




ELC News Alert

Issue 10
November 2010

In This Issue

- :: [Important Announcements](#)
- :: [Children's Movement of Florida](#)
- :: [Team Member Spotlight](#)
- :: [Miami-Dade County News Briefs](#)
- :: [Monroe County News Briefs](#)
- :: [Quality Counts](#)

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

[Donate Now](#)

President's Message



Dear Friends:

Please join us and more than one million Americans in celebrating "Lights on Afterschool" in support of afterschool programs. Over 7,500 events are being held throughout the nation, including two in the City of Hialeah sponsored by our partner, the Florida Afterschool Network (<http://myfan.org/home.html>).

Our board of directors and staff fully support high-quality afterschool programs. We will continue to work with our community partners to make funding these programs a collective community effort.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, October 26; 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance
Wednesday, October 27; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board of Directors

Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Agency for Workforce Innovation](#)

Get Connected with ELC!

Monday, November 1; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, November 30; 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at www.elcmdm.org.



Important Announcements

ELC News

Contact Information for Ms. Shaleen Fagundo, Your New For-Profit Provider Representative on the Board of Directors

Ms. Shaleen Fagundo
Interamerican Learning Center
1521 NW 28th Street
Miami, FL 33142
Business: 305-663-1000
Email: shaleen@interamericanpreschool.com

Miami-Dade Providers, Attend a "Meet and Greet" with Shaleen Fagundo!

Please mark your calendars to attend a "meet and greet" with your new for-profit BOD representative, Ms. Shaleen Fagundo! Join her and your fellow colleagues for coffee and conversation on one of the following dates and locations:

North Session

Monday, Oct 25th
City of Miami Gardens City Hall
1515 NW 167th Street, Building #5
Room Council Chambers
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

South Session

Friday, Oct. 29th
South Dade Government Center
10710 SW 21th Street Rm. 203
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

For more information please email info@elcmdm.org or call 305-646-7220. Thank you.

Enter a Raffle to Attend the Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA) Professional Development Leadership Summit on November 5 - 7th

The Early Learning Coalition is providing two (2) scholarships to Miami-Dade family child care home providers and one (1) scholarship to a Monroe family child care home provider to attend the FFCCHA Leadership Summit.

In order to be considered for this opportunity, please email your name, center name, and contact information to info@elcmdm.org no later than close of business (COB) on **Wednesday, October 20th**. Please make sure that "leadership summit" is typed in the email's subject line. Winners will be randomly chosen and notified on

Thursday, October 21st.

For more information on the FCCCHA Leadership Summit's schedule, registration form, workshops, speakers, and hotel, please visit <http://elcmdm.org/downloads/2010FFCCHLeadershipReg.pdf> .

*Please note: Only providers who operate family child care homes are eligible for this scholarship opportunity. Thank you.

Don't Miss out on Your Chance to Participate in the CCEP Program for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you are already participating in the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program* and wish to continue doing so for the 2010-2011 school year, you must re-submit an agreement via mail or drop it off at the Early Learning Coalition's Coral Gables office (2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134). Please note however, you do not need to submit a pre-screening form for employees. Please visit our CCEP webpage at http://www.elcmdm.org/our_services/ccep.html for further information and to download the necessary paperwork.

*The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program for early care and education providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties will allow centers to provide care for an employee's child at the center and be partially reimbursed for that care by the Early Learning Coalition.

Community Events Corner

Join the City of Hialeah in Celebrating "Lights on Afterschool" in Support of Afterschool Programs on Thursday, October 21st

"Are You Smarter than Me?" (similar to the popular "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?")
Wilde Community Center (Ballroom)
1701 West 53 Terrace, Hialeah, 33016
Thursday, October 21st
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

"Family Feud"
City of Hialeah Educational Academy (cafeteria)
2590 West 76 Street, Hialeah 33012
Thursday, October 21st
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these events please call 305-818-9143. To learn more about "Lights on Afterschool" events being held around the country, and to register your own special event, please visit Afterschool Alliance's website at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>.

Join us for a FREE Florida International University (FIU) football game!

Florida International University (FIU) vs. The University of Louisiana at Monroe
Date: Saturday, November 6th (Homecoming 2010)
Time: 6:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend the Homecoming 2010 game, please RSVP and send an email with the number of tickets you will need, the names of your chaperones, and the names and grade levels of your children to info@elcmdm.org no later than Tuesday, November 2.

The entrance procedure on game day will be detailed once the Early Learning Coalition notifies you that you will receive tickets. Thank you to The Community Partners Kids Club for allowing the ELC to provide you with

this fun-filled opportunity.

For more information, please e-mail info@elcmdm.org, or call (305) 646-7220, ext 292.

Attend the Miami Children's Expo on Saturday, October 30th

The Miami Children's Expo is a great FREE event for parents and children alike! Attractions include fun activities for kids, free products and samples, exhibits, safety information, and many specials and discount opportunities. Dress your children in their Halloween costumes for entry into special contests and festive trick-or-treating.

Date/Time:

Saturday, October 30th; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Miami-Dade Fair Expo Center
Fuchs Pavilion
10901 SW 24th Street, Miami

Admission and Parking are FREE! For more information and to pre-register for entry into hourly drawings for \$100 Visa gift cards, please visit <http://childrensexpos.com/miami/miami-childrens-expo/>.

7th Annual Family Fall Festival at Sun Life Stadium - Sunday, October 31st

Participate in the 7th Annual Family Fall Festival presented by the Miami Dolphins at Sun Life Stadium!

Date/Time: Sunday, October 31st; 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. (Rain or shine)

Location: Sun Life Stadium - 2269 Dan Marino Blvd., Miami Gardens, FL

Admission includes rides, games, prizes, costume contests, live inspirational music, refreshments, and candy for kids. For more information please call 305-943-6780 or 305-624-8170.

Learn How to Prepare for a Career as a Health Professional

Attend a health professions career event on **Thursday, October 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Carol City Senior High School Cafeteria (3301 Miami Gardens Drive, Miami Gardens)** to learn everything you need to know about beginning a career in health care. Refreshments will be provided and breakout sessions will be categorized by grade/college level. For more information about colleges and universities that will be in attendance and the event's intended target audience, please visit <http://elcmdm.org/downloads/CAT%20flyer%20Oct%2021%202010.pdf>.

Children's Movement of Florida



Led by a 27-member committee of influential Floridians, the Children's Movement of Florida is a statewide, citizen-led, non-partisan campaign with the objective of educating political, business and civic leaders - and all parents in Florida - about the urgent need to improve the way we care for our children, making the well-being and education of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, Florida's highest priority. The need is clear: By almost every objective standard, Florida ranks poorly in measure after measure of how we invest in children.

For information about the origins, objectives and leaders of the Children's Movement of Florida, and about the current state of Florida's children, please visit www.childrensmovementflorida.org.

The Children's Movement also has a Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/childrensmovementfl. Please visit the page and click on the "like" button, and encourage family and friends to do so as well. Thank you.



Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work he accomplishes in bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Milton Silvera, IT Administrative Assistant.

Milton Silvera has been employed with the ELC for four years. Presently he is the administrative assistant in the IT department, and is providing network and laptop tech support to his colleagues. He says of his current role, "Nothing is ever the same, each technical issue adds or grows upon the next and each is a learning process. I've learned to use finesse to fix issues for the greatest impact."

Milton's previous professional experience included stints in banking, hospitality, and both technical and administrative support. He actually began his tenure at the Coalition as a temporary employee and worked hard to secure a permanent spot. "In the beginning I paid my dues as a temp. It's been great to learn the different areas of the organization, especially to finally work in IT now," Milton says. Even more so, Milton says the most meaningful aspect of working at the ELC is, "Knowing that the children are benefiting from early education programs in the community--something I never had as a child growing up in Miami-Dade back in the 70s."



A family man, Milton and his Colombian wife of six years, Claudia, have been happily busy raising their two-year old son. In his free time Milton has renewed his commitment to living a lifestyle of holistic wellness and nutrition.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

Child Screening and Assessment

The Early Learning Coalition in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Child Development Services is continuing to provide an annual developmental screening for every School Readiness child with signed parental consent. The results of the screenings are helpful in determining if a child is developing typically, may be at risk for

delays, and/or should be referred for further evaluation.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is being mailed monthly as School Readiness children are screened in their birth month rather than all at the same time. This should ease the burden on teachers having to complete many screenings in a short period of time. Additionally, there will be no need to determine which ASQ a child will need; it will be the 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, or 60-month questionnaire. At the beginning of each month centers will receive the ASQs in the mail. They should be completed immediately and returned by the 20th of the month. A self-addressed envelope in which to return the completed questionnaires will also be provided.

For more information or assistance in completing the ASQs, please call Miami-Dade County Child Development Services at 305-953-6007 in the North or 305-270-2905 in the South.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

Affidavit of Good Moral Character Form

The new background screening law (HB7069) for child care programs, which went into effect beginning August 1, 2010, requires the use of the **Affidavit of Good Moral Character** (Form CF1649). This form must be signed by each person working in the child care center in the presence of, and notarized by, a notary public.

The Affidavit of Good Moral Character form is available on the DCF background screening website, www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com. To learn more about how this new form will impact child care programs, please visit <http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/Affidavit%20of%20GMC%20Flyer.pdf>.

2008 VPK Standards Training

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at St. John the Apostle, 479 E 4th Street, School Cafeteria, in Hialeah from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Tuesday, November 9, 2010; Reference #967
- Tuesday December 7, 2010; Reference #972

The following 2008 VPK Standards training sessions will be conducted at Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Building G, Room 206, in Homestead from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the website to register.

- Thursday, October 21, 2010; Reference #965
- Thursday, November 18, 2010; Reference #969
- Thursday, December 9, 2010; Reference #974

Please note that there is a **\$10.00 class-fee which must be paid by credit card at the time of registration**. As a result of the class-fee, walk-ins will no longer be accepted. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class; anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Monroe County News Briefs

Pyramid Model Implementation Kicks Off with a Highly Successful Event

The first in a series of free Pyramid Model trainings for early childhood educators in Monroe County was provided on September 25th to promote the social-emotional development of young children and prevent and address challenging behaviors in the classroom. A total of 69 directors and teachers participated in this four-hour overview training. Special keynote presenter was Rochelle Lentini, a faculty member at the University of South Florida; Director of the Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support Project in Hillsborough County; on staff at The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning and the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children.



Save the Date

Lights on Afterschool Event - Thursday, October 21st
Bayview Park, Key West; 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Please join the Boys and Girls Club, Wesley House and the ELC to spotlight the importance of afterschool programs as part of the nationwide celebration. A brief ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. followed by food and lots of fun activities for the kids. All afterschool providers, parents and children are encouraged to participate.

Monroe Providers, Attend a "Meet and Greet" with Shaleen Fagundo!

Please mark your calendars to attend a "meet and greet" with your new for-profit BOD representative, Ms. Shaleen Fagundo! Join her and your fellow colleagues for coffee and conversation on one of the following dates and locations:

Key West Session

Thursday, November 4th
Wesley House
1304 Truman Avenue
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Islamorada Session

Friday, Nov 5th
St. James Children's Center
87500 Overseas Highway (mile marker 87.5)
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

For more information please email mwilliams@elcmdm.org or call 305-296-5557. Thank you.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) 1st Book Distribution - Week of November 8th

There has been an excellent response from Monroe providers who have signed up to participate in the second

year of RIF book distributions. Approximately 1,252 children (including subsidized and non-subsidized preschool children) at 19 centers and 27 family child care homes will receive books to take home in each of the three scheduled book distributions. Providers are reminded to start planning their literacy activities and contact the Monroe ELC office if they need assistance and/or resources. Also, please keep this office informed of any special events planned during the first distribution week.

School Readiness Child Health Screening Project Underway in November

Our community partner, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center will be providing free comprehensive child health screenings to approximately 450 School Readiness preschool children on-site at 19 School Readiness centers and 27 family child care homes Keys-wide. Financial assistance will be available for follow-up medical/specialty care for School Readiness children whose parents are uninsured or underinsured. Non-subsidized private pay children may participate in the health screenings for a nominal \$10 fee. Funding for this project is made available by a grant from the Human Services Advisory Board of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners and additional support from the ELC.

Quality Counts

Quality Counts in Miami-Dade County is just one part of the movement around the country to improve the quality of early care and education. As of July 2010, there are 24 Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) statewide and an additional 22 states are in some phase of QRIS development (including Florida). The launch of the first QRIS was in Oklahoma in 1998.

Quality Counts in Miami-Dade County shares similarities with other systems. Most QRIS have voluntary participation with a preparatory process for providers. The majority of QRIS include the following categories: licensing-compliance, environment, staff qualifications, family partnership, administration and management, and accreditation. Many also include curriculum, ratios and group size, and child assessment. Trainings linked to or aligned with QRIS are offered. Onsite assistance is also available in nearly all systems as yet another strategy to support programs in quality improvement. Quality improvement loans or grants are also generally provided.

QRIS ensures a clear assessment of early-learning system quality. Quality Counts fosters important improvements in quality that directly affect children through rating standards. The easily understood star ratings provide a valuable piece of information for parents and other stakeholders as they make early care and education decisions for children. Quality Counts is proud of the quality-increases continually shown by the providers of Miami-Dade County!

If you would like to learn more about Quality Counts, please attend one of the offered Overview Trainings listed on the Events Calendar. You may also call Quality Counts at 305-646-7242 or visit the ELC website at <http://www.elcmdm.org>.



2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 500; Coral Gables, FL 33134