



News Release

News from the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Early Learning Coalition of Orange County awarded \$50,000 from the Orlando Magic Youth Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund

ORLANDO, Fla. (January 18, 2012) – The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County (ELCOC) received a \$50,000 grant to provide intensive training to help infant-toddler teachers obtain their Child Development Associate certification. The Orlando Magic Youth Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund (OMYF-MFF), made the award public during the Magic vs. Spurs game Wednesday night. There were 19 Central Florida organizations that received grants totaling \$1 million dollars.

“We are elated that we were selected by the Magic for the grant, and we know that our early care and education provider network will truly benefit from this program. When our teachers are highly trained, our children will receive more sensitive care and will be better prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn,” said Karen Willis, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Orange County.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) certification is awarded to childcare providers who have demonstrated proficiency working with young children in the areas of a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth. The grant will provide 80 hours of CDA specific training to support infant/toddler teachers, provide scholarships to pay the cost of the final assessment fee, and provide incentives for the participating infant-toddler teachers.

“We want to raise the standard of quality among the teachers in the classroom with our youngest students. Brain research shows the most dynamic growth occurs from birth to three years of age, so we need to make sure that these children are receiving instruction from the best. “The investment that the OMYF has made shows that they are just as committed to quality as we at the Coalition are,” said Cindy Jurie, Director Research & Special Projects, ELCOC.

For child care directors and infant-toddler teachers in the ELCOC network interested in the program, please contact Cindy Jurie at 407-841-6607, ext. 134 or by email at cindyjurie@elcoc.org

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Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

The vision of the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is to ensure that all Orange County children are fully prepared to enter school, ready to learn. The organization has worked for nearly ten years to provide leadership, guidance and support for school readiness and VPK programs for children in Orange County. For additional information on the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County or its programs, please visit www.elcoc.org or call (407) 841-6607.

Ensuring all Orange County children enter school ready to learn.