



October 2016

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Read October's issue of Parents' Pages [here](#).

New Health and Safety Inspections to Begin for Child Care Providers

Rule 6M-4.620 goes into effect late October 2016

Florida's State Board of Education has approved a new Health and Safety Checklists and Inspections rule requiring at least one inspection each year for all child care providers offering the School Readiness Program. Expected to go into effect on or around Oct. 24, 2016, the inspections will take place mid-November. The Office of Early Learning will host [three training and guidance webinars](#) for providers and staff to explain and discuss the new regulations.

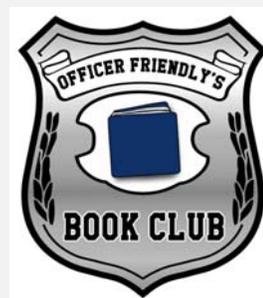


NEWS

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

Pinellas Police Officers Read to Preschoolers

"Officer Friendly" program encourages positive relationships between children and officers. The [Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County](#) teamed up with law enforcement to enhance the "Officer Friendly" program. The program encourages officers to volunteer and read books to young children at their preschools. Several police departments in the region are participating in the initiative to stimulate positive interactions among young children and law enforcement.



Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program Launches

Program aims to give Floridians with unique abilities a better quality of life

On Oct. 5, the [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#) (DEO) launched the [Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program](#) in Orlando. The program recognizes businesses that are committed to offering



career and financial opportunities to individuals with "unique abilities." Additionally, the program raises awareness about economic and social benefits of employing these individuals. For more information about the program, contact DEO at 850-245-7148.

ELC Hosts Early Literacy Event

Amazing Grace Crop Maze offered a day of fun fall activities

On Oct. 18, 2016, the ELC of North Florida hosted the Amazing Grace Crop Maze in Green Cove Springs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The day included a mini pumpkin for each child, a hayride visiting farm animals, story time, a crop maze and more.



Change the First Five Years Gala Coming to Ormond Beach

Proceeds will benefit the ELC of Flagler and Volusia

The Change the First Five Years Gala will take place at Oceanside Country Club in Ormond Beach on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, at 6 p.m. The gala will feature hors d'oeuvres, silent auctions, a photo booth, dinner and a decades-themed lip sync battle sponsored by Florida Hospital. For more information, contact Allison Miller at 386-323-2400 ext. 182.



Save the Date for the Fifth Annual Jim Boyd State Representative Golf Classic

Tournament to benefit ELC of Manatee County

On Friday, Nov. 4, 2016, the IMG Academy Golf Club will host the Fifth Annual Jim Boyd State Representative Golf Classic. Registration for the event will open at 12 p.m. and the tournament will be a four-person scramble. Attendees will have the opportunity to play golf, network with other businesses, enjoy food and refreshments, and more. For more information, contact Hilarie Jackson at 941-757-2904 or by email at hjackson@elc-manatee.org.



ELC of Southwest Florida Looking for Literacy Buddy Volunteers

Program teaches children about communication and instills appreciation for literature

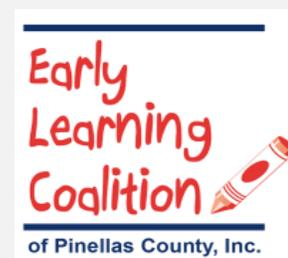
Past studies show when adults read, write and converse with children, the children are better prepared to learn in school. The Literacy Buddy program pairs preschoolers up with a "buddy" who agrees to receive letters from a child in an early learning facility. The buddy is encouraged to send a letter back along with a high-quality book in response. Visit the ELC of Southwest Florida's Facebook page for more information and to fill out an application.



Parents of Young Children Encouraged to Read, Talk and Sing

ELC of Pinellas County looks to develop vocabulary and language as precursors to literacy

Lindsay Carson, executive director of the ELC of Pinellas County, was recently featured in the fall 2016 issue of Good Living Magazine. Carson explains how important it is that parents of babies, toddlers and preschoolers read, talk and sing with their children often. Additionally, she informs parents that it is important to not push children's learning prematurely, as there are important developmental



milestones specific to each child's age.

Business Publication Recognizes ELC Board

Manatee County ELC board members to be recognized with the 2016 Outstanding Directors Award

The award comes from the Tampa Bay Business Journal and recognizes Tampa Bay-based 501(c)(3) non-foundation community organizations. Last year, the business journal named the ELC of Manatee County 2016 Non-Profit of the Year for Education. Board members will receive their award at a Nov. 3 reception.



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

