



October/
November
2016



Early education. Lifelong success.

Quick Links

[Teacher of the Month](#)

[Community Events](#)

[In Early Education News](#)

[Professional Development Institute](#)

[Upcoming Events and Resources](#)

Connect With Us!



President's Message



Dear Friends:

We thank you for participating in Read for the Record on October 27, 2016. Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties had more than 7,700 readers and the Early Learning Coalition distributed more than 4,000 copies of "A Bear Ate Your Sandwich." In partnership with the Miami-Dade Public Library System, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe announced its "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" initiative in conjunction with Read for the Record. Our Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing project is now in full swing. In addition to our partnership with Univision's Pequeños y Valiosos, now, all callers to 211™ Switchboard hear helpful tips for promoting literacy in children. Additionally, tote bags with books and child-sized clothing items

are being distributed to new moms at Holtz Children's Hospital and to families who visit Jackson Health's four community clinics and seven federally qualified health centers partnering with the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade.

Be sure to stop by your local public library branch where you'll find a wealth of "Talk, Read, Sing" information including posters, bookmarks, tip sheets and books that you and your family can personalize at home. This ongoing initiative highlights Miami as a "talking is teaching" city where increased communication through every day activities produces socio-emotional bonds and the tools to facilitate long-term educational success.

On October 30, 2016, the Early Learning Coalition celebrated Children's Day in Key West. Staff from the Key West office engaged dozens of families, distributed information, led sensory activities and provided books to many of the children who attended.

In the month of November, we continue our community outreach, in-depth trainings through the Professional Development Institute and more. The Early Learning Coalition will promote early literacy and reading with the Miami Book Fair, a signature event where staff engage parents, families and early education providers via our information booth and "Tot Lot" tent. Community partners will join us to create interactive activities for families and children. We invite you to join us Friday, November 18, 2016.

As we turn to the holiday season, we welcome you on November 17, 2016 to experience one of our monthly cafés. This month's theme is "Re-imagining Thanksgiving." This café features a courtesy lunch sponsored by Kaplan Early Learning Company and will be an opportunity to share your voice as to how you came to the "American Table". As always, the community is welcome to join us for these powerful discussions.

We thank you for your continued partnership.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelio C. Torres".

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

TALKING **I**STEACHING **MIAMI**



LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW CAMPAIGN!
#LETSTALKMIAMI



MEAL TIME IS TALK TIME

WHILE GROCERY SHOPPING OR EATING TOGETHER, USE WORDS TO COMPARE THE SIZE, SHAPE, AND TEXTURE OF FOODS.



#MEALTIMETALKTIME
TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG



You can make grocery shopping more fun by talking about the colors, shapes and textures of the fruits and vegetables you see. You can say: *"Wow, look at this humongous, round, green striped watermelon. It's so big! What other foods are big?"*

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 **Agueda Cruz** from **Mini Me Day Care Learning Center I, Inc.** She has more than 37 years of experience in early education. Congratulations Agueda Cruz.



QUALITY COUNTS

Striving for High Quality Early Learning



Teacher Spotlight: October



Agueda Cruz

Teacher Name

Mini Me Day Care Learning Center
1, Inc.

Program Name

One Year Olds

Classroom/ Age
Group

37

Number of Years in Early
Education

Ms. Agueda Cruz is passionate about the children she teaches and always willing to learn. She has participated in two Communities of Practice (Powerful Interactions and Early Learning Florida's Infant Toddler Social Emotional Development) within the last year to further develop her skills in the classroom. Because she understands the importance of developing a strong relationship with parents, she makes it a priority to involve them in their children's education. Ms. Agueda Cruz is truly a leader and her commitment to early education extends beyond her classroom. She regularly volunteers for community events and assists in organizing events hosted at Mini Me Day Care Learning Center. Her caring nature, years of experience, and commitment to children and their families make her an asset not only to her program, but also to the community.

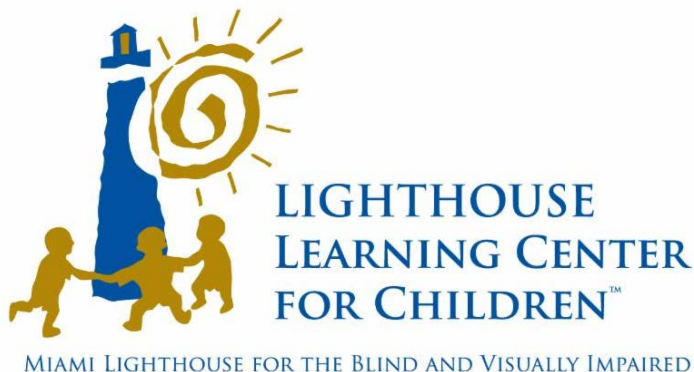
Quality Counts would like to recognize and thank Ms. Agueda Cruz for her commitment to quality early childhood education!

Community Events

[October Community Events](#)

In Early Education News

Feature Article:



1. [Lighthouse Learning Center for Children](#)
2. [Child Care Resource & Referral Updates](#)
3. [Thanksgiving Food Safety Tips](#)
4. [NYTimes: CMV Is a Greater Threat to Infants Than Zika, but Far Less Often Discussed](#)
5. HIPPY Success Stories:
 - [Parent Testimony](#)
 - [Parent Testimony](#)
 - [Parent Testimony](#)
6. [Transforming Cities into Learning Landscapes](#)
7. [Fall Books for Preschoolers](#)
8. [Danger of E-Cigarettes to Children](#)

Girl Scout Troop #339 volunteered and read with a group of eager preschoolers at the Shore School in Miami Shores. The girls jumped right in and read as well as did a host of activities. We thank Girl Scout Troop #339 for your wonderful early education service.



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.

Upcoming Events



[Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference](#)

[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



Sponsored by



OFFICE OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Miami-Dade: 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134 305-646-7220
Monroe: 1111 12 St, Suite 206, Key West, FL 33040 305-296-5557