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April 2017

Early Learning Parents' Pages



Preschooler parenting
problem #3? **melt-downs.**

Week of the Young Child.

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

N-E-W-S

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

Coalition to host Early Childhood Conference, Quality Initiatives Fair

Conference on early childhood health, free materials available

The [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#)'s annual Early Childhood Conference will take place Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Marathon High School in Marathon, Florida. This year's theme is "Healthy Families; Healthy Communities," and will focus on best practices for enhancing the physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth of children from birth to 5. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mike Longoria. Registration includes CEUs for participation, lunch and resources. Registration closes Tuesday, Apr. 18. Click [here](#) to register.



The coalition will also be hosting a Quality Initiatives Fair during the conference from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free developmentally appropriate materials and furniture will be available, including blocks, books, learning materials and more. Click [here](#) to view a full listing of materials. Eligibility to participate is based on provider's number of subsidized children (0-5 years) "paid for" in February 2017. If you have questions, please contact Livette Tapia at (305) 646-7220 ext. 2293 or at ltapia@elcmdm.org.

ELC of St. Lucie County, Health Department team up for Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 program

Program helps teach young children to make healthier choices

The [ELC of St. Lucie County](#) partnered with the St. Lucie County Health Department's School Readiness Health Screening and School Health teams to bring the message of the Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 program to Sunrise Country Preschool in Fort Pierce. The program, which works to prevent childhood obesity, calls for kids to eat at least five fruits and vegetables every day, limit recreational screen time to two hours or less, get at least one hour of physical activity every day and have zero sugary drinks for a healthier body. Sunrise Country Preschool's teachers and students enjoyed a presentation about the program with costumes, dancing and healthy snacks.



ELC of Northwest Florida partners with local public libraries for Children's Week

Libraries in the area collected children's hand art for the annual "Hanging of the Hands"

Public libraries throughout Northwest Florida partnered with the [ELC of Northwest Florida](#) to collect decorated paper cut-out handprints to send to Tallahassee for the annual "Hanging of the Hands" event that takes place during Children's Week each year in the Florida State Capitol. Public libraries in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf and Washington counties hosted art stations where children could create hand art, including inspirational messages to legislators.



Professional development day for family providers in Tallahassee

Opportunity for advocates, providers to network and find resources

Family and child care providers and advocates in the Tallahassee-area are invited to "Provider to Provider: Local Advocates Strengthening Families Together," a day of interactive professional development. Providers can meet with other agencies, learn about different systems of care and referral processes and find additional resources. The event will take place on Monday, Apr. 10, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Augustus B. Turnbull Center in Tallahassee. Click [here](#) to view more information and register.



ELC of Duval joins the "Unplug and Connect" campaign

Coalition asks parents to pledge to spend more time with their child, less with their mobile devices

The [ELC of Duval](#) is asking families to join the pledge to "Unplug and Connect." Eighty-five percent of a child's critical brain development occurs by age 5. Because of this, it's important for a child to not only have access to quality early education, but also engage with their parents and family outside of school hours. Putting down your mobile device and spending quality time with your child helps them grow emotionally, intellectually and socially. Families can visit the coalition's [website](#) to sign up and take the pledge.



ELC of Orange County presents annual report

Report includes fiscal information, special initiatives and more

The [ELC of Orange County](#) has released their annual report for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The report shows the coalition's total expenditures, statistics on children and families served, as well as information about special initiatives. To read the full report, [click here](#).



ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe offers online training courses

Professional development courses for providers available online

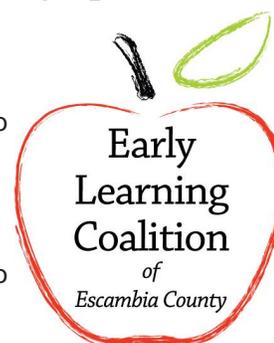
The Professional Development Institute, a division of the [ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#), offers online professional development training for providers, including workshops on organizational and leadership management, early mathematics, emotional and behavioral support and more. Click [here](#) to view a list of the courses now available online.



ELC of Escambia and UWF to host Pensacola Literacy Symposium

Bestselling young adult author Matt de la Peña will be keynote speaker

The University of West Florida and the [ELC of Escambia County](#) will host the "Pensacola Literacy Symposium: See the Beauty in Books" from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Apr. 29, 2017, at the UWF Conference Center in Pensacola. The event will feature young adult author Matt de la Peña, 2016 Newbery Award Winner for Literature, as its keynote speaker. In addition to the keynote address, the symposium will feature two professional development sessions. Registration is \$20 and seats are limited. Click [here](#) to register.



Fifth Annual ArtKidDoo event brings art to young children

Event will have performances, art and crafts activities, and more

The Fifth Annual ArtKidDoo event will be held Saturday, Apr. 8, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Shivers Park in Chipley. ArtKidDoo is a collaborative effort between the [ELC of Northwest Florida](#), the Washington County Arts Council, local child care providers and businesses to encourage awareness for the arts in young children. The event will offer hands-on arts and crafts as well as performance art by local artists, musicians and vocalists. Children will have the opportunity to paint, color, dance, mold clay, as well as create jewelry and musical instruments. This year's performance highlights include cultural dances, a martial arts demonstration and a visit from a puppeteer.



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