.org.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

Download the Newly Revised VPK Provider Agreement and Forms 10 & 11

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) has revised VPK-Forms 10, 11, and the Provider Agreement. These forms will be used starting with the summer VPK applications and are currently available on our website at <http://www.vpkhelp.org/policies-and-forms/forms.html>. For those in the process of completing the VPK application and in need of hands-on assistance, we have provided the following training sessions:

DATES: Now through January 24, 2011

TIMES: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: ELC Office, 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 5th Floor, Coral Gables

Please note that parking will *not* be validated, and space is limited for each session. To reserve your spot at a training, please call Ms. Elizabeth Machado at 305-646-7220, ext. 229. Only one person per site is permitted.

VPK Trainings - January 2011

Florida VPK Assessment Training - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

North Dade

St. John the Apostle School, 479 East 4 Street, Hialeah

- Tuesday, February 8, 2011; Reference #1139
- Tuesday, March 8, 2011; Reference #1142

South Dade

Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Bldg. G, Room 206, Homestead

- Thursday, February 10, 2011; Reference #1148
- Thursday, March 10, 2011; Reference #1150

Special Instructions: Participants must bring their Florida VPK Assessment Kits to participate in the training and receive the **FREE** 0.3 CEUs. The training begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted--**NO EXCEPTIONS**. Thank you for your cooperation.

2008 VPK Standards Training - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

North Dade

St. John the Apostle School, 479 East 4 Street, Hialeah

- Tuesday, January 18, 2011; Reference #1138
- Tuesday, February 22, 2011; Reference #1140
- Tuesday, March 22, 2011; Reference #1145

South Dade

Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Bldg. G, Room 206, Homestead

- Thursday, January 20, 2011; Reference #1147
- Thursday, February 24, 2011; Reference #1149
- Thursday, March 24, 2011; Reference #1151

Special Instructions: Training begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted--**NO EXCEPTIONS**. The course is \$10.00 and must be paid for at the time of registration. Please go to Step 4 when registering. VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Please note that cash and/or checks will not be accepted at the training, and there are **NO REFUNDS**. You will receive 0.3 CEUs for your attendance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

Conscious Discipline Workshop

Saturday, January 22, 2011; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (one-hour lunch break on your own)

Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway (MM 102), Key Largo

Special Presenter: Elizabeth Montero-Cefalo

Cost: \$10

Participants will receive handouts, materials and six in-service hours. For more information or to register, contact Laurie Dunn 305-809-5000

Florida Keys 40th Annual UM/AHEC Health Fair

Saturday, January 22, 2011; 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The University of Miami Health System and the Florida Keys Area Health and Education Center are sponsoring the 40th annual health fair. The following FREE screenings and services include: skin cancer, vision, colorectal cancer, pap smears, breast exams, HIV, Hepatitis B vaccines (Key West), bone density, blood sugar (diabetes), blood pressure, mental health, male genital and rectal exams, and smoking cessation.

Children's health screenings will be available in Key West and Marathon. There is a \$5 fee for blood cholesterol testing. *For accurate blood sugar and cholesterol results, please do not eat or drink anything other than water 8-10 hours prior to attending the fair. Optional: Pre-Registration is two weeks prior on Saturday, January 8, 2011; 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at site locations.

Site Locations:

- Fishermen's Hospital, 3301 Overseas Hwy., Marathon
- Big Pine Methodist and Baptist Churches, 280 Key Deer Blvd. (pre-registration is at the Big Pine Key Senior Center at 380 Key Deer Blvd. behind the firehouse)
- Key West High School, 2100 Flagler Ave.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) 3rd Book Distribution- Week of January 31st

Providers are reminded to start planning their literacy activities and contact the Monroe ELC office if they need assistance and/or resources. Also, please keep this office informed of any special events planned during the distribution week. Packing slips should be retained in a secure location and will be picked up by Monroe ELC staff.

Joint Provider Services Committee & Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting Friday, February 11, 2011; 1:00 p.m.

St. James Children's Center, 87500 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada

Please join ELC Provider Services Committee board members, Monroe Advisory Committee board members, President and CEO Evelio Torres, ELC staff and our community partners as we discuss important information of interest and concern to our early care and education provider community. Provider participation is strongly encouraged in-person, via conference call or via videoconferencing. To participate via conference call, the call-in number is 1-888-813-8477, pass code 143130.

Early Care Teachers and Family Child Care Home Providers Complete FCCPC Training Program

Sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe through a Klaus Murphy Foundation scholarship grant, two Key West area child care teachers and three family child care home providers recently completed the ten-month Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) training program provided by Wesley House Family Services.



Pictured from left to right: Nicole Kendall; Amy Stubblefield; Rebecca Vater; and Kathy Inners, Instructor. Not pictured: Jessica Segura and Monica Wittenmyer.

Quality Counts

Early care and education centers voluntarily participate in Quality Counts (QC), Miami-Dade County's quality rating improvement system, for a variety of reasons, perhaps the primary being formal validation (the star rating!) for providing high-quality care for children.

Quality Counts encourages its providers to promote the fact that they are 'proudly

participating' in Quality Counts and publicize their individual star rating. This is a great opportunity to let your parents and community know that your focus on high-quality is making a difference in the lives of the children in your care.

The Children's Trust via Quality Counts at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has created a CD-Rom filled with templates and tools to market your QC status, regardless of whether you are star-rated or not. The Quality Counts Marketing Toolkit is now available to QC-participating centers on The Children's Trust website at <http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/quality-counts-qrisc#links>. This link can only be activated with a password which you must acquire from the Quality Counts office at the ELC at 305-646-7242. Please note that you must be an active center or family child care home participating in Quality Counts to access this password-protected file.

Also, please visit the "Our Programs" list on The Children's Trust website; it includes QC-participating providers with their current star ratings and is accessible to everyone at <http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/program-directory>. Select "Child Care Center" or search for your favorite program. Please note that the Coalition is working on a similar webpage to be unveiled soon.

Quality Counts realizes that in today's economy every opportunity to promote your business is valuable. Promote your Quality Counts participation with pride!

Please Inform Quality Counts if you are a First-Time Accredited Provider!

The ELC would like to recognize child care centers and family child care homes that achieved accreditation for the first time between January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. If you achieved any Florida-approved accreditation in 2010, please contact Oderay Veliz at 305-646-7220, ext. 232.

Save the Date

*Public Workshop for Rule Development for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program
Thursday, January 27, 2011; 2:00 p.m.*

To join the teleconference, please call 1-888-808-6959 and enter conference code 488-4900. For additional details and to learn proposed rule changes, please visit <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare/new.shtml>.

Join the QC Team for a Healthy Living Training

Healthy Living Trainings address ways to prevent obesity and live a healthier lifestyle. Sessions are presented in both English and Spanish and are a perfect opportunity to earn in-service credit hours. Breakfast will also be provided. For a schedule of session dates in January and to learn the list of training locations, please visit <http://elcndm.org/downloads/QChealthyliving.pdf>.

Early education. Life-long success.



www.elcndm.org



Join our
mailing
list