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June 2017

Early Learning Parents' Pages



Minimize mealtime mischief.
Water safety tips, Father's Day ideas,
free summer meals and
Great Outdoors Month

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

Interested in early learning? Make an impact in your community.

Apply to chair an early learning coalition or represent a private sector business

The Office of Early Learning is asking individuals who are interested in early education to apply for key vacancies at early learning coalitions around the state.

Governor Rick Scott appoints the chair and two additional members who represent private sector businesses to each coalition. Currently there are a number of vacancies statewide.

Early learning coalition members include community leaders and representatives from private and public sector businesses who bring business and community-focused perspectives to early learning. As nonprofit organizations, coalitions also leverage local private and public partnerships to meet children's needs.

Find out more about early learning coalitions and member responsibilities at <http://bit.ly/2rtbSOc>. Interested applicants should go to [Governor Rick Scott's website](#) to apply.



Make the most of summer by combining learning and exploring

Learn how to engage your child in math, science, reading and more this summer

Young children learn best by exploring their environment. They use their five senses to explore and learn new concepts



and words. Learning by exploring nature and playing at home helps your child to continue developing language as well as science, math and literacy concepts all summer. Interacting with family and friends while joining in fun activities enhances your child's social-emotional development. Visiting libraries, museums, beaches, lakes and parks extends their learning opportunities by opening doors to a variety of discoveries. Check out the ideas in our [2017 Summer Activities](#).

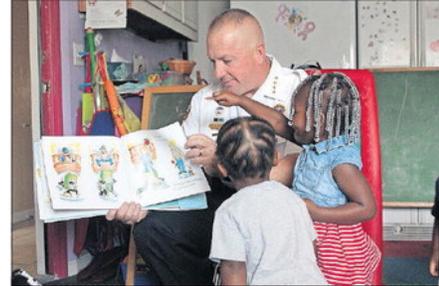
N-E-W-S

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

Officer Friendly Literacy Program brings police officers to Daytona Beach preschools

Police department and coalition join together for early literacy initiative

The [Early Learning Coalition of Flagler & Volusia](#) has partnered with the Daytona Beach Police Department to bring the Officer Friendly Literacy Program to Daytona Beach preschool children. Each month, eight Daytona Beach police officers visit assigned early learning programs in the area to read stories to children. The stories are specially chosen to help build children's self-esteem, develop their social skills and create positive relationships with police officers.



Coalition CEO honored with Duval County community awards

ELC of Duval CEO receives awards from community organizations

Susan Main, CEO and president of the [ELC of Duval](#), recently received the 2017 Ed Austin Children's Champion Award from the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Community Early Education Lifetime Award from the Duval County Head Start program.

Main announced in February that she will retire from her position with the coalition on June 30, 2017. She has served families and children in Duval County for more than 17 years. Throughout her career, she has been a strong supporter of early education initiatives and programs like Head Start and Early Head Start.



Pizza fundraiser benefits coalition

ELC of Orange County raises proceeds with the help of Blaze Pizza

On Monday, May 22, the [ELC of Orange County](#) held a fundraiser at the Blaze Pizza location on the University of Central Florida campus. Patrons who showed a special flyer had 20 percent of their purchase go toward funding the coalition's initiatives.



Article authored by coalition CEO highlights importance of early education

***Susan Block, CEO of the ELC of Southwest Florida,
champions early learning***

Susan Block, CEO and president of the [ELC of Southwest Florida](#), wrote an article on the value of early education for *The News-Press* on May 27. In the article, Block explains how early learning benefits the state and local communities both educationally and economically.



"It is estimated that Florida has 70,000 early learning providers," writes Block. "Each contributes to the well-being of our economy. And when we invest in a quality early education program for our children, the potential return on investment to our community is estimated to be 8:1."

To read the full article, [click here](#).

ELC Night with the Jacksonville Sharks

Percentage of proceeds from Sharks football game will go to coalition

A special "ELC Night" took place during the Jacksonville Sharks football game against the Dayton Wolfpack on Saturday, June 3, at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold will go toward supporting the [ELC of Duval](#).



Coalition event will provide information to keep families safe

Safety Awareness Festival will include safety information, demonstrations

The [ELC of Pasco & Hernando](#) is hosting a Safety Awareness Festival on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Safety Town in Shady Hills, Florida. The event will feature information and demonstrations on weather safety, emergency preparedness, poison control and more. There will also be free activities, food and community organizations on site to provide information to attendees.



For more information, [click here](#) or call 727-233-8291.

Office of Early Learning Executive Director visits Panama City

Executive Director Rodney MacKinnon pays a visit to the ELC of Northwest Florida

Florida Office of Early Learning Executive Director Rodney J. MacKinnon visited the main office for the [ELC of Northwest Florida](#) on Tuesday, June 6, during the monthly Coalition Connection Face-to-Face Meeting. MacKinnon discussed the latest developments in the Office of Early Learning, including recent successes in the early learning landscape.



In addition to news of federal funding increases, MacKinnon shared updates on technology changes for kindergarten-readiness assessments and the continued funding support for the Performance Funding Project. MacKinnon responded to questions from child care providers, early learning teachers, coalition staff and board members. At the conclusion of the meeting, he spent time sitting and discussing issues with providers one-on-one.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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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