



Early education. Lifelong success.

Quick Links

- [Teacher of the Month](#)
- [in Early Education News](#)
- [Early Program Information and Updates](#)
- [Professional Development Institute](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Resources](#)

Connect With Us!



President's Message



Dear Friends:

We are excited to welcome you to the start of a brand new school year. Children across the state are starting their [First Day of VPK](#), and we invite you to share your pictures on your social media channels with the VPK overlay as featured on our [Early Learning Coalition Facebook](#) page. The beginning of the school year is always a special time and we hope that your school year gets off to a strong start.

The Early Learning Coalition is committed to promoting quality learning programs and environments. Each year, the Early Learning Coalition hosts the [Children First Conference](#), to provide teachers, families and the extended community with the knowledge, tools, and network they need to capitalize on the golden opportunity we have to impact a child's life during the first five years. We are now just over a week away from the conference date and seats are filling up fast. Join us as national and statewide experts and speakers lead conversations, inspire great ideas and deliver the latest in best practices. If you have already registered for the Children First Conference, be sure to download the Children First Conference app in [Google Play Store](#) or the [Apple App Store](#) which has all that you need to make for a successful, networking and conference event.

Summer temperatures are still quite high. We remind you to be sure to [look before you lock](#), and have a great, safe start to a new school year!

As always, we thank you for your partnership and encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for up-to-date information on programs and events.

Sincerely,



Evellio C. Torres
President & CEO

Pledge today to [Unplug and Connect](#).



Teacher of the Month (July)

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 **Marla Mitjans** from **Kids Rainbow Learning Center II**. She has more than **19 years of experience** in early education. Congratulations **Marla Mitjans**.



Teacher Spotlight:
July



Marla Mitjans

Teacher Name

Kids Rainbow Learning Center II

Program Name

VPK

Classroom/ Age Group

19

Number of Years in Early Education

With over 19 years of experience, Ms. Marla Mitjans has given her students the confidence and knowledge they need to be successful in kindergarten. Through rich educational experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, the children develop a love of learning and a sense of curiosity. Her students' enthusiasm and eagerness are unmistakable. She is able to adjust her teaching to accommodate all learning styles and promote a sense of community in her classroom. She exceeds expectations with her teaching abilities and is always patient and kind with her students.

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

In Early Education News

Featured Article: [Read for the Record](#)



Join the Early Learning Coalition for the week of **October 14, 2017-October 21, 2017**, as we celebrate reading and its ability to bond, create vocabulary, grow minds, broaden horizons and communities.

We will be reading the Jumpstart selected book, **Quackers**, at select locations throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Save the dates of the following two events for providers to join in on the reading fun!
[#miamireads](#) [#elcmdm](#) [#talkreading](#)

Both events are free and open to the public.

Institute of Contemporary Arts

October 15, 2017
4040 NE 2nd Ave
Miami, FL
Doors Open at 3 pm

History of Miami

October 19, 2017
101 W Flagler St,
Miami, FL
Doors Open at 2 pm



VPK is free for children who reside in Florida and will be 4 years old by Sept. 1 of the year they enroll. Parents whose children are born between Feb. 2 and Sept. 1 of the calendar year may postpone enrolling their 4-year-old until the following year when

their child is 5.

- Results of kindergarten screenings have consistently shown that children who complete VPK are more prepared for kindergarten than those who do not complete or do not attend VPK.
- One of the first states to offer free prekindergarten to all 4-year-olds, Florida leads all other states in access.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, about 76 percent of Florida's 4-year-olds more than 165,000 children were enrolled in VPK.
- Approximately 6,200 private, public and charter schools and private child care centers offer VPK.
- There are school year and summer VPK programs as well as specialized instructional services for 4-year-olds with special needs.

Early Learning Coalition Program Information and Updates

- [Monroe County Updates](#)
- [CCR&R Updates](#)
- [VPK Assessment Online Ordering 2017-18 VPK Program Year](#)

[VPK Assessment Online Ordering](#)

- [Health and Safety Provider Pointers](#)

Community Events

[August Community Events](#)



Children First Conference
September 8 - 9, 2017 / 7am-5pm

Miami Airport & Convention Center
Double Tree by Hilton
711 NW 72nd Ave, Miami, FL 33126

Register for Children First Conference at
<https://register.eventmobi.com/2017CFC/landing>

Logos for Early Learning Coalition, Early Learning, and other partners.

Children First Conference Registration is still open,
but seats are rapidly disappearing.
Be sure to register at trainings.elcndm.org

Conference Tracks

Family Literacy
Health Promotion and Prevention'
Literacy in the Classroom
School Readiness
Quality Learning Environments
Support for Administration
Curriculum
Child Development
Inclusion
Family Partnerships
Community Wellness
Parent Engagement
Infant Mental Health

Upcoming Events

[Super Sealant Day : Free Community Event in Hialeah](#)

[History Miami Free Family Fun Day](#)

[University of Miami Promoting Wellness](#)

[Free Kids Workshop at Home Depot](#)

[Wellness Wednesdays in the Gables](#)

[Toddler Storytime at Palmetto Bay](#)

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

Stay Connected

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

