

Message from ELC



Now is the perfect time to become more informed and actively involved
on behalf of children and early care and education!

There are a number of ways in which you can become a more active and vocal children's advocate:

1) The Alliance for Early Care & Education (AECE) is chartering buses to transport 100 early care and education advocates to Tallahassee on Tuesday, March 23rd. Participants will enjoy a dinner at the Golden Corral and an overnight stay at the Quality Inn & Suites. Wednesday, March 24th will be spent meeting with legislators, and the buses will return to Miami later that night. To review a proposed schedule of events please visit <http://www.myaece.org/newsletters/2010%20Schedule.pdf>. To participate in AECE's legislative campaign you must submit a completed application found at

<http://www.myaece.org/newsletters/2010%20ELAN%20Application.pdf> along with a non-refundable fee of \$25. Applications are still being accepted at this time. For questions, please contact AECE at (786) 594-0342.

2) Join the 2010 Florida PTA Rally to Tally! Two buses (one overnight and another an express/red-eye) hosted by the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA will be departing for Tallahassee on Wednesday, March 24th, one at 11 a.m. and the other at 11 p.m. Both buses will return to Miami on Thursday, March 25th at 11 p.m. For more information please visit <http://www.dccptaptsa.org/>. The bus schedule and trip details can be found at <http://dccptaptsa.org/BusFlyerRallyToTallyRev.pdf>.

3) Take action today by calling Congress! Members of the House and Senate have started work on the 2011 Federal Budget which determines how much funding will be available for child care, early education programs, and other important programs for children and families. Your call will help members of Congress understand how young children in our State will benefit from increases in these programs.

To reach your Members of Congress, call (888) 460-0813 and use the script below. The operator who answers the phone will ask which Senator or Representative you would like to speak to. Visit www.congressmerge.com to find a listing of your Senators and Representatives.

When connected with their offices, tell the staffer who answers the phone:

- Hi, my name is _____. I'm a constituent. (If you are also a parent, child care provider, community leader, etc., it is helpful to mention that as well.)

- I am calling because current funding for child care, early education, and child nutrition fails to meet the needs of children and families in Florida. I urge the Senator/Representative to support the increases in these programs proposed by President Obama in his 2011 Budget.

If you have trouble getting through, please call back until you've spoken to someone in the offices of your Representative and both of your Senators. The more calls Congress receives, the more pressure they will feel to support these vital programs for children.

4) To learn more about relevant State bills and issues affecting our community's children and early care and education, please visit the Early Learning Coalition's Legislative Updates webpage at <http://elcmdm.org/Legislative/legislative.html>. Make sure you check back often for updates!



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