



NEWS RELEASE

News from Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Law Enforcement and Early Learning Programs Join Forces to Promote Literacy

Orlando, FL—On Wednesday, April 20th 2016, Early Learning Coalition of Orange County and the Orlando Police Department launch a new initiative to promote literacy. Dubbed “Books and Badges” the launch takes place at 10:30am at the Early Education Station located at 1780 Mercy Dr, Orlando, FL 32808.

“The idea is pretty simple.” said Karen Willis, CEO of Early Learning Coalition of Orange County. “It is a shared reading experience to promote a love of reading and build positive relationships between our youngest citizens and law enforcement.”

A uniformed officer visits the same early childhood program on a monthly basis for 30 minutes. The officer reads a book to the children and talks to them about safety and community and then donates the book to the classroom at the end of the visit. After the officer leaves, the classroom teacher expands on the message of the book using curriculum and activities provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County.

OPD Chief, John W. Mina will kick off “Books and Badges” by reading to a VPK classroom just as the officers will do. “Reading to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language but it is also fun. Our officers will have a great time not only sharing their love of reading but also their love of service.” said Chief Mina.

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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 since 2000 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.