



# January 2019

- Having a baby in the New Year?
- What you can do to prevent the flu
- Play at school
- Remember to celebrate literacy



[Click to read the January issue.](#)

## Office of Early Learning Updates

### *New Commissioner of Education*

*Brings new leadership to education in Florida*

In mid-December, the State Board of Education unanimously moved to appoint former House Speaker Richard Corcoran as Florida's Commissioner of Education. As speaker, Corcoran was a strong proponent for education and, as commissioner, he promises to emphasize opportunities for children.



### *Preschool Development Grant*

*OEL gets good news at beginning of new year.*

OEL applied for a Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five in late 2018 and got a notice of award for around 70 percent of the original request for \$8,520,000 in federal grant funds. The grant period is from 12/31/2018 through 12/30/2019. OEL will begin working with the Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care to revise the project plan. The two biggest tasks to complete are an updated and expanded statewide needs assessment and a strategic plan.



# Disaster Relief for Child Care Centers

## FLORIDA EARLY LEARNING DISASTER RELIEF

*FELDR gives grants to child care centers impacted by Hurricane Michael*

Recovery seems impossible when a majority of child care centers and family child care homes children rely on suffer disaster-related damage and cannot operate. The Florida Early Learning Disaster Relief was created with this in mind.

Its purpose is to assist child care centers, Head Start programs and family child care homes in danger of closing, temporarily or permanently, due to a natural disaster. Through a collaboration of state and national partners, FELDR provides small grants to child care programs in need of repair so they can open their doors to children and families as soon as possible. For more information about how FELDR can help, visit [www.fldisasterrelief.org](http://www.fldisasterrelief.org).



### N-E-W-S

### Early learning highlights from North, East, West and South Florida

## ***ELC of Northwest Florida Implements HaRP Project***

The [Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida](#) began their own effort after Hurricane Michael's devastating path through the Florida Panhandle. ELCNWF started the Hope and Recovery Project (HaRP). Here are some articles about their efforts from the [Chipley Bugle](#), the [Chipley Paper](#) and [WJHG](#).



## ***Coalition Wins Two Grants to Start 2019***

***Manatee ELC earns \$8K and \$5K grants to support annual events.***

The [Manatee County ELC](#) got good news to begin 2019. First, they won an \$8,000 grant from the Conquistador Historical Foundation to sponsor the Children's Parade and Party in the Park. This year's parade will take place Friday, Apr. 19, in Palmetto.

Then they learned they had received a \$5,000 MLK Day of Service grant from the State College of Florida to provide 1,325 quality children's books that promote diversity and harmony among all cultures to children from birth through 12 years of age at multiple locations in Manatee County. The books will lead children to aspire to an even greater understanding of Martin Luther King, Jr's legacy and the world around them.



## ***Southwest Florida ELC Shares Look Back***

The [ELC of Southwest Florida](#) captured a sample of 2018's more visual outreach activities on video. To see them, click [here](#).



## ***What do ice cream, core values and traveling have in common?***

Flip through the pages of the [ELC of Duval's](#) winter issue of their newsletter [In the Loop](#) to find out. Read articles about those activities and more.



**Early Learning Coalition of Duval**  
Your One-Stop Early Learning Resource

## ***Coalition Shows Giving Spirit Gifts of food make holidays happy.***

The **Duval ELC**, along with PNC Bank, collected enough food items to fill at least 25 bags of food to give to those in need during the holiday season. The coalition alone collected cabbages, celery, bags of potatoes, cans of green beans, boxes of corn muffin mix, containers of frosting, bags of onions and cans of pie filling.



## ***Coalition Partners Donate Hundreds of Toys***

**Make holiday difference for families**

Two companies in Central Florida were helping hands for the **ELC of Orange County** when it came to making holidays happy for families in the coalition's early care and education centers. Marriott Vacation Club and 9Round Fitness partnered with the ELC to benefit numerous families.



## ***Traveling Toddlers***

**Disney donates strollers to coalition**

Thanks to their friends at Disney, the **Seminole ELC** was able to give away strollers to child care providers for the benefit of the families they serve and the children at their centers.



Contact: Communications, Office of Early Learning  
250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399  
866 357 3239

