



November 2017

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# November 2017

## Early Learning Parents' Pages

Use chores to teach life skills. How to raise thankful children. Scholarships for Florida's children, Veterans Day, Family Engagement Month and more!

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

## *November is Family Engagement Month!*

**Coalitions and providers encouraged to participate in Family Engagement Month activities**

The Office of Early Learning is partnering with the [Florida Department of Education](#) for Family Engagement Month. Throughout the November, we will be sharing resources on social media to provide ideas for families to be more engaged in their child's well-being and education using **#EngagedFamiliesFL**.



To encourage coalitions to join in on the Family Engagement Month fun, we will be holding a contest to see which coalition can come up with the most creative family engagement ideas. The winners will receive special prizes and will be announced on Dec. 1. [Click here](#) to view a flyer with more information and contest rules.

For ideas about how to get families engaged, check out the [Family Engagement Month calendar](#) for daily activity ideas. You can also view our [Pinterest board](#) for more resources.

As an additional part of Family Engagement Month, we will be celebrating Vroom Week Nov. 27-Dec. 1. Each day of the week will have a special activity for coalitions to complete. Coalitions who receive the most participation on social media will receive a special prize. [Click here](#) to view a flyer with more information about the Vroom Week contest.

We look forward to seeing how each coalition helps raise awareness of the importance of family engagement!

*Office of Early Learning Inspector General's Office*

# *receives accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement*

## **OEL Office of Inspector General awarded accredited status**

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement (CFA) voted unanimously to award the certificate of accreditation to the Office of Early Learning's Office of Inspector General.



An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining and verifying the highest standards. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. In 2009, the CFA expanded its program to include inspector general offices.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Office of Early Learning's Office of Inspector General.

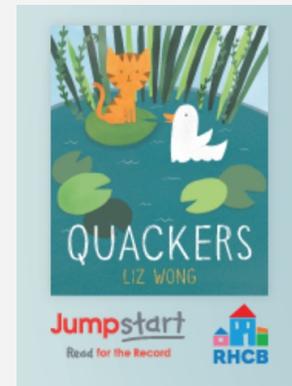
## **N-E-W-S**

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

### *Coalitions participate in Read for the Record Day*

#### **Around the state, coalitions joined in on Jumpstart's Read for the Record**

Millions of children and adults, including coalitions and child care providers across the state, participated in [Jumpstart's Read for the Record](#) on Oct. 19 by reading *Quackers* by Liz Wong aloud to young children. This year marks the 12th anniversary of the annual campaign, which gathers over two million people together around the world to read the same book on the same day.



Pictured above: City of North Miami Police Department officers participate in Read for the Record Day.

Coalitions that participated include the [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#), which distributed more than 3,655 books and had more than 10,196 readers across Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. In partnership with the Miami Book Fair, the coalition distributed free tickets to the first 100 people to sign up to Unplug & Connect, a campaign to encourage families to put down their mobile devices and talk, read and sing with their children every day.

### *Coalition staff make 1,250-mile journey to honor Sandy Hook teacher*

#### **ELC of Manatee staff traveled from Florida to Connecticut to participate in the 5th Annual Vicki Soto 5K**

Staff members from the [ELC of Manatee County](#) traveled Nov. 4-5 from Florida to Connecticut to participate in the 5th Annual Vicki Soto 5K, honoring school teacher Vicki Soto and the other victims lost during the tragic school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012.



In December of last year, the coalition began developing the Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System (PEARLS), a program designed to fill a significant gap in the county. Two coalition staff members worked closely with local law enforcement to train preschool providers, their staff and children about options for responding to emergency situations.

After reaching out to the Vicki Soto Memorial Foundation and learning of the outstanding work it performs in Vicki's honor, the coalition was struck by the similarity in their mission to work with other nonprofit organizations to provide quality education, and decided to join in on the memorial 5K.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the coalition's PEARLS program.

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## *Coalition hosts first Annual Early Learning Scholastic Book Fair*

### **Preschool book fair promotes early literacy and family engagement**

The [ELC of Northwest Florida](#) hosted an Early Learning Scholastic Book Fair Nov. 6-9 in its Panama City office. On Thursday, Nov. 9, the coalition held a Family Night for families and teachers of preschool children that included an appearance by "Clifford the Big Red Dog."

"We wanted to create a unique Scholastic Book Fair opportunity for families with preschoolers and teachers in early learning settings," coalition Executive Director Lynne Eldridge said. "Our fair is 100 percent appropriate for preschool-aged children, and the money raised helps support other families and children throughout Northwest Florida."



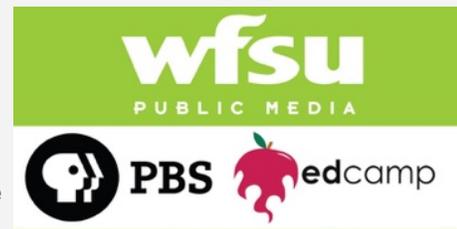
[Click here](#) to learn more.

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## *WFSU's pilot PBS/Edcamp will feature ELC of the Big Bend Region*

### **Coalition will be one of several community partners featured in breakout sessions**

On Thursday, Nov. 16, WFSU will host a pilot PBS/Edcamp mashup at the WFSU studio in Tallahassee. The event will feature breakout sessions with the WFSU education team, the [ELC of the Big Bend Region](#) and other key community partners.



In keeping with the Edcamp model, the event aims to maximize professional learning experiences tailored to attendees' own interests. The evening's discussions will focus on the prekindergarten to first grade age range, and educators from any and all backgrounds are invited.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

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## *Coalition hosts first Annual Early Childhood Professionals Conference*

## The conference focused on the theme of "From Play to Practice"

The [ELC of Palm Beach County](#) hosted its first Annual Early Childhood Professionals Conference: From Play to Practice on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach.

The full-day event provided the coalition's local early childhood professionals an opportunity to grow in several areas of early education. The coalition was excited to offer an opportunity for approximately 300 early child care and education professionals to attend and meet vendors, join in networking opportunities and learn about resources.

"For being your first conference, everything was excellent. I only expect the opportunity to come back to another conference with the same level of professionalism of the speakers you had," said one child care provider. Another provider remarked that "[they] gained new ideas and learned new information which [they] can use at [their] school. Well organized, thumbs up."

[Click here](#) to watch videos from the conference.



## Coalition's "Officer Friendly's Book Club" initiative connects preschoolers and police officers

### Clearwater Police Department and the ELC of Pinellas partner up for early literacy

Currently, 67 Pinellas County law enforcement officers volunteer in the "Officer Friendly's Book Club" program, a partnership between the [ELC of Pinellas County](#) and the Clearwater Police Department to bring officers into preschool classrooms to read to and interact with young learners. Participating preschools are part of a school readiness program through the Pinellas County ELC. There are 287 preschools eligible for the visits, making expansion a real possibility.



"This program is a win-win," says Clearwater Police Chief Daniel Slaughter, himself an "Officer Friendly." "It's a breath of fresh air for my officers to build a relationship with the kids, and we're fostering a lifelong love of reading at the same time."

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Steve Knobl resigns as CEO of the ELC of Hillsborough County Dr. Knobl has tendered his resignation to begin next chapter in career

Dr. Steve Knobl, current CEO of the [ELC of Hillsborough County](#), will be resigning on Dec. 31, 2017.

During his time as CEO, Dr. Knobl led the coalition through transition and rebranding. His dedication has resulted in moving the coalition toward becoming an evidenced-based, outcome-focused organization that delivers tangible positive benefits to children, families and providers in Hillsborough County. Dr. Knobl's work while with the coalition has solidified the organization's long-term sustainability and enabled continuing investment in service improvements and quality.



"The entire [coalition] staff and board want to thank Dr. Knobl for his impressive efforts as CEO," said Aakash Patel, chairman of the ELC of Hillsborough's board of directors. "I have addressed the staff and the coalition's executive committee and assured them that this will be a seamless transition."

[Click here](#) to read more.

## *ELC of Escambia County among IMPACT 2017 winners*

### **Coalition awarded \$107,700 from IMPACT 100 Pensacola Bay Area**

The [ELC of Escambia County](#) was one of 10 organizations awarded \$107,700 from Impact 100 Pensacola Bay on Oct. 15. The award was in recognition of the coalition's Grow With Me project, which will utilize the Nemours BrightStart! toolkit for infant/toddler and preschool classrooms.



The toolkits have 12 thematic units, lesson plans and activities, sensory manipulatives, read-aloud book sets and family connection letters. The goal is to put the tools in place in 40 infant/toddler classrooms in Year 1 and 90 additional classrooms (preschool and infant/toddler) in Year 2.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## *ELC of Flagler and Volusia raises over 20k for young children*

### **Change the First Five Years gala raises money to fund child care for 85 children**

Thanks to the money raised by the [ELC of Flagler and Volusia](#) during the third annual Change the First Five Years gala held on Sept. 29, 85 young children in both counties will have access to child care.



Allison Miller, director of community partnerships for the coalition, said the gala raised over \$20,000, which will be matched by the state and will stay within both counties to help local families struggling to pay for child care. Miller said one full year of child care costs about \$4,000 a year.

"Our focus is to get children ready for kindergarten, so this just means that many more children have access to care so that they can have the best possible outcomes in school and in life," Miller said.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## *Coalition sponsors car seat safety training event*

### **ELC of the Nature Coast sponsors the**

### **National Child Passenger Safety Course**

The [ELC of the Nature Coast](#) recently sponsored the National Child Passenger Safety Course in Inverness, which provided additional certified technicians for agencies in Citrus and surrounding counties.



The participants successfully completed the 30-hour course that focused on choosing the correct type of car seat for the height, weight and age of each child, identifying and correcting misuse, and installing car seats correctly.

The ELC of the Nature Coast has four certified technicians and one technician instructor who offer hands-on car seat education through safety seat inspections at the coalition's three offices, and provide safe, new car seats at a reduced cost for eligible families.

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