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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Child Health Screening Project Underway Keys-wide**

Key West, FL - December 22<sup>nd</sup> - For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELC) is partnering with the Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (Florida Keys AHEC) to provide comprehensive child health screenings for approximately 450 School Readiness children, ages birth to five, receiving subsidized child care through Wesley House. Funding for this project has been made available to the Florida Keys AHEC through a grant from the Human Services Advisory Board of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners with additional support provided by the ELC.

The Florida Keys AHEC medical team is conducting the screenings on-site at 19 child care centers and 34 family child care homes Keys-wide. The comprehensive health screening includes vision, hearing, ear/nose/throat, oral/dental, skin/scalp/hygiene, asthma/respiratory, nutrition, height/weight, medical history review, injury review and immunization review.

Financial assistance is available (as funding permits) to parents of School Readiness children, who require follow-up medical and/or specialty care. School readiness parents who cannot afford medical care, are uninsured or underinsured may receive assistance from Florida Keys AHEC. Non-subsidized, private pay children may also participate in the health screening program for a nominal \$10 fee.

For additional information, contact the Early Learning Coalition Monroe office at 296-5557 or Florida Keys AHEC at 743-7111.

#### **About Early Childhood Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe**

**The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring early education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children, ages birth to 12, along with their families. For more information, please visit [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).