



Florida Comes Together to Prevent Child Abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Florida's Office of Early Learning is just one of many state offices, schools and organizations to join the fight to prevent child abuse by placing pinwheels outside their office. The pinwheels are part of the "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign organized by the **Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida**. The pinwheels are designed to increase awareness of child abuse prevention efforts and promote healthy child development. On Monday, April 4, 2016, OEL placed 250 pinwheels outside their office, along with signs explaining their purpose. Early learning coalitions around the state are planting their own pinwheel "gardens." Join the fight to prevent child abuse and learn more at the **Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida website**.



Year Three Launching for Performance Funding



OEL to build on previous years' success

For two years, hundreds of child care providers took part in a project to improve outcomes for children in the School Readiness Program. Approved for a third year, the Early Learning Performance Funding Project is no longer a pilot program and invites providers to apply for the 2016-17 year. Participating providers have an opportunity to engage in one or more quality activities related to professional early childhood practices, including implementing assessment tools and professional development plans. Learn more about the **project** and check back from April 11-22, 2016, to apply.

Make the Mission Possible on May 14

Learn how to implement S.T.E.M. topics in your classroom

Registration is now open for the Monroe Early Childhood Conference themed "Mission Possible," focusing on implementing science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.) topics. The conference uses hands-on learning techniques and takes place on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marathon High School, located at 350 Sombrero Beach Road in Marathon. The event is \$15 and hosted by the **Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe**.

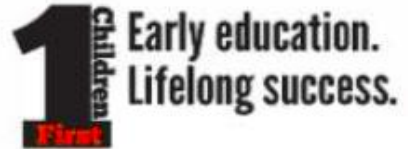
**MISSION
POSSIBLE**



ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe to Host Children First Conference

Celebrate early education and lifelong success

On Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, educators, providers and early learning professionals will join the **ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe** at the Children First Conference. From 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., attendees will learn more about research-based best practices designed to enhance and improve educational opportunities. The event will take place at 8600 NW 107th Ave. in Doral at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School and will feature keynote speaker Sonia Manzano, who is best known for her role as "Maria" on Sesame Street.



Calling All Runners for the First Annual Readiness Run

Take part in Pinellas County's PreK, 5K Readiness Run, Hickory, Dickory Kid's Dash

All runners are welcome to join the **ELC of Pinellas** for their first annual readiness run on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve at 1101 Country Club Way South in St. Petersburg. The run will benefit early learning programs in the county and participants are invited to take part in activities following the race, including a Storybook Village. Find the schedule of events, how to register and more about the Readiness Run on the **event page**.



Third Annual Duck Race Sure to Make a Splash

Enter the Best Decorated Giant Duck Competition

The first duck to cross the finish line will win a grand prize at the **ELC of Flagler and Volusia's** annual Duck Race on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Interested participants are invited to join the ELC at the Hidden Treasure Tiki Bar and Grill at 5993 S. Ridgewood Ave. in Port Orange at noon to take part in the race or the Best Decorated Giant Duck competition. **Register** today and learn more on the **event page**.



Blueprint for Success



Annual Provider Conference Offers a Blueprint for Success

Get the tools to learn, teach and lead

The **ELC of the Big Bend Region's 9th Annual Provider Conference** will focus on developing teaching strategies to implement quality education among providers. **Register** in advance for the conference taking place at the **FSU Turnbull Conference Center** at 555 West Pensacola Street in Tallahassee on Saturday, May 14, 2016, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ELC of Broward Hosts The Future of our Nation Series

The series supports early care and education

"The Raising of America," an Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation Series, is the first national, fully integrated public engagement project that aims to re-frame the way Americans look at early child health and development. For three months, the **ELC of Broward** has hosted the series and invites viewers to **watch the 5-part series** between April 1 and 17, 2016.



Registration Deadline Approaches for Sensory Processing Disorder Presentation

ELC set to present sensory information and strategies

On Monday, April 27, 2016, the **ELC of Manatee** will host a presentation on a condition in which the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that enters through the senses. Learn about the symptoms, causes, treatment and strategies to help a child with a sensory processing disorder in a classroom. **Register** for the discussion taking place in the ELC training room at 600 8th Ave. West, Suite 100, in Palmetto from 6 to 8 p.m.

