



Vroom App Provides Daily Activities

The app focuses on brain-building moments for young children



Florida's Office of Early Learning recently

partnered with Vroom to present early learning brain-building activities to parents of children ages 0 to 5. The Daily Vroom app offers daily activities for parents to try during mealtimes, bath times and any time throughout their everyday routines. The app is perfect for busy parents of younger children and focuses on turning every moment into a brain-building moment. Each brain-building activity is backed by the latest early brain development research to provide accurate activities for each age. Learn more about **Vroom** and download the app.

Scholarship for Children with Special Needs Gets New Name



The newest educational program received an increase in funding and availability

Florida's newest educational choice program, formerly known as personal learning scholarship accounts (PLSAs), has a new name and will be able to serve more students. The newly-named Gardiner Scholarship program has also received an increase of funding to \$71.2 million. It also allows more 3- and 4-year-olds to use the education savings accounts for students with special needs. The accounts are also now available to children with muscular dystrophy and a wider range of students with autism. The scholarship allows families to pay for tuition, therapy, curriculum and other education-related services of their choice. Learn more about the **scholarship**.

Annual Gala to Recognize Advocates of Early Education

Two advocates to be honored at June event

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is

recognizing Dick Batchelor and Tico Perez for their advocacy of early childhood education at **The First Five**

Years Gala on June 11, 2016. The sixth annual event has brought in nearly \$8 million in matching funds since its inception in 2011, impacting more than 26,000 children provided with early education and VPK services. Interested participants can **register** for the event being held at Epcot's World Showcase Pavilion in Orlando.

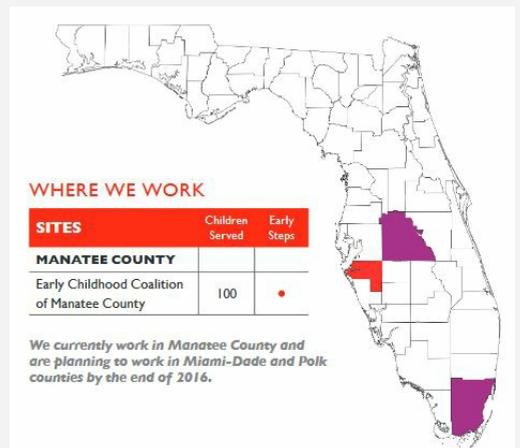


Save the Children Expands Evidence-Based Education

Program to be delivered to 100 children in Manatee County

Save the Children invests in childhood by helping children get ready to learn and succeed in school and to live healthy, active lives. Thanks to the support from Florida and the **ELC of Manatee County**, Save the Children is partnering with five schools to deliver the **Early Steps to School Success Program** to 100

children in the county. Learn more about **Save the Children in Florida** and look forward to expanding programs in Polk, Miami-Dade and other counties in Florida.



Early Registration Open for Children First Conference

The conference will focus on improving educational opportunities for children

Sonia Manzano, best known for her role as "Maria" on *Sesame Street*, is the keynote speaker for **September's Children First Conference**. On

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, attendees will learn about research-based best practices designed to enhance and improve educational opportunities. Workshop topics will include family literacy, child development, family partnerships and more. **Early bird registration** is available before June 14 for the conference taking place at 8600 NW 107 Avenue in Doral.



ELC Participates in Poverty

Stimulation Workshop

Statistics show 169,692 Lee County families live close to the poverty line

Members of the **ELC of Southwest Florida** took part in a poverty stimulation during a workshop presented by the Lee County School District. In the county, nearly 170,000 families struggle with poverty. The workshop was designed to show how difficult it can be for families with young children to stay in the workforce. Many participants walked away with a greater appreciation for compassion and encourage struggling families to make use of available **community resources**.



ELC Café Honors National Foster Care Month

The theme for May's lunch café is "Honoring, Uniting and Celebrating Families"

The **ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe**'s monthly lecture series, Lunch Café, will take place on Thursday, May 19, 2016. Join the coalition from 12 to 1:30 p.m. to honor National Foster Care Month and listen to a curated panel of experts and foster families. The lunch will bring awareness and promote participation in efforts to serve children in the foster care system. **Register** for the event taking place at 2555 Ponce De Leon, Suite 500, in Coral Gables.



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