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

N-E-W-S

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

The Children First Conference Officially Sold Out

Educational opportunities to be expanded for all of Florida's children and students

On Saturday, Sept. 24, early education leaders, administrators, providers and others will attend the sold-out **Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe's** Children First Conference. Participants will learn about family literacy, school readiness, child development, inclusion, parent engagement and more. The conference focuses on research-based and best practices designed to enhance and improve education opportunities for all young children.



Third Annual Race 4 Readiness Quickly Approaching

Participate in the race to support early education throughout the Big Bend

Register for the **Race 4 Readiness**, taking place Saturday, Oct. 1, at 3916 Merchants Row in Tallahassee. The **ELC of the Big Bend** encourages runners, families and early learners to participate by registering to walk or run, recruit a team, host a cheering station or become a sponsor. Awards will be presented to the largest provider team and the provider team that "goes all out." Sign up before Sept. 23 to participate as a provider team.



ELC Announces Appointment of New CEO

The ELC of Hillsborough comes to a unanimous decision

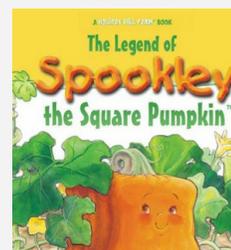
Dr. Steve Knobl is the new chief executive officer of the **ELC of Hillsborough** as of Sept. 12, 2016. Knobl succeeds recently retired CEO Dave McGerald who previously served for 15 years with the \$72 million dollar agency. Dr. Knobl holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree in educational leadership from Saint Leo University, in addition to a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of South Florida. Knobl is honored to lead an organization of creative, dedicated, experienced and talented professionals.



Early Literacy Events Taking Place in October

Learn about *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin*

The **ELC of North Florida** invites parents, teachers and children to participate in two fall field trips to Sykes Farm in Elkton on Oct. 3 and 4, between 9 a.m. and noon. At both events, children will receive a free *Spookley the Square Pumpkin* book and each classroom will receive a bag of assorted Spookley and other fall-related books. Activities include a trip through a kiddie maze, a hayride through a pumpkin patch and sunflower field, a visit with farm animals and more. **Find out more.**



Participate in the Polk Collaborative

Partners Conference 2016

Learn from speakers representing programs throughout the state

The **ELC of Polk County** is one of many sponsors for the 2016 Polk Collaborative Partners Conference taking place Saturday, Oct. 8, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is open now through Sept. 30, and will include a light breakfast, workshop materials and lunch. There will be workshops about infants and toddlers, 2-year-olds, preschool, school-age and all ages. Learn **how to register** and plan for the event taking place at Polk State College's Winter Haven Campus at 999 Avenue H NE in Winter Haven.



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