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May 2017

Early Learning Parents' Pages



To negotiate or not to negotiate?
Preschool parenting problem #4.

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day,
Mother's Day and Foster Care Month.

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

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

Thank a child care provider on May 12
Governor Rick Scott has proclaimed May 12, 2017,
[Provider Appreciation Day](#) in the state of Florida.

The Friday before Mother's Day is also a national day of recognition for child care providers. National Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey who saw the need to recognize the efforts of providers who care for children of working parents, the day is celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. Momentum and support for the event have grown each year and recognition presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout the United States. More information is available at www.providerappreciationday.org.



N-E-W-S

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

First Five Years Gala celebrates early learning in Orange County

**Event will feature a silent auction,
entertainment and dinner**

The [Early Learning Coalition of Orange County](#) will host its First Five Years Gala on Saturday, June 10, at 6 p.m. at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. The evening will consist of a silent auction, entertainment, dinner and an opportunity to fund a child in the local community. For every dollar raised during the event, the coalition will receive \$15.67 in return. This year's honoree will be Betty Martinez Lowery, a former coalition board member who has more than 35 years of experience in education. [Click here](#) to register.



ELC of Osceola receives funds from unexpected source

Private providers help support coalition through fundraiser

The [ELC of Osceola](#) recently received a \$750 donation from an unlikely source --- the private providers of Osceola County. The coalition's two provider board representatives, Nancy Emestica and Rijeane Smith, put their heads together to collaborate on a fundraiser. The pair decided to recruit child care providers in the community to help sell gourmet lollipops. When the fundraiser was completed, a total of \$750 was raised to help the coalition meet its match requirement.



"Our coalition is honored and thrilled to have two such dedicated provider representatives," said Susan Sunka, executive director of the coalition. To read more, [click here](#).

ELC of Duval names its April Child Care Center of the Month

Coalition promotes a high-quality child care center each month

The [ELC of Duval](#) has selected Bright Horizons Family Solutions as its April "Child Care Center of the Month." Each month, the coalition's executive staff chooses a center that is committed to providing high-quality child care. During that month, the center receives recognition via the coalition's website, Facebook, Twitter, publications and more. The center also receives a special certificate from the coalition.

Congratulations, Bright Horizons at the Avenues!

Our "April" Child Care Center of the Month!



To be named "Center of the Month," a center must be part of the "Guiding Stars of Duval" and have at least a four- or five-star rating.

Family Fun Fair brings learning, fun to St. Lucie County

Families enjoyed demonstrations and learned about community resources

The [ELC of St. Lucie County](#) held its 11th Annual Family Fun Fair on Saturday, Apr. 1, as part of Children's Week. More than 500 children and their families attended and enjoyed the coalition's signature event, which featured "Story Stations," child-friendly activities and a dance performance by St. Lucie Dance. The St. Lucie County Sheriff K-9 Unit, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and St. Lucie Fire Department were also on site to provide demonstrations. Each family that attended received a raffle ticket and parents received information from more than 40 community agencies.



Photo exhibition documents best practices in early learning

ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe participates in early learning photo project

The Children's Movement of Florida, [ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#) and Miami-Dade Aviation Department collaborated on a photo project that highlights the importance of early learning. Three photojournalists from Iris PhotoCollective spent several months visiting child care centers to capture the bond between children and their care givers, and how these bonds make a significant difference on emotional and educational outcomes. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Yolanda Sanchez, former director of Miami International Airport's Fine Arts and Cultural Affairs Division, and is on display in the airport until early 2018. [Click here](#) to view more photos from the exhibition.



ELC of Broward County unveils new logo, tagline

Coalition's rebranding process focuses on importance of early care and education

The [ELC of Broward County](#) has unveiled its new logo and tagline as part of a rebranding process. The logo and tagline were chosen after a list of options was presented and voted on by members of the coalition's board, staff and Advisory Council members.



"This rebranding represents our efforts to align our logo and tagline with our vision of providing high quality early learning experiences to the children of Broward County so they can thrive and achieve early academic success that will help them throughout life," said the coalition's CEO, Renee Jaffe.

Coalition CEO authors article on preparing for child care

ELC of Hillsborough's CEO publishes article in Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine

Dr. Steve Knobl, CEO of the [ELC of Hillsborough](#), wrote an article titled "Prepare Your Child for Childcare" for the May 2017 issue of *Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine*. The article provides parents tips for helping their child transition to a child care setting.



"Choosing [a] care situation is one of the most important decisions parents will make in their young child's life," says Dr. Knobl, who has been an educational leader for more than 15 years. To read the article, [click here](#) and turn to page 27.

Coalition's events highlight early childhood education and well-being

ELC of Marion County engages families through community events

The [ELC of Marion County](#) has been busy spreading awareness of the importance of early learning. The coalition, in partnership with the United Way of Marion County, hosted a Pinwheels for Prevention event on Apr. 22 in downtown Ocala. More than 100 families attended to plant pinwheels in support of child abuse prevention. Over the past few months, the coalition has also hosted and participated in events supporting early literacy, autism awareness and more. [Click here](#) to read more about the coalition's recent events.



Early Childhood Conference focuses on "Opening Minds to Greater Learning"

Registration now open for the ELC of the Big Bend's Early Childhood Conference

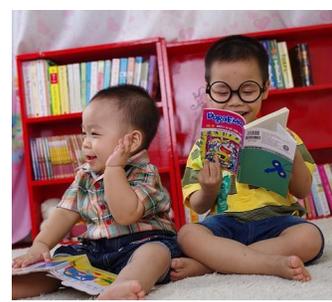
The [ELC of the Big Bend](#) has opened registration for its 10th Annual Early Childhood Conference, which will take place on Saturday, June 17, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee. This year's theme is "Opening Minds to Greater Learning" and will feature workshops on teaching STEM fundamentals to young children, encouraging sustainable creativity, CPR training and more. The keynote speaker will be Ben Glenn "The Chalk Guy," a professional speaker who uses art to tell his story of living with learning disabilities. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



ELC of Duval launches "Raising a Reader" program

New program promotes early literacy, networking opportunities for parents

With the help of community residents, the [ELC of Duval](#) has started a literacy program called "Raising a Reader." Children will be able to check out books on a weekly basis and enjoy educational activities. Families receive a free lunch and parents can participate in "Parent Cafes" to network with fellow parents in the community.



Primary funding from the program comes from the Jacksonville Journey Early Learning Program, which assists with educational development and mental health of children in high crime ZIP codes in Duval County. [Click here](#) to read more.

"Dynamic duo" at ELC of Escambia crusade for parents

Resource and referral specialists featured for their work

Although Bill Busch and Pamela Wirick struggle with their own challenges, it doesn't stop them from going above and beyond to help parents in need. The two resource and referral specialists at the [ELC of Escambia](#) collaborate to inform parents about resources and information to fit each family's individual needs. Busch and Wirick listen closely to parents and are often able to recognize needs beyond child care, and will connect parents to women's shelters, food banks and other community services. [Click here](#) to read more.



"The Importance of Play" training opportunity

Learn how to teach and engage young children through play

The [ELC of Pasco and Hernando](#) will host a training session on Tuesday, May 16, at the coalition's Spring Hill Office in Spring Hill from 6-9 p.m. The three-hour training will provide guidelines, information and suggestions on how to implement play into daily lesson plans. CEUs are available for the training. Registration closes on May 15. For more information or to register, [click here](#).



Share your news!

If you'd like to have your news or events considered for inclusion in next month's Early Learning Update, send us an email with detailed information to communications@oel.myflorida.com.

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