



EARLY LEARNING
COALITION
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

News from The Early Learning Coalition SWFL

Fall, 2023

Here's what's happening at the ELC

[Visit our Website](#)

Connections

Early Education Initiatives

Early Learning Coalition SWFL has joined with Future Ready Collier to develop initiatives to increase **School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten enrollments**. The goal is to make sure all young children are "kindergarten ready" by engaging families and others into the early learning process. Are you interested in helping the young person in your life get the best possible start to their academic career? Look for resources in the Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit. Just click the link above.



Focus on Education

Listening Tour Lands in Southwest FL

The University of Florida **Lastinger Center for Learning** launched its 2023 Listening Tour to gather input on education needs and to identify ways to improve K-12 mathematics education and achievement in Florida. This comes as only 17% of eighth graders and 33% of fourth graders scored proficient in math in the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the **Nation's Report Card**.



The Listening Tour team visited 10 regions around the state, conducting interviews, focus groups and surveys. In September, a focus group was held at the ELC offices in Fort Myers. Area preschool providers, along with ELC staff contributed to the discussion.

Literacy Buddy Program

New school year begins

The ELC's **Literacy Buddy Program** is off and running for a new school year! This year many more preschools - and children- want to participate. **We are actively looking for adult volunteers** to help out with the program. It takes very little time - and the reward is immediate. Learn how easy it is by clicking the link above.



Child's Play

Learning is Fun!

ELC of Florida's Heartland, ELC of Sarasota, RCMA & the training team from the [Florida Division of Early Learning](#) met at our Fort Myers office to learn...how to have fun! For young children, learning often comes in the form of play. The training, "Playing with Purpose" shows all the ways toys and other supports can be used for early learning. The 2-day event also involved training parents in the many ways to connect with their child to learn- with toys and other interactions. Fun times!



Orlando Bound

FLAEYC Conference

Reigniting the Passion! was the theme of the [FLAEYC](#) Annual Conference in Orlando in October. ELC Staff enjoyed keynote sessions, attended workshops, and sharpened their skills. Staff also got to experience new child play spaces, visit with vendors and have a little fun, too.



ELC Staff meet up with some Preschool Providers at the FLAEYC Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

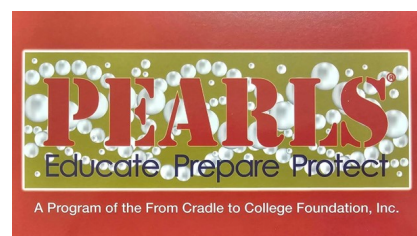
Safety First!

PEARLS Training

Marie O'Connell, from PEARLS Florida (Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System), staff from Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, and Sergeant Zammit, of the Fort Myers Police Department worked together in an active shooter class for home preschool centers.

Activities included scenario response to an active shooter, situational awareness, and residential security for preschools.

The class consisted of residential preschools owners who attended in person and virtually. Thanks, [Fort Myers P.D.](#) for all you do to protect our community.



Spooky!

ELC Staff Meet

In October, ELC staff came together to celebrate the spooky season and participate in a Staff Development Day. Food, games, and "business" allowed us to learn more about each other and how our work can overlap and enhance each department. We look forward to serving clients, preschool providers, and our community!



Ivonne shows her "spirit".



Yanelly is crafty!



Mysterious Karla!



Pumpkin Contest winner!



Early Childhood Specialists



Pumpkin transformation.

[Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida](http://www.elcofswfl.org)
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