

Early Learning Update

Office of Early Learning

Father's Day Edition

JUNE 2019

Topics for
the Month

Fathers Day

VPK Graduating Class

Around the State

Information and news about early learning in Florida.



IN THIS ISSUE

Dads Count

Even from birth, children who have an involved father or male role model are more likely to be emotionally secure, be confident to explore their surroundings, and, as they grow older, have better social connections. [Zero to Three – The Daddy Factor](#)

Families are the center of the universe for babies and young children. Their lives revolve around the care and interactions with their parents, siblings and close family members. Throughout their lives, children depend on their families for their health, well-being and education. Years ago, researchers focused on the interactions and activities involving babies and young children and their mothers. Mothers were recognized as the primary adult in the lives of their children and fathers were seldom regarded as a prominent influence on babies and young children. Times have changed and families have changed as well. Current research shows that dads are as important as moms in the lives of young children and are a big influence on their children's development. In situations where there is no dad present, it was found that other males such as extended family, family friends, role models in the community or in a religious organization can serve as a substitute for a dad. The type and time of interactions with the male role model showed similar outcomes as those of dads in the research. The unique role that dads play in the life of their children begins before the birth of the child. Zero to Three reports, *“Research shows that when the father is involved in the pregnancy—providing mom with help and support—he is also likely to be involved in parenting later on: reading with his child, performing caregiving tasks, and providing emotional support to the child throughout development.”*



Over the past 30 years, fathers in the United States have increased the time they spend with their children during the workday by an average of 65%. 90% of millennials and Generation X dads report that parenting is their greatest joy! According to a Zero to Three survey of young parents, there has been no other time in history when dads have been as passionate and committed to participate in the everyday role of rearing a child. Social-emotional, cognitive, language, and motor development are enhanced by the active engagement of the father or male role model in the lives of children. Focusing on dads' relationships with their children, researchers found that dads who spend time on a regular basis with their children have a positive influence on their lives. Beginning at birth, dads who establish a bond or attachment with their new infant contribute a positive influence in the social and emotional development of their child. 2

Dads Count Continued..

Singing, telling stories, dancing, playing games or participating in pretend play are all effective ways dads support the development of their children.

The research tells us that babies and young children who have an involved dad or male role model are more likely to be emotionally secure and confident to explore and learn about their surroundings. As these children grow older, they develop better social skills. Reports show that dads spend a higher percentage of time in one-to-one interactions with babies and preschoolers in playful activities than moms. This helps children learn to better regulate their feelings and behaviors in a positive way. Children with involved and caring dads have higher academic achievement and better life outcomes. Dads that have an active and nurturing style of fathering their children have children with better verbal skills, intellectual functioning and social skills as they get older.

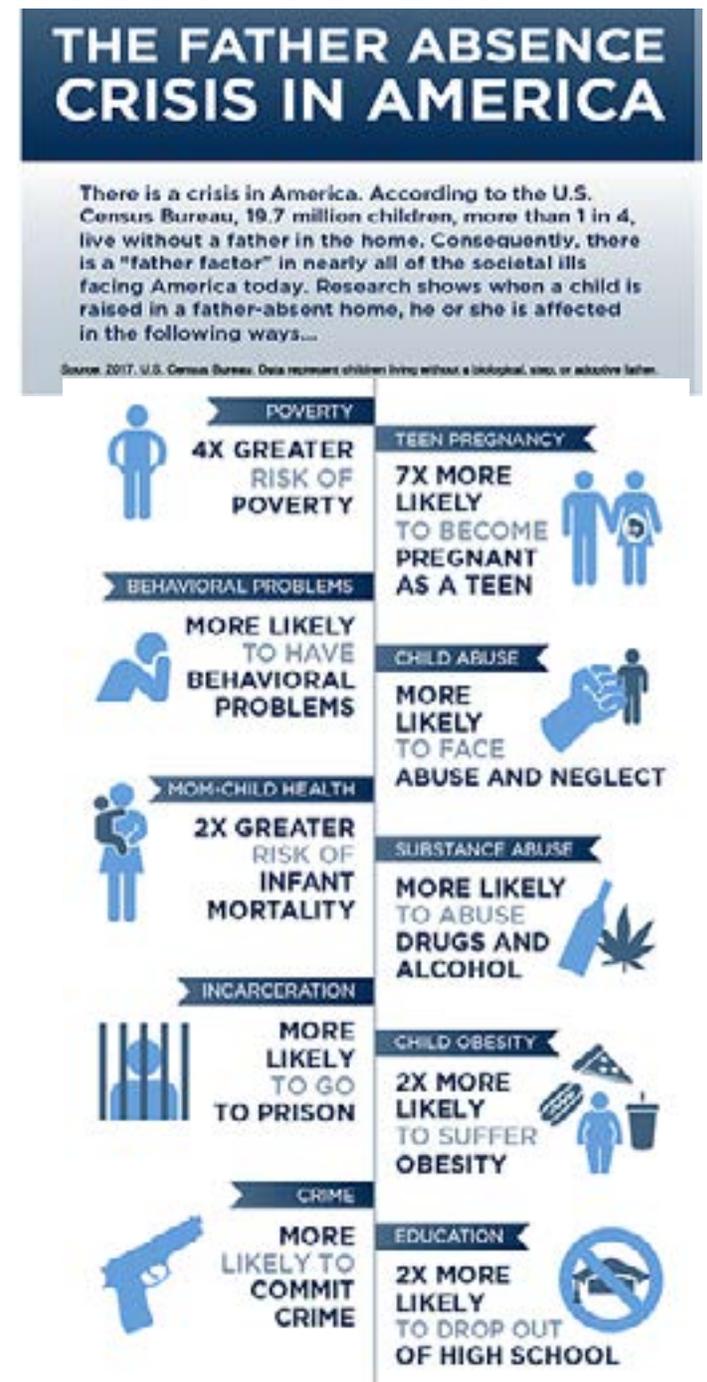
Additional studies report that children who have involved dads or male role models are:

- 39% more likely to earn higher grades in school.
 - 45% less likely to repeat a grade in school.
 - 60% less likely to be suspended or expelled from school.
 - Two times as likely to go to college and find stable employment after high school.
 - 75% less likely to give birth in their teens.
 - 80% less likely to spend time in jail.
- Dads count in the lives of their children!
Dads who “want to be there” in the lives of their children and make that a goal are champions for their children!

Additional Resources

Ninety percent of millennial and Generation X dads say that parenting is their greatest joy.

Research shows that fathers who are present at the birth of their babies and are integrally involved in their early care are more likely to remain actively engaged throughout the child’s life, with major health and well-being benefits for children and fathers.



ELC of Marion County's Drive-Through Library

If you're looking for a book you can now visit the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County 24/7 and use the drive-through library. The library is in the ELCMC parking lot and available at all hours.

The drive-through library was donated by Forty East Publix and United Way Marion County, and has already seen drive-through pickups from local readers. Since its installment one month ago, it's already needed to be restocked twice!

Local readers are also encouraged to donate their own appropriate and gently-used books. If there are any books that you would like a random reader in the community to read, you can always donate to the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County for the next instance in which the library needs restocked.



ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe VPK GLOW-UP Challenge



June 3, 2019: The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Board of Directors' Meeting hosted recent Dade County High School graduates who also graduated from VPK in 2005. In addition, six recent VPK graduates attended the meeting. The children are pictured with ELC Board Members from both Dade and Monroe Counties and Mr. Evelio Torres, President and CEO of the ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

ELC of Polk County Wheels of Steel



THE FIRST ANNUAL INDOOR CUSTOM BIKE SHOW IN FLORIDA!

Visit Central Florida

WHEELS OF STEEL

RP Funding Center
SIKES HALL
JUNE 22, 2019

PRESENTED BY
GEICO

701 W. Lime St.
Lakeland, FL
10AM - 7PM

ADMISSION
\$20 General Admission
\$25 Entry in bike judging includes General Admission
FREE Parking & Kids under 12 get in for FREE!

BENEFITING
EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF POLK COUNTY

SPONSORS
Lakeland Regional Health
cycleSTOP

Admission: \$20
Includes Free Parking
Children Under 12 FREE

Vendors Wanted!
Call Belinda Or Debbie at 863-733-9064 or go to CFWheelsOfSteel.com

Judged Bike Entry
• 5 x 10 display space = \$25 (Space Limited)
• Includes 1 day adult admission

Premier Judged Bike Entry
• 10 x 10 space (Space Limited)
• \$150
• Electric = \$75
• No pipe/no drope

Must submit a bike and/or display photo and a complete build sheet

Premier Vendor Booth Space
10 x 20 = \$600 (Space Limited)

Standard Vendor Booth Rates
10 x 10 = \$200 (Space Limited)

Booth space includes:
• pipe and drope
• 6 ft. table
• two chairs

Emcee'd By
Tony C. "Chief Capcake"
From Full Throttle Magazine

Featuring Builds By
Kory Souza, Eric Allard & Cody Childress

• Register To Win A Custom Motorcycle
• 50/50 Tickets

For more information, please contact Debbie Burett or Belinda Kramer
Visit CFWheelsOfSteel.com or call 863-733-9064

What is Central Florida Wheels of Steel?

Never mind the Florida summer heat or rain because this show will be an indoor event you won't want to miss. When the doors open you will enter into an exciting display of artistry and innovation with motorcycle competitors from all over who will be competing for best in their class. You'll also get to see some of the hottest custom designs from award-winning builders who have graced the covers of motorcycle magazines.

At the Central Florida Wheels of Steel there will be a variety of vendors, specially selected to bring things that will interest motorcycle enthusiasts. During the day you will be able to enjoy music, food, drinks, and a chance to win prizes. Stay til the end of the day to see who will receive a trophy for the best in each class as part of a special award ceremony. The final highlight of the event will feature a grand prize ticket drawing for the winner of a customized motorcycle and who knows, the winner just might be you!



Strawberry Picking Challenge

With over 2,500 attendees, this year's Strawberry Picking Challenge was presented by Monte Package Company and raised over \$90,000. Our sincere thanks goes to Wish Farms and their sponsors who have made this fun and exciting event possible. In six years, the Strawberry Picking Challenge has raised over \$518,000 for the children of RCMA. Thank you! We look forward to celebrating next year's event!

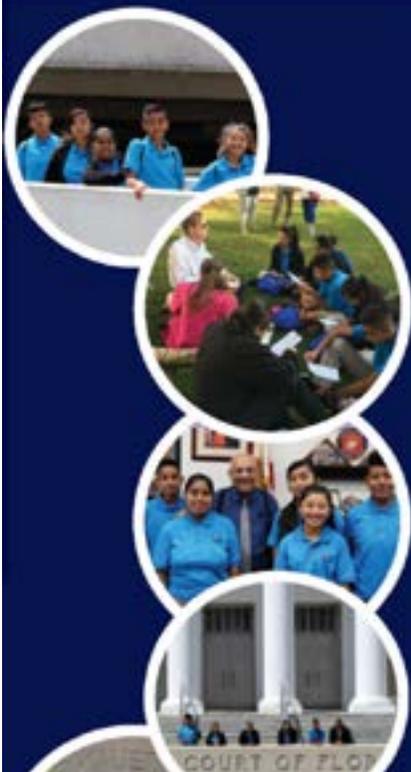


The 2019 Chiles Advocacy Award

More than 400 people attended the very special evening affair honoring our own legend, Barbara Mainster (center photo above). She was presented with this year's Chiles Advocacy Award.

Barbara's powerful public service over 40 years, drove the organization's vision and transformed RCMA into Florida's largest non-profit child care service and education center for migrant and rural low-income children.

"When you succeed at RCMA, you create an attitude amongst lawmakers that we must do more, so more children will have the opportunity that you have." Senator Darryl E. Rouson, H. District 19.



RCMA NATIONAL MATH CHAMPIONS

The kids did it again. Wimauma Academy and Immokalee Community School won 1st and 2nd place in this year's Matific's competition. Kindergarten students worked late into the day and one even fell asleep working next to their computer. Milton, who barely spoke English, knocked it out of the park. As Juana Brown, Dir. of Charter Schools, explains, "It's an example to the quality of work in both campuses."

Matific is an online mathematics teaching resource for schools that develops mathematical excellence and problem-solving skills through playful interaction and games.

March 24th saw Children's Week kickoff this year. Thousands of parents, children, policy makers, professionals, and community leaders take the opportunity to share knowledge and information about children's issues across the state. The event brings together advocates delivering the message that every child in Florida should be healthy, ready to learn, and able to achieve their full potential.

ELC of St. Lucie County Fun-Fair

Over 800 children and their families got to meet princesses, watch K-9 dog and karate demonstrations, check out fire trucks and story stations and even beat the drums at this year's Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County Family Fun Fair on April 6. Here's a sneak peek video at the exciting DRUM CIRCLE hosted by Kevin Beatkeeper!

Sneak peek at Drum Circle: <https://www.facebook.com/marty.sanders/videos/10213740904253692/UzpfST-MxNzUwMjA1MTc3NjU1OToxMDI-5ODAlMzQwNTQ2MjIz/>

Fifteen childcare centers joined in to present story stations for the kiddos: including ALPI Queen Townsend Center, Boys & Girls Club, Children's Emporium, Firehouse Youth Center, Growing & Learning, Learning Tree, Little Feet Learning Center, Renaissance Charter School, Riverbend Learning Center, Somerset Academy, St. Lucie Christian Preschool, St. Lucie Public Schools, Storybrooke Academy, Sunrise Country and The Children's Garden.



Kids got free books and enjoyed hands-on activities especially designed for them, as well as visiting with a petting zoo and a free bounce house. Top Story Station winners received prize packs of books, puppets and other literacy tools and all story station providers receive a small book packet for their center.

Our sponsors, vendors and agency participants included local businesses and sister agencies including: 211/Help Me Grow, Assurance, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Billy's Bounce House, SLW Centennial JROTC, Children's Home Society, Children's Services Council, Conscious Discipline, D.A.T.A, ELC CCR&R Program, Families of the Treasure Coast, St. Lucie Schools, FL Department of Health, Grace Way Village, Helping People Succeed, Karla Abraham-Face Painter, Kevin Beatkeeper-Drum Circle, New Horizons, PNC Bank, Project Response, PSL United Soccer Club, Roundtable/Kids at Hope, S.W.A.T., Safe Kids, St. Lucie County, Safe Space, Sarah's Party Animals, SLC Fire District, SLC Parks & Rec-Aquatics, SLC Sheriff's K-9, SLC Sheriff's Office, Southeast Martial Arts, Cinderella & her Fairy Godmother and the STEM GEMS.



ELC of Seminole



Our 9th Annual Provider Appreciation was a great success thanks to **YOU!**
Thanks, again, to all of our wonderful Providers.

We hope we were able to make you feel like the stars you are! Check out some of our photos and sponsors from "A Night of Stars!"

Free Vision and Hearing Screenings



ELC of Seminole has partnered with Seminole State College's Nursing program to deliver free hearing and vision screenings for children! Seminole county children can receive these screenings for free while SSC nursing students gain valuable experience conducting screenings and learning skills that can help them work with children in the future. For more information or to schedule a screening

Contact the Coalition at:
407-960-2460

Champion Families

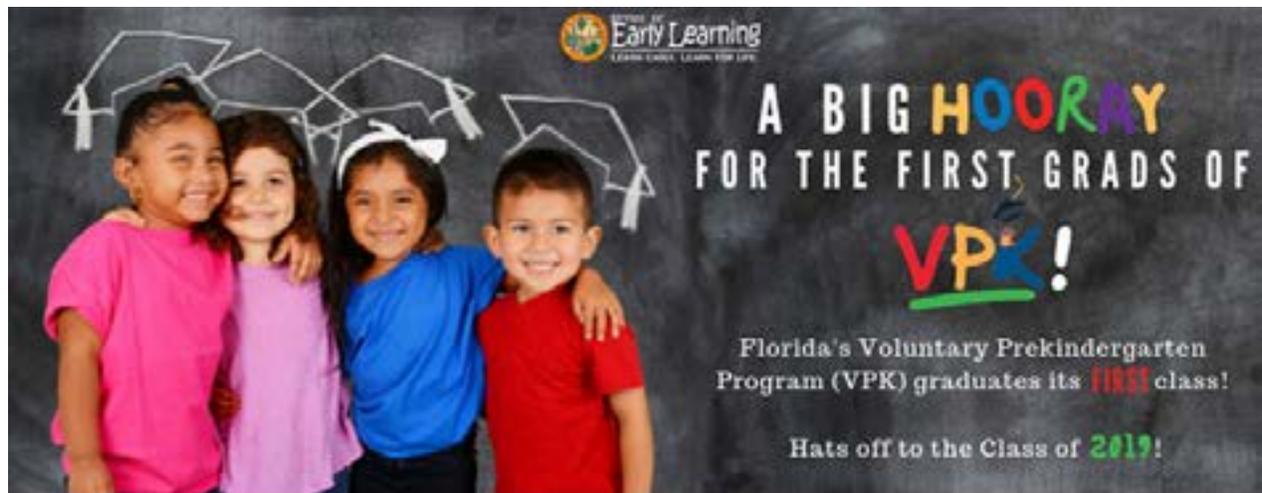


What is Champion Families?

The Champion Families Program is a collaboration between the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole & Above and Beyond: Children and Community Services.

The goal of this new program is to give caregivers of young children increased access to both high-quality childcare and powerful life skills. With 29 families currently active in the program — our mission is enhanced through our ability to serve more families and partner with outstanding professionals who facilitate trainings.

VPK Graduates High School



DID YOU KNOW?

VPK Quick Facts



What?

The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program (VPK) is free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds.

Why?

VPK prepares early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Where?

Parents can select program options available from private and public providers. Private child care centers, public schools and specialized instructional services providers offer VPK.

Fun Fact:

In the 2016-2017 school year, nearly 80 percent of 4-year-olds in Florida attended VPK.

Is my child eligible?

To be eligible, your child must be 4 years old by September 1st of the program year. You must also reside in Florida to be eligible.

When?

VPK was created by the Florida Legislature in 2005.

OEL Resources

CONTACT

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Please email Early Learning Update
submissions to: pio@oel.myflorida.com



@flearlylearning



PARENTS' PAGES

[Click to read a copy of the June Parents' Page](#)

Safe sleep, watching your baby grow, milestones and brain development for newborns are all covered in this month's Parents' Pages issue.

www.floridaearlylearning.com

