



# Community Report

2021-2022

# Message from our CEO

As the new CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, I am happy to report that we have increased the positive outcomes in our communities by helping our providers and families with early education and childcare.

**Quality** childcare combined with **quality** early childhood education is crucial for the success of young families and communities. As an educator with more than 30 years of experience and a parent myself, I recognize the importance of parents having peace of mind when they leave their babies in a childcare facility. ELCOC wants to ease parents' concerns such as "Is it safe? Is the staff qualified? Is it affordable?"

This is why ELCOC is determined to offer childcare providers and workers the latest research and evidence-based education to ensure that **all** children receive the best care and education possible. Our Business and Education Institutes provide year-round courses and additional professional development workshops by certified early education specialists.

In addition, ELCOC's inclusion specialists provide free assessment services for children needing additional speech and behavioral support.

We are dedicated to preparing all children for VPK and Kindergarten, which is why we continue to have a close partnership with Orange County Public Schools. Today's childcare must include childhood education to guarantee our children's future success.

We welcome our community members to contact us for any questions about our services, including help with locating a childcare provider. ELCOC is invested in the continued success of our communities because the first 2000 days in a child's life really do matter the most.

## Our Mission. Our Vision. Our Purpose.

- Provide every child with equal access to high quality early learning programs by supporting those who help children grow and develop
- Every child in Orange County enters kindergarten with the foundation necessary to reach their full potential
- Contribute to the growth and stability of Orange County by setting standards for early learning and childcare to ensure future success



*Dr. Scott Fritz*



## Gateway to Quality Childcare



### Childcare Standards

From birth to age five, children experience an amazing amount of developmental growth. Research shows that childcare combined with early childhood education prepares children to be more successful in school and life. Providing a safe, stimulating, and supportive learning environment for children is therefore essential.

Providers who partner with ELCOC receive free curriculum training, and professional development through our Business and Education Institutes. In addition, ELCOC has scholarship offerings for the state-required Child Development Associate (CDA).

Our biweekly webinars and newsletters inform providers of the latest legislation and requirements from Florida's Division of Early Learning (DEL), which sets the state's standards for all childcare providers, whether home or center based.

ELCOC Provider Specialists regularly visit our center and home-based providers to offer guidance and monitor all areas related to childcare and education. This ensures compliance with state mandates and that services remain high quality.

### School Readiness & FREE VPK

ELCOC recognizes that finding childcare can be expensive! The School Readiness Program provides financial assistance for families with limited incomes, allowing equal access to quality childcare and early education. Eligibility depends on family size and income.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is **FREE** for all children regardless of income. ELCOC providers include public and private providers of VPK.

**Orange County  
Children Served**

**25,241**

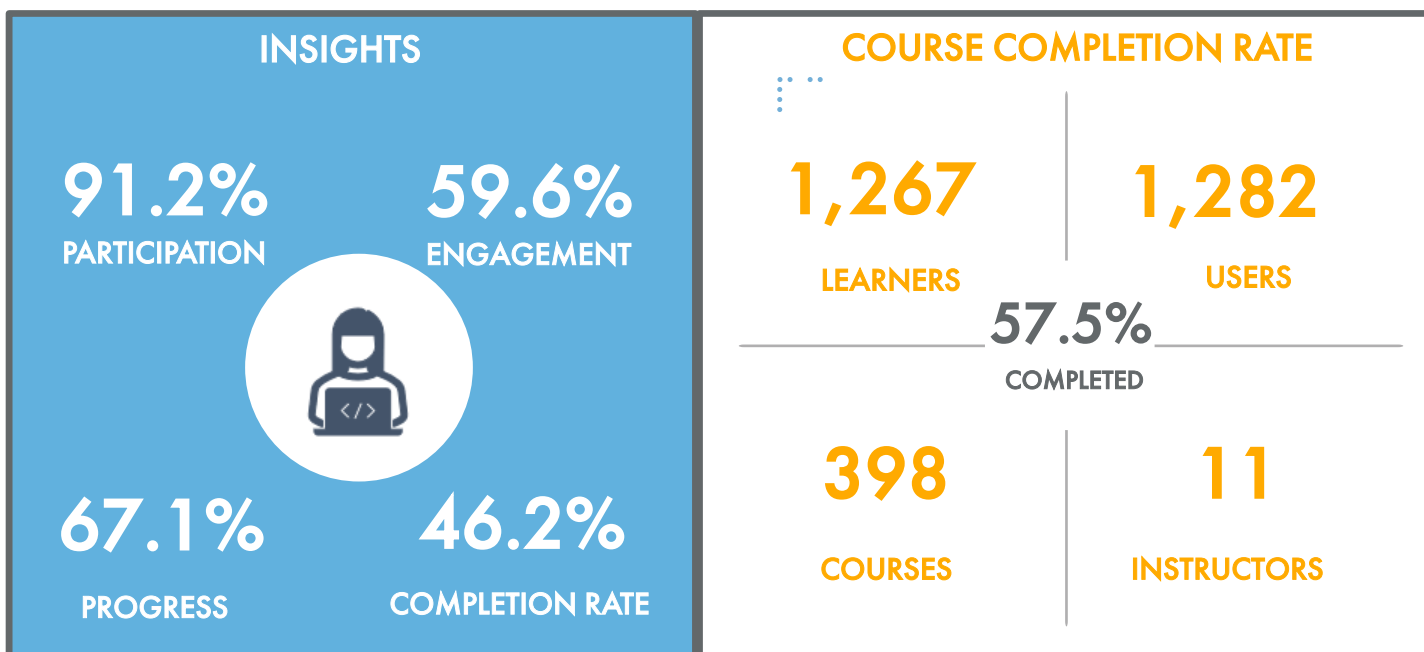
# VISITS TO PROVIDERS IN 2021-2022

This includes but is not limited to...

<b>1425</b>	Coaching
<b>727</b>	School Readiness Class Observations
<b>391</b>	Material drop offs to providers, such as laptops (Surface Go), supplies and classroom items
<b>168</b>	Targeted Technical Assistance
<b>125</b>	VPK Monitoring
<b>123</b>	School Readiness Monitoring

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING

The Institute for Early Learning (I4EL) offers early childhood professionals college level courses to enhance their evidence-based practice and professional development in early care and education.



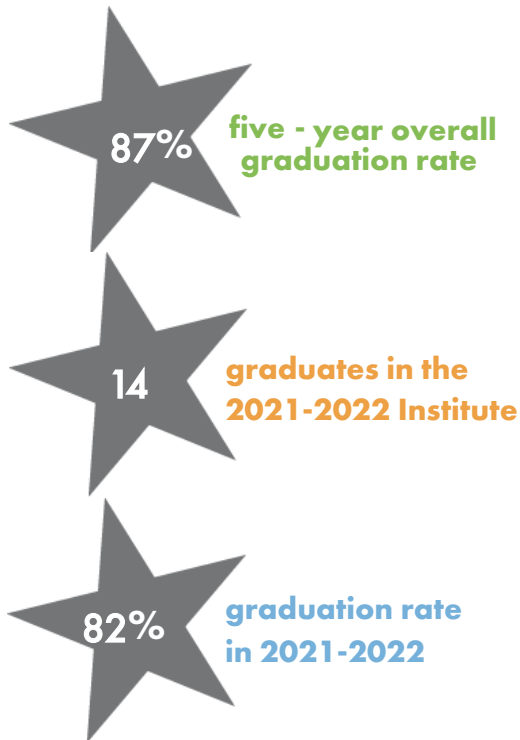
I4EL offers several annual course series which include advancing levels of core competencies around the Division of Early Learning's Core Knowledge areas. With all annual courses, I4EL provides guides, texts and a variety of materials that support the participant's implementation of the content learned.



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: 2021-2022 BUSINESS INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING ENTREPRENEURS

## Celebrating Five Years of Continuing Education

The Business Institute for Early Learning Entrepreneurs reinforces and enriches early learning programs across Central Florida, including providers from The Early Learning Coalitions of Brevard and Osceola. The five targeted sessions empower providers to work toward a sustainable business that can engage in the greater community effectively as professionals.



## Alumni Success Story

Sharon Singleton is a long-term family child care home provider in the Pine Hills community of Orange County, having offered child care in her home for over 20 years. She was a part of the Business Institute at the height of the COVID pandemic. She was able to take the information she learned to make a substantial step forward with her childcare business operations.

Sharon had been leasing her home for 18 years but in the past few years, had experienced landlord issues regarding running her family childcare business in her home. Using the information she learned in the Business Institute, Sharon successfully purchased a house that was perfect for her family childcare business, with a large screen porch and a fenced back yard with a tree for shade. Sharon specifically references the lessons from her Business Institute experience as helping her through her home purchase. Because she had her paperwork in order, with an established business account for her FCCH, she knew she would be treated as a business owner when she started working with her bank.

Sharon said that “Business Institute sharpened my skills” and was “by far one of the greatest opportunities we have had to help us.” As a result, she has encouraged other providers to participate in Business Institute as she highly recommends it.

**Sharon Singleton**

**-Singleton Family Daycare, Year Four Business Institute Alumni**



# Expanding Mental & Behavioral Supports for Early Childhood Teachers

As increasing numbers of behavioral referrals for young children have been received, the ELCOC has been able to continue the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant program with the use of Preschool Development grant funds. Our Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) program, operated in collaboration with Kinder Consulting, provided weekly visits by licensed early childhood mental health consultants to twenty-two early child programs in Orange County. In this past year, over 243 teachers in 176 classrooms have participated in this program and have received support in their work to build a positive emotional climate with children in their classroom.

Even more exciting is the expansion of early childhood mental health consultation services in collaboration with Orange County Government having been awarded a SAMHSA grant to serve more early childhood programs. Orange County Government has made a strong commitment to supporting our youngest children through funding for early childhood mental health consultation, increasing the number of inclusion specialists and mental health services to support parents of young children.

The ELCOC is grateful for the support of the Florida Blue Foundation with our Early Childhood Mental Health Supports which funds a pilot Employee Assistance Program for child care staff, Early Childhood Crisis Response services, and Trauma Training for Early Childhood providers. Advent Health partners with the ELCOC to support our Circle of Security training to assist early childhood teachers to better understand how to respond to young children’s behavior.

“Ms. Claudia, our mental health consultant, is a blessing! She is a support person for our teachers, she works with them one-on-one in their classrooms and they look forward to the days that she comes. It makes a difference in the classroom on the days she is with us.”

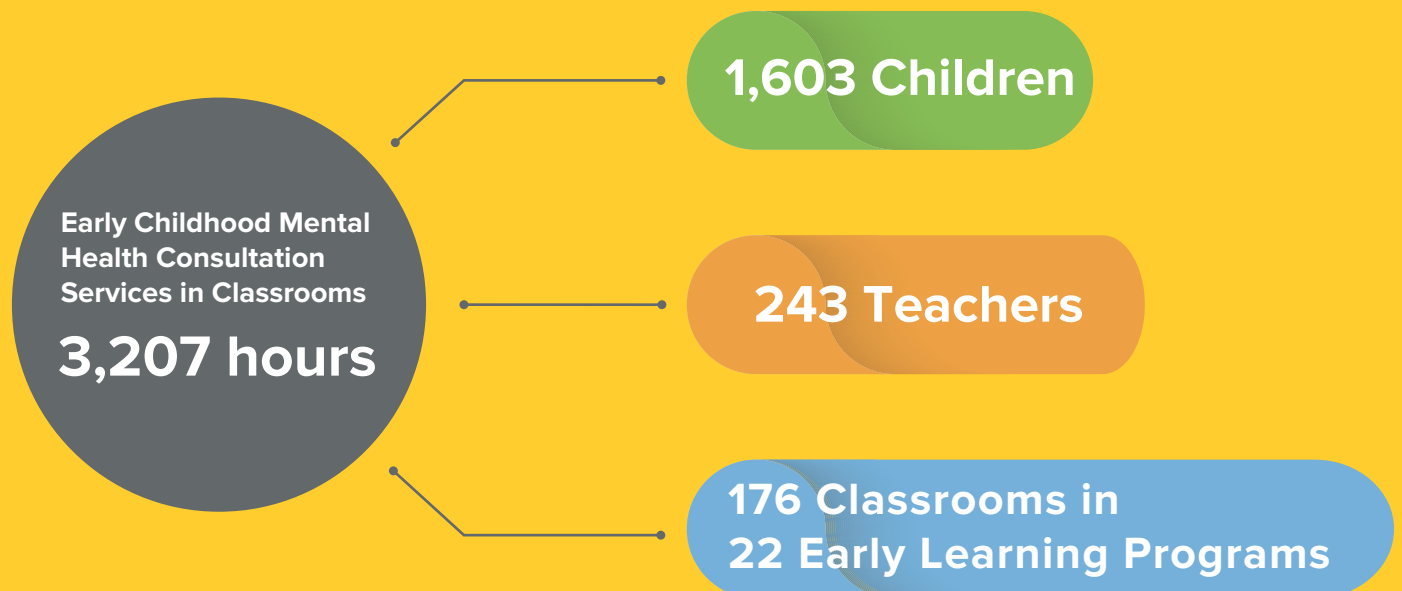
**-Amanda Johnson, Administration, Apopka Child Academy**



*Chevelle Teague, Director, Play, Laugh & Grow Learning Academy & Korina Herrera, her Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant*



## Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation





# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: BABY INSTITUTE

## Building Strong Families in Orange County

ELCOC's six-week Baby Institute program helps at-risk families build the knowledge and skills that lead to better parenting and better school readiness outcomes for children. During the fiscal year of 2021-2022, Baby Institute expanded to Mercy Drive in Orange County.

185

parents graduated after taking at least one curriculum course

300

children ages 0-5 and their parents have benefited from participating



90%

2021-22 graduation rate

70%

are under the age of 3





# PROGRAMS & GRANTS

**Thanks to our funders, in 2021-2022 ELCOC helped thousands of Orange County families with Childcare and Early Childhood Education by:**

- Providing standards and professional development to funded providers
- Supporting lower income families with financial assistance for quality childcare
- Offering courses to childcare workers and teachers to keep abreast of the latest research in early childhood development
- Screening children who may need additional support in speech and in other areas



GRANTS	FUNDING	OUTCOMES
School Readiness	\$64,457,034	Childcare assistance for low income families.
VPK	\$32,401,826	Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK)
DEL & Local Funding	\$75,789,306	Division of Early Learning, Local Government & Sponsors
Operating Budget	\$172,648,166	School Readiness, VPK, DEL & Local Funding

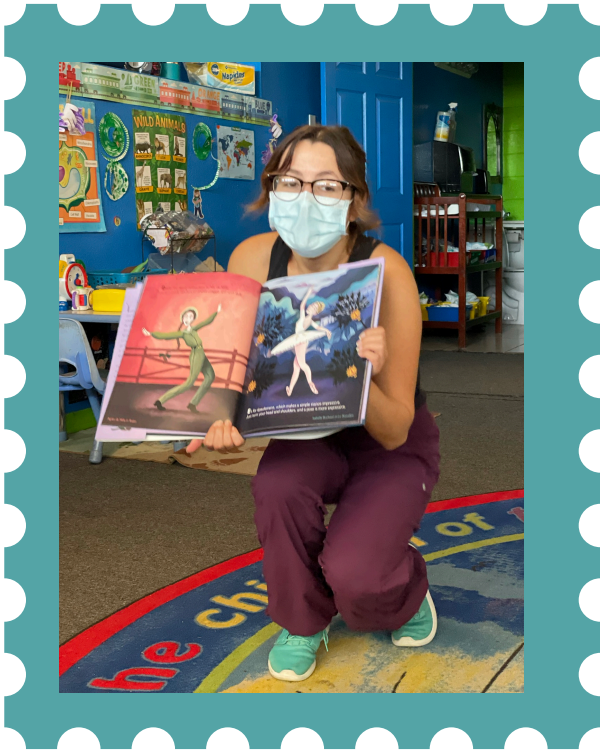
# FUTURE PROJECTS

## 1 Increase Gold Seal Accreditation

ELCOC partners with childcare providers who have satisfactorily completed our screening process. Gold Seal Accreditation ensures the quality and standards of the childcare provider. It also reassures families that they're receiving the best care for their children and gives providers a competitive edge. Accreditation signals that the provider is committed to the highest standards for childcare.

## 2 Increase Teacher Recruitment and Retention

ELCOC is committed to finding qualified early childhood teachers for our community. We plan to collaborate with local colleges and universities to host job fairs. We're invested in attracting the best candidates to Orange County. ELCOC will continue to offer scholarships for candidates interested in taking the CDA courses through our Institute for Early Learning. Classes are offered in English and Spanish to meet the needs of our diverse communities, and we hope to add other languages in the future.



# FUTURE SNAPSHOT

**Increase  
Gold Seal  
Accreditation**

**Increase  
Teacher  
Recruitment**

**Continue Advocating for  
Quality Childcare & Early  
Childhood Education**

# We thank you for your ongoing support of our programs

\*Supporters listed donated at least \$500 this fiscal year

## Corporate Donors

- AdventHealth
- Charles Schwab Foundation
- City of Orlando
- Community Bank Foundation
- Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.
- Drusilla Farwell Foundation
- Fringe Benefit Plans, Inc.
- Heart of Florida United Way United
- Helios Education Foundation
- Lilly Pulitzer- Oxford Industries
- Massey Services
- Orlando Health
- Orlando Utilities Commission
- Verizon Wireless
- Walmart Foundation
- Writer's Block Bookstore- Zimmerman Foundation

## Individual Donors

- Bridget Burris
- David Odahoski
- Dr. Mary E. Harper
- Jesse Eisner
- Karen Willis
- Kevin Quimby
- Linda and Kevin Shaughnessy
- Marcia & Kenneth Goodwin
- Patricia E. Frank
- Patricia and Roy Ambinder
- Phat Quach
- Teresa Parnell