



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 entering the season of spring and rebirth.

During the 2018 Florida legislative session progress was made enhancing some existing programs and creating important new initiatives.

These include:

- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education - \$10 million for early childhood scholarships
- Performance Funding - \$15.5 million to reward child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes
- School Readiness Teacher Training - \$3 million for statewide professional learning instructors
- Program Assessment for School Readiness Providers - \$6 million providing development of a program assessment and requirements for School Readiness providers

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,

Evelio C. Torres  
President & CEO

**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.

**QUALITY COUNTS**  
Striving for High Quality Early Learning

**Teacher Spotlight:**  
**February**

Maria Estrada  
Teacher Name

South Miami Hospital Early Learning Center  
Program Name

2 Year Olds  
Classroom Age Group

5 years  
Number of Years in Early Education

There are many ways to describe a good teacher, but we can all agree that the single most important quality every early education teacher should possess is love. Ms. Maria completely embodies this quality. She encourages her students and supports both academic and social development in the classroom. Ms. Maria works extremely hard to make sure her students receive a well-rounded, quality education. She is always willing to learn new things from her peers in order to improve her craft as a teacher. Ms. Maria challenges herself to go beyond her limits and meets each and every one her goals. In addition to her enthusiastic approach to learning, Maria is a genuine caring being. She is sincere and uplifts with everyone.

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

**QUALITY COUNTS**  
Striving for High Quality Early Learning

**Teacher Spotlight:**  
**March**

Terlys Fabrega  
Teacher Name

Beautiful Beginnings Preschool 5

	Teacher Program Name
	Toddler: 1 year old Classroom Age Group
	11 years Number of Years in Early Education

Ms. Berlys is a wonderful teacher. Every morning she receives the children with a warm hug and a huge smile. Her joyful and patient demeanor makes classroom routines fun and learning opportunities endless. Her lesson plans offer a variety of creative learning techniques. Using the S.T.E.A.M. curriculum, she recognizes the importance of preparing the environment and recycled materials drive the children's creative minds. Her dedication to their development is evident. She understands the importance of open communication with the families to help support their progress. Ms. Berlys encourages this by providing parents with a detailed report that outlines their child's activities and personal care routines throughout the day in order to support these best practices at home. She has completed her FCCPC and began Florida International University's bilingual program in the spring to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with hopes of one day running her own early education center.

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

### In Early Education News



The ELC staff donated monies to purchase 55 teddy bears to donate to the Miami Beach Police Department. The police department will give the bears to young children they encounter in stressful situations.



Aguamarina Pre-School, Brickell Campus, held class elections on March 21, 2018 and issued a community newspaper stressing good citizenship and community involvement, environmental awareness, importance of education and learning and saying no to violence.

### Monroe News

#### CHILD CARE CENTER RE-OPENINGS/HURRICANE RECOVERY

Kreative Kids was able to re-open in February. As of March 2, 2018 they have 22 full time preschool and 19 aftercare children for a total of 41 enrolled.



*Newly renovated VPK room at Kreative Kids*

Demming Family Child Care home has been inspected by DCF and is awaiting the licensing paper work to be approved in order to open. Mrs Demming is hoping this will happen within the month. Child Care Aware is working on rebuilding the playground.





New child care room at Demming Family Child Care Home

Anabel Espinosa, along with Laurie Dunn led a parent focus group at Community Co-Op on March 1, 2018. There were 9 parents participating and they all enjoyed the opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the hurricane. Diana Ragbeer led a similar focus group session on March 14 with 8 parents at St. James Children's Center. The results of the conversations will be shared with Save the Children.

Laurie Dunn and Michele Morgan will begin the Junior Journey of Hope preschool psycho-social trainings to children in childcare centers on March 19. They will start with 2 centers in Marathon for 8 weeks then will expand into other centers throughout the Keys. Members of the Inclusion team in Miami may be offering support to cover centers in the Upper Keys.

**OTHER NEWS**

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) recently completed 271 health screenings of School Readiness children in the childcare centers.

Nine children of ALICE families have been enrolled through the Child Care Executive Partnership/Purchasing Pool in Key Largo funded by an Ocean Reef grant through United Way of the Florida Keys.



Featured from left to right Ashley Moodie (Eligibility Specialist, Key Largo Office Early Learning Coalition), Kim Carrier Ellis (Director of St. Justin Martyr Preschool in Key Largo), Leah Stockton (Incoming President/CEO United Way of the Florida Keys) and Diana Ragbeer (Managing Director, Monroe County Early Learning Coalition)

**Talking with Children During Stressful Times**

On a more somber note the last several weeks we have read and heard stories about children committing acts of violence, against other children. Also, we have read and heard about the brave young students demanding we take a stand against these senseless acts. There are many things we can do as educators and parents to support our children as they grow and learn.

According to the American Psychological Association, educators and parents play a valuable role in reducing violence by exposing children to safe and loving environments, be it the classroom or the home. We can partner to recognize the stress and distress our children often face by providing safe spaces for children to verbalize and dramatize their feelings. Also, we must recognize the importance of the parent role in the life of their child.

A few tips we can follow:

- Talk with your child. Answer their questions, acknowledge their worries and concerns, show them you are interested in what they have to say and in some cases agree to disagree.
- Keep the home a safe place. Plan a family night around a favorite activity.
- Watch for signs of stress, fear or anxiety. They may have trouble sleeping, changes in their appetite or how they handle normal situations. Again, acknowledge the behavior and talk to them about it.
- Schedule their exposure to television, social media and computer games.

The American Academy of Pediatrics released recommendations for children's use of "screen" media:

- Birth through 18 months avoid all screen media-phones, tablets, TVs and computers.
- 18 months to 2 years it is okay to introduce young children to high-quality media if you watch it with them and help them to understand what they are seeing.
- 2 to 5 years limit screen use to one hour a day of high quality programs designed for children. Again watch with them, explain what they are seeing and how it applies to them.

We hope the above information is of use to you and initiates conversations with the children in your life.

**Early Learning Coalition Program Information and Updates**

1. [Early Head Start Enrollment](#)
2. [Capitol Connection](#)
3. [Read to Learn Book Club](#)
4. [Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2018-2019 Kindergarten Enrollment](#)

**Professional Development Institute**

The Professional Development Institute, a division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, is pleased to provide professional development for our providers.

**April 2018 FEATURED TRAINING**



FEATURED TRAINING  
Basic Computer Education for Early Learning Providers

This course is an introduction to the personal computers for beginners. This course introduction will provide



very basic fundamental understanding of personal computers from having them on to producing a simple "typed" document out of a printer.

- Objectives:**
- The student will define and/or identify (terminology) such terminology as: E-mail, Word, One, Excel, Power, Internet, CD-ROM, DVD, Multimedia, Personal, Properties, Access, etc.
  - The student will identify the basic components of a computer and describe the function of each.
  - Students will learn basic application: identifying opening to enter a word processor, file, spreadsheet, presentation software and other applications on how to enter such as a letter or notes.
  - Students will learn basic database navigation, which includes opening and closing windows, creating a small document, using the document and printing.

**TRAINING CALENDAR**

The Professional Development Institute, a division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade County, is pleased to provide professional development for our providers. The following courses are now available for registration on the PDI website: <http://trainings.elcndm.org>.

TRAINING TITLE
Basic Computer Education for Early Learning Providers
Overview of the Florida Core Competencies for Early Childhood Directors (0.3 CEU)
Implementing My Teaching Strategies GOLD
Playing with Gender: When Children Challenge Our Expectations (0.4 CEU)
¿Qué hay en la caja? Descubriendo el Curriculo Creativo para Bebés y Niños Pequeños (0.4 CEU)
Overview of the Florida Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Practitioners (0.3 CEU)
From Negative to Positive: Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom (0.4 CEU)
Promoting Bilingualism in the Classroom (0.4 CEU)
Developing Oral Language (0.4 CEU)
Age and Stage Questionnaire ASQ3 (0.2 CEU)

Cuentos con de Fabelas y Hadas (ASQ3) (0.2 CEU)
Alfabetización Emergente: Desarrollo del Lenguaje Oral (Below/Whos/How/What) (0.4 CEU)
Let Language Lead the Way: Promoting Language Learning (0.4 CEU)
The Role of Book Reading (0.4 CEU)
Positive Educators: Why It's Good to Feel Good (0.4 CEU)
Introduction to CLASS Pre-K
The Learning Environment in Preschool (0.4 CEU)
Unpacking the Creative Curriculum for Preschool: What's in the box? (0.4 CEU)
Introduction to CLASS Infant and Toddler
Apply Emotionally Conductual on all Auto para Niños Presentation (0.4 CEU)
Get Organized a Toolkit for Early Learning Professionals (0.4 CEU)

FOR A DETAILED TRAINING CALENDAR, VISIT [TRAININGS.ELCNDM.ORG](http://TRAININGS.ELCNDM.ORG).



**I. Emergent Literacy: Developing Oral Language (Infants/Toddlers)**

This course is based on the latest research on early language and literacy and its implications on other areas of development for infants/toddlers. Participants will learn the components of language as a way to understand and help infants/toddlers develop their own skills in communication. They will learn how to use specific strategies to develop receptive and expressive vocabulary through developmentally appropriate activities.

**Course Core Concepts:**

- Components of language
- Stages of language development
- Assessment and screen
- Interact with children
- Literacy development
- Strategies to support children with special needs
- Strategies to support children whose second language is English

**II. From Negative to Positive: Managing Challenging Behaviors in The Classroom**

Participants will learn evidence-based strategies to support the social-emotional development of preschool children while nurturing positive relationships. They will also explore a scientific approach to reducing and replacing challenging behaviors with appropriate responses.

Registration is required. Go to the PDI website of <http://trainings.elcndm.org> to register. CEU: 0.4 CEU and course # 00000 for completion of this training. Training and CEU fee free.

**TRAINING DATES & TOPIC/LANGUAGE & TIME**

Saturday, April 14 (9:30 am – 1:30 pm) (Choose one session)

- Development of Oral Language: Infant/Toddler – English
- From Negative to Positive: Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom – Spanish

Sunday, April 20 (9:30 am – 1:30 pm) (Choose one session)

- Development of Oral Language: Infant/Toddler – Spanish
- From Negative to Positive: Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom – English

Attendance Policy: Participants attending more than 75% of the training session will receive a certificate of completion (CEU). Please be prepared to bring an ID card and photo of the training.

For additional information contact: Professional Development Institute  
[info@ncdelearninginstitute.org](mailto:info@ncdelearninginstitute.org), 301.664.7222 ext. 2335

**LOCATION:**  
 MacArthur Lakeside School  
 325 123rd Street, SW  
 Marietta, GA 30060

The courses are now available for registration on the PDI website: <http://trainings.elcndm.org>.



**Learn How To Successfully Grow Your Business!**

Expand your revenues through multi-unit development, additional grade levels, understanding classroom ratios, building enrollments, and starting a food program. Maximize your revenues with Early Head Start and School Readiness partnerships.

Conference Begins 8:30 - 3PM | Registration At 8AM



Bennett College - South Campus  
 2200 Pines Road, Building 608  
 Fayetteville, NC, 28426

**REGISTER HERE**

**Upcoming Events**

[Free Tax Preparation](#)

[History Miami Free Family Fun Day](#)



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Monroe: 1111 12 St, Suite 206, Key West, FL 33040 305-296-5557