




www.floridaearlylearning.com

January 2018

Early Learning Parents' Pages

Hurting behaviors in young children,
Martin Luther King Day,
2018 Children's Week,
Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!



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

Office of Early Learning releases 2016-2017 annual report

OEL continued to build on its foundation of resources and partnerships in 2016-17

Highlights during the year included Florida's selection as one of nine states and territories chosen to be part of the federal Impact Project—an effort to increase national collaboration, streamline state quality improvement efforts and identify areas for growth.

More OEL updates include new health and safety requirements for child care providers that receive federal funding. All child care providers offering the School Readiness Program must now have at least one inspection each year. Additionally, in July 2016, a new law went into effect that gave parents of young 4-year-olds the option to enroll their child in VPK a year later. Recognizing how important it is for children to be ready for kindergarten, OEL also led a statewide effort to help 4-year-olds transition to kindergarten successfully.



OFFICE OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Read more about these highlights and more in the [2016-2017 Annual Report](#).

N-E-W-S

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

Coalition events raise funds for local school readiness programs

Proceeds from the fundraisers will assist low income families

The [Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast](#) held two events in November 2017 to raise funds for local school readiness programs. The first event was held on Nov. 3, 2017, and was hosted by the Citrus County Suncoast Business Masters. Proceeds went toward funding school readiness programs for low-income families in Citrus County.



Photos from the coalition's November 2017 fundraising events.

The coalition's second event on Nov. 16, 2017 was the first annual school readiness program fundraiser in Sumter County. The event featured guest speaker, former House member, H. Marlene O'Toole. The event was sponsored by the Citizens First Bank in The Villages, Florida.

Children's Week is almost here!

Coalitions around the state are getting ready for Children's Week



Children's WEEK



[The ELC of Southwest Florida](#) and
the [ELC of Okaloosa & Walton](#)

[Counties](#) are already preparing for Children's Week, Jan. 21-27, 2018. Both coalitions have received hand artwork, which will be sent to Tallahassee to be displayed in the Florida Capitol building during the annual "Hanging of the Hands" event on Sunday, Jan. 21. The ELC of Southwest Florida has also decorated their lobby and prepared flyers to inform parents and providers about the event.



(L) Photo of artwork from the ELC of Okaloosa & Walton Counties. (R) Photo of hands hanging in the office of the ELC of Southwest Florida.

Want to submit your own hand artwork photos? You're encouraged to show off your artwork by using #GiveUsAHand on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. All participants will be entered to win a prize! [Click here](#) for more information.

Coalition uses Nurse-Family Partnership to help new

moms in need

The community health program provides assistance to first-time moms in poverty

The [ELC of Polk County](#) is currently using the Nurse-Family Partnership to assist first-time moms in poverty. This national non-profit organization is working with families in 16 Florida counties to help improve the first thousand days of life for babies born to moms living in poverty. Mothers who participate in the program get a personal nurse assigned to them, at no cost through pregnancy and the baby's first two years of life. The goal is to help prepare low-income children for school beginning at birth. [Click here](#) to read more about the program.



Coalition board chairman and Children's Movement chairman pen op-ed

Adrian Alfonso and David Lawrence advocate for "fully and fairly" funding early learning programs

In December 2017, Adrian Alfonso, [ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#) board chairman, and David Lawrence, chairman of [The Children's Movement of Florida](#) board of directors, collaborated on an op-ed article in the *Miami Herald* addressing questions about funding allocations for Florida's early learning coalitions.



The article was in response to a newspaper report that the state legislature had not changed the way funds were allocated to early learning coalitions in several years and did not take into consideration demographic and population changes.

Alfonso and Lawrence state that while they support distributing funds equitably to coalitions, they are quick to warn against the suggestion of taking funds from coalitions like the ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe, which receives the highest amount of funding in the state, but also has the largest population of children living in poverty in Florida.

[Click here](#) to read the article by Alfonso and Lawrence in full.

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

