



Early Learning Coalition
of Orange County

COMMUNITY
REPORT

2010 - 2011

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Special Thanks to our Community Partners

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- Community Foundation of Central Florida
- DC Graphix
- Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation
- Florida Hospital
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children
- Orlando Health
- Orlando Magic
- Orlando Sentinel
- Walt Disney World

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Mission

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is to provide unified leadership, support and guidance to ensure that the children of our community have the opportunity to reap the benefits of developmentally appropriate, research-based school readiness and VPK programs, respecting the role of the parent as their child's first teacher.

Vision

All Orange County children will be fully prepared to enter school ready to learn.

Purpose

To effectively implement the provisions set forth in state legislation to establish an integrated and high-quality early learning service delivery system for all children, ages birth to five, in Orange County.

Date Summary

The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.



A Message from our Chairman



Since its inception in 1999, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has worked to promote future academic success for the children of this community. This focus is embodied in the Coalition's framework, our mission, vision and purpose. And this focus drives our continued commitment to an economically healthy Orange County that begins in part with high-quality early learning care and programs.

The 2010-2011 fiscal year was one of great challenge, but also of critical importance. We endured the challenges of limited resources and posed difficult questions to ourselves with regard to measuring our impact. As a result, we continue our efforts to produce an integrated, high-quality, seamless service delivery system into the next fiscal year with great anticipation and excitement. We are focused, energized and dedicated to ensuring that all Orange County children develop the skills necessary to enter school ready to learn.

We don't do this work alone. Community partners, business leaders, corporations, foundations and policy makers everywhere support us, encourage us and inspire us. These allies give us hope that our charge of combining public and private resources to create an early learning system that Orange County can be proud of is within our grasp.

As a founding member of the Coalition's Board of Directors, never have I been more proud of this organization or more certain of the value that we bring to this community. We have carefully crafted and implemented a variety of programs for children, their parents and child care providers. These programs and services enhance the quality of services available to the children of Orange County and increase the numbers of children who indeed enter school ready to learn.

We are proud of our accomplishments during the 2010-2011 fiscal year as we worked to strengthen the quality and impact of early care and learning programs in Orange County. Yet we are humbled by the work still to be done.

From this community report, we hope that you will gain a stronger appreciation for the importance of early learning and will join us with a renewed commitment to a mission that embraces a bright and positive future for all Orange County children.

Richard Morrison

Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
Regional Vice President, Florida Hospital

A Message from our CEO



This has been a challenging year for the State of Florida and Orange County, but we at the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County are working harder than ever to continue to be a resource for local families and early education programs.

One of the biggest challenges was balancing services to children and families as the federal stimulus funding expired. The funding from the School Readiness program allows us to provide child care subsidies to low-income working families. However, we are thankful for a proactive board of directors who helped implement additional revenue generating programs and special events to assist with match contributions. Even with scarce resources, which included an 8% program support cut, we worked diligently to increase Voluntary PreKindergarten enrollment and support early care and education providers in elevating the quality of care in their respected centers and family child care homes.

In 2010-2011, we continued to build partnerships with community organizations focused on early learning outcomes, and our board of directors placed a strong commitment on outcome accountability as it pertains to meeting the needs of our children and families. The following pages will showcase our efforts.

We are very proud of our accomplishments this fiscal year and we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of Orange County's youngest citizens for years to come!

Sincerely,

Karen Willis, CWDP

Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, CEO

Service Delivery Summary:

The Coalition works collaboratively with a variety of organizations serving families in Orange County. These joint efforts, either through contracts, agreements, or participation in the Coalition's initiatives, help to meet our short and long term goals.

School Readiness

The School Readiness program provides child care assistance to income-eligible Orange County families helping parents access high quality early care and education while they are working to become financially self-sufficient.

Parents are provided with information on child development, as well as parental engagement opportunities that incorporate parents as their child's first teacher.

Children in the School Readiness program are given the foundation for not only educational readiness but also for life-long success because they are taught the basics of self-care and self-management. The children, most of who are younger than kindergarten age, develop the social and emotional skills that enable them to take instruction, make friends, express thoughts, and cope with frustration.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County contracted with 619 early care and education providers which helped us provide services to 8,915 families and over 15,000 children.

Child Care Resource & Referral

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program is a service funded by the Coalition and operated by the Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C) that provides families with a customized list of early learning providers based on family need. This single point of entry makes CCR&R a one-stop resource shop.

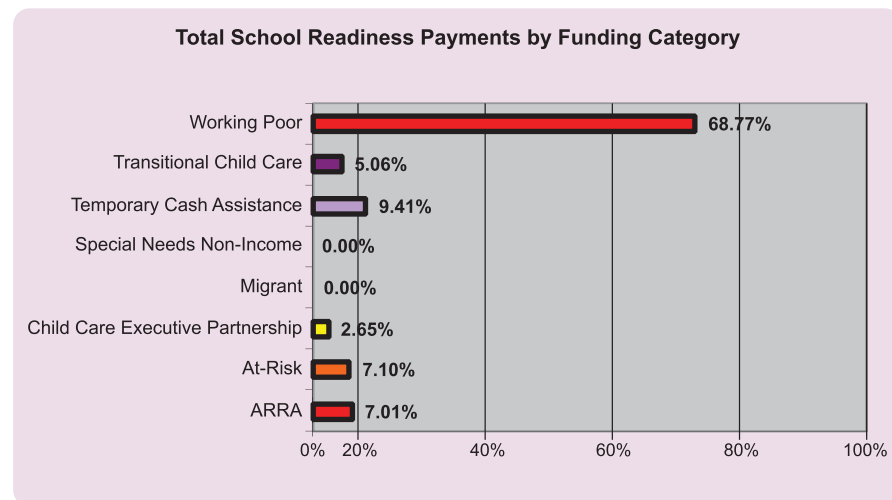
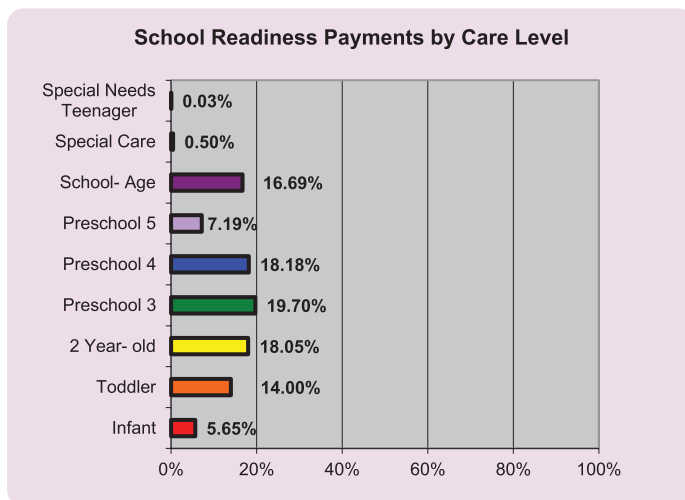
A trained CCR&R Specialist provides families with information about early care and education sites without expressing personal bias; an explanation about quality early learning and its benefits, as well as, financial assistance strategies and referrals to other community social services as needed.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, a total of 22,356 requests were received for child care referrals while 10,414 calls were received for financial assistance with child care.

Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

SR Children	SR Families
15003	8915

Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



Voluntary PreKindergarten

The Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) program prepares four-year-olds for kindergarten. VPK provides the self-management and emergent literacy skills that are critical for a child's academic success. VPK provides a quality early learning experience at participating private and faith based child care centers, many public schools and Head Start sites, as well as licensed family child care homes. The program is free regardless of income. Parents have the option of selecting from either a school year program with 540 instructional hours or a summer program that includes 300 instructional hours.

Children are taught emergent literacy skills, such as letter and sound recognition, which are critical for academic success. Each child has access to qualified instructors and age appropriate curricula.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County approved 395 VPK programs which allowed us to provide services to 11,564 families. A total of 11,762 children participated in the VPK program; 11,314 during the school year and 448 during the summer program.

Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children
11,762

VPK Families
11,564

Child Care Executive Partnership Program

The Florida Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program creates an opportunity for employers and employees to succeed as partners. Participating employers can offer an additional benefit to their low to moderate wage-earning employees by providing them with financial assistance towards child care tuition.

CCEP can also be used by early care and education providers who provide care for an employee's child at the center. The employer can be partially reimbursed for that care by the Coalition. Similar to the School Readiness grant, this program serves center employees with low to moderate wage-earnings who qualify for the program. The eligibility requirements are the same, with the exception that they can earn up to 200% of federal poverty level.

Tax benefits, increased employee morale, and productivity make this an exciting work-life benefit for all participating partners.

Total number of providers that participate in the Coalition's early learning programs:

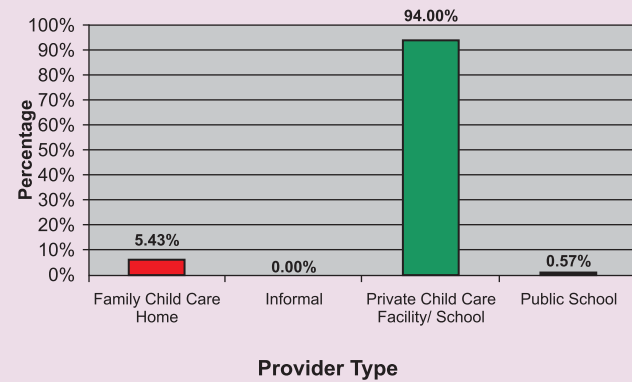
School Readiness Providers

226

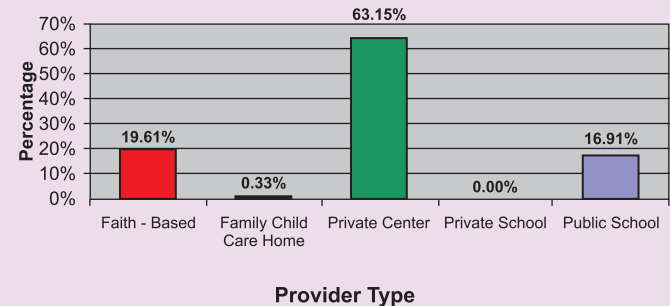
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers

395

School Readiness Providers by Provider Type



VPK Providers by Provider Type



"A child's educational proficiency from birth to five makes an ongoing influence on their chance for success academically - and socially. We owe it to them to offer the best imaginable start"

Marilyn A. Doyle, Ed. D., Orange County Public Schools

PKZ Baby Institute

The Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ) Baby Institute is a three year pilot project, funded by the Community Foundation of Central Florida and the City of Orlando, for parents of children between the ages of birth to five years of age residing in the Parramore Heritage community. The nine-week Baby Institute is designed to help parents of young children build knowledge and skills that result in better parenting, which will lead to better school readiness outcomes for children.

During the first cycle of the PKZ Baby Institute 14 families began the program; nine graduated. Six moms were identified as not having their GEDs but two of them have since signed up for classes. One mother will even be returning to college in the fall. The pilot program provides a pre and post-test, goal setting, journaling and exit tickets which capture the growth and

development through a nine week cycle.

A second component of the early childhood development program being implemented in Parramore, by the City of Orlando, seeks to stabilize approximately 100 young children in high quality early learning centers, by facilitating Voluntary PreKindergarten enrollment and access to child care subsidies.



Preschool Ambassadors

Orlando Cares addresses community challenges – Youth Education and Youth Crime Prevention – by mobilizing caring citizens as volunteers to be a part of the solution. In September 2010, Orlando was awarded a Cities of Service Leadership Grant by the Rockefeller Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies to develop an evidence-based, comprehensive service plan. Through a collaborative process, hundreds of community stakeholders helped to design Orlando Cares and its six service initiatives.

The Preschool Ambassadors' volunteer program is a partnership between the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, the City of Orlando and the Adult Literacy League. It is a program to engage families in early literacy activities, increase PreKindergarten enrollment and improve literacy instruction in PreKindergarten centers. In order to accomplish these goals four, different volunteer job descriptions were developed including Ready Readers, Teaching Experts, VPK Outreach Liaisons and Early Literacy Liaisons. So far, 16 volunteers have been trained as Ready Readers who will go into VPK classes and read to small groups of children on a consistent basis.

Baskets for Books

The Orlando Magic and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida teamed up during the 2010-2011 NBA basketball season to develop lifelong learners through literacy and education. For every point made by the Orlando Magic at every home game, one book was donated to the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County.

According to the US Department of Education, 80% of preschool and after-school programs serving at-risk children do not have access to books. By age four, children who live in low-income homes will have heard 32 million fewer words than children who read on a daily basis and have access to books in their home.

The Orlando Magic together with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida donated approximately 4,000 books to local preschool age children to begin and continue their in-home libraries.



"Research tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don't begin thinking about education in the early years, our youngest citizens are at risk of falling behind by the time they start kindergarten. A winning game plan starts with early care and education!"

Linda Landman Gonzalez, Orlando Magic

Children's Week

Children's Week is a statewide collaboration between non-profits, corporate, philanthropic, faith based, state agencies and organizations. Children's Week develops and implements over 200 community events and activities statewide which brings thousands of parents, children, policy makers, professionals, community leaders, and concerned citizens together to share valuable knowledge and information about children's issues in each community across the state and at the State Capitol. The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is the lead organization for the county hosting four events throughout the week. The activities include raising awareness of child abuse prevention through Pinwheel Gardens (24 gardens planted and 676 pinwheels planted); childhood obesity and the need for early math and science skills through the Walk for Health and S.T.E.M. (4 centers participated bringing 115 children); pedestrian, fire, and stranger safety through a Children's Safety Village Learning Adventure designed especially for 4 and 5 year olds (6 centers participated bringing 97 children). This year's kickoff event was held in conjunction with Star 94.5 at the Spring Fiesta in the Park, where we hosted a mini children's play area for children 1-7 years old.

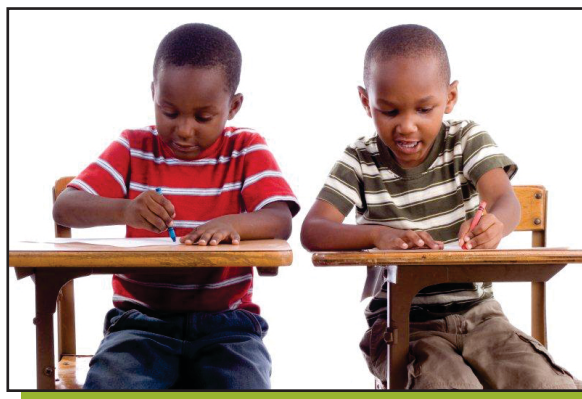
During Children's Week we collaborate with various community agencies to coordinate educational, informational and fun activities for the community.



Zora Festival

The Zora Neale Hurston Festival is a weeklong event that celebrates the life and work of the writer, folklorist, and anthropologist from Eatonville, Florida. This international festival is an amazing amalgam of indoor events such as museum exhibition, public talks, panel discussions, workshops and theatrical productions combined with a three-day weekend Outdoor Festival of the Arts which features literacy and health awareness programs; performances by local, regional and national acts; a juried art lane and international marketplace, an international food pavilion; and booths for distributing public service information and community resources.

As a collaborative partner, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County distributed 5,000 age appropriate books to children, birth to age 5. Additional materials given to parents and children included coloring books, pencils and crayons as well as, The Best We Can Be developmental stages resource book for parents.



The Inaugural First Five Years Gala

The Inaugural First Five Years Gala raises \$100,000 for Early Care and Education.

The Early Learning Coalitions of Orange and Osceola County extends our sincerest gratitude to our generous sponsors, attendees and volunteers for their participation in our inaugural First Five Years Gala held Saturday, June 25, 2011 at Disney's Contemporary Resort. The gala was co-hosted by Dick Batchelor and Tico Perez and honored former Lt. Governor Toni Jennings as an early care and education champion.

Nearly 350 friends of early care and education attended the event which included a performance by some truly unforgettable children who reminded us what the evening was all about. It was an event of great company, delicious food, memorable entertainment, and a successful silent auction.

For every dollar raised locally at this gala, the federal match provided an additional \$15.67. The evening was a success raising \$100,000 in local support, and receiving \$1,567,000 in federal match contributions. All of which will go directly to early learning programs for children in our community. By achieving our goal of local and state funds, nearly 450 children will be able to receive early care and education services!

We look forward to your continued support for the 2012 gala as we work to ensure all children in our communities are ready for school.



Professional Development

The Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree Scholarship Grant Program enables teachers employed at child care sites that offer services to Coalition subsidized working poor families attain an Associates in Early Childhood Education through Seminole State College and Valencia College. The scholarship pays for registration and lab fees, required textbooks, and tuition.

Additional training and development opportunities include Early Intervention, Beyond Centers and Circle Time, Beyond Cribs and Rattles, Arts & Crafts – Infants and preschoolers, Recipe For Success, Healthy Habits for Life, Infant and Toddlers, Kindergarten Readiness, Developmentally Appropriate Lesson Plans – English and Spanish, Health & Safety – English and Spanish, -It's OK to play in VPK, and Integrating the Standards and VPK Standards.

Get Ready to Read

Get Ready to Read is a research-based screening tool used to assess four-year-old's early literacy development. It focuses on print knowledge, emergent writing, and linguistic awareness.

This tool is designed to screen a child three times during the year before kindergarten to measure the child's progress and to make sure the child will be on target upon entering school.

Out of 1,278 children assessed by the Get Ready to Read tool, an average 40% scoring increase was documented from the previous screening.

According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, Get Ready to Read has been found to be extremely successful when used as part of a preschool literacy program and has also been found to be a moderate to strong predictor of overall school success and reading skill development in the early elementary school years.

Migrant Program

The Migrant program is designed to strengthen parent/child relationships, provide effective role modeling for parents and provide educational play activities to develop the skills necessary to be ready for school. In this program, the child's first language is supported while a second language is introduced and reinforced.

This year the Brigance Screening demonstrated an average pre-screening score of 53% and an average post-screening score of 72%, thus yielding an average increase of 19% for this school year. The Basic Skills Checklist, while continuing to provide a monitoring baseline, allows teachers to focus on individual needs in the planning process for instruction.

Inclusion Services

The Inclusion Service offered by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County provides assistance for child care providers serving VPK and School Readiness funded children.

The Coalition's Inclusion Specialist works with parents and teachers of children experiencing developmental delays or behavior challenges. The specialist conducted observation and strategy development, on-site training and technical assistance, and provided information and referral support to teachers and parents. More than 444 children were referred and/or observed as having some potential delays and/or behavioral concerns. A total of 9 trainings were completed and more than 230 participants received information on a variety of topics relating to inclusion and behavior management.

Let's Get Licensed & Accreditation Grant

The Let's Get Licensed program was started to assist Registered Family Child Care Homes receive licensure through the Department of Children and Families. First, providers are assessed to determine whether or not their program is ready to become licensed. The next step for those who score well on the Fundamentals assessment is to be referred to a Family Child Care Home Specialist who will walk the family child care home provider through the process of becoming licensed.

For those homes that are already licensed, an Accreditation Grant that allows these homes to gain certification through a national accrediting agency. The grant pays for the application and is intended to increase the number of accredited Family Child Care Homes in Orange County. Seven providers attended an informational meeting in September 2008 and began working on their accreditation, which takes 18 months to 2 years to complete. In 2010/11 all seven Family Child Care Homes received accreditation through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).



"CenturyLink provides broadband, voice, wireless and managed services to consumers and businesses across the country and we know to continue to improve our telecommunications services we will have to continue to grow a well-versed workforce. What better way to do that than to invest in the education of our youngest children? When they are taught to dream, explore, and build at an early age, that curiosity will only grow as they mature and enter the workforce. We want to be a part of a helping them think limitlessly."

Jamie Pinero, director inside sales, CenturyLink

Quality Rating Improvement System

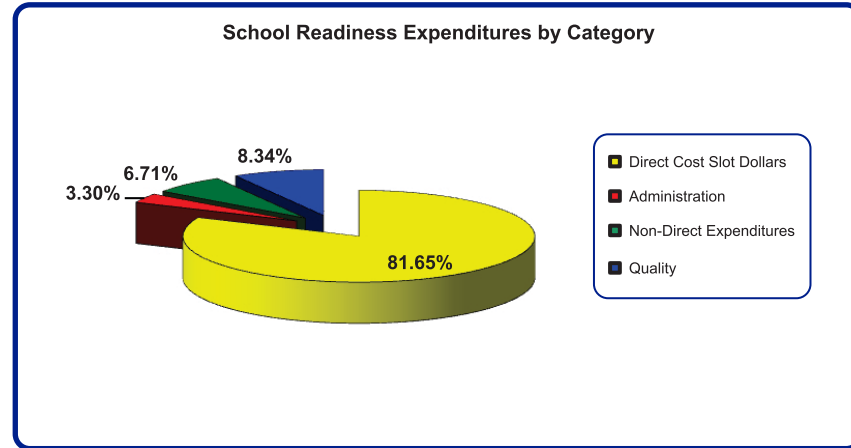
The Central Florida "Quality Counts" Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) is a voluntary rating and improvement system that reviews early learning programs according to clearly defined, high quality standards using a five star method of evaluation. It offers support and incentives to help providers reach their intended goals. Participating programs are asked to engage in an ongoing process of evaluating their programs, reflecting on their quality enhancement goals, and working continually to make improvements. Central Florida "Quality Counts" works to provide programs with the information and support needed to help them improve the quality of their early learning program. The three-year pilot program began in 2009 with 47 early care and education providers and in the second year grew to 98 providers. The last cycle will begin in October 2011. This collaborative project included Orange, Osceola and Seminole Early Learning Coalitions.

Environmental Rating Scale Assessments

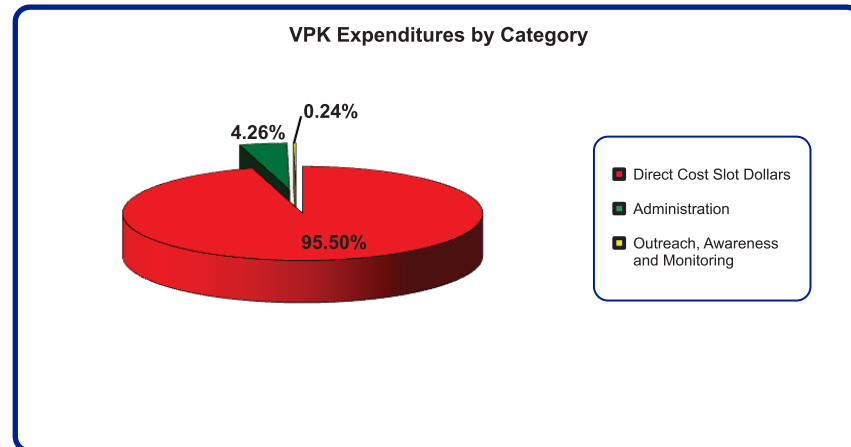
Devereux Florida was contracted to provide program assessment, monitoring, technical assistance and training to all School Readiness funded providers. The unannounced program visits were made using the appropriate Environmental Rating Scale tool. Assessments are on-going and providers are offered technical assistance and training to develop and maintain quality learning environments for Orange County children. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, 581 assessments were completed.

Fiscal Summary:

During the 2010- 2011 fiscal year the coalition's total School Readiness Program operating budget was \$39,344,268 (including \$2.7 million of ARRA dollars). Below is a breakout of SR expenditures for the fiscal year of \$38,903,307, by category.



During the 2010- 2011 fiscal year the coalition's total Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program operating budget was \$28,572,941. Below is a breakout of VPK expenditures for the fiscal year of \$28,178,204 by category.



Success Stories:



In today's busy world, we often forget to mention the great blessings we receive each day in our community. Thinking of inclusion, and the ELCOC, we have a story we would like to share with you.

Our son Jasen was born with Down Syndrome, and as parents, we realize the school system can be a challenging one to maneuver through even when no diagnosis is present. Our experience has been such a positive, uplifting and encouraging experience full of acceptance and a real desire to educate all children, regardless of diagnosis and/or challenges associated with a diagnosis. Jasen attends a VPK program at St. Paul's in Orlando, Florida and has been fully included in the classroom with his typically developing peers. Not only has he been included, but his teachers, Ms. Criden and Ms. Jackie in addition to the school director, Ms. Betty, have taken the time to learn more about his specific challenges and have incorporated activities that focus on skills Jasen needs improvement on. They have been willing to work with us as parents to find resolutions to various concerns and have been helpful in incorporating our suggestions as parents.

They have attended therapy sessions related to Jasen's specific challenges and have been open minded to new ways of educating children in the classroom - including the use of sign language, and using toys specifically designed to improve sensory integration. We are so appreciative for the staff at St. Paul, and the true love of children that is so evident in their daily routine as they strive to provide an 'exceptional' education to each and every child in their preschool and VPK program.

Sincerely,

Seth and Susan Broden

(The names of the mentioned individuals and center have been changed to ensure anonymity)



Elite Preparatory is located in a plaza near the Florida mall. Elite Prep was on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) due to low Environment Rating System (ERS) scores. During the summer of 2011 Elite Prep received extensive technical assistance: room arrangement, trainings on site and one on one technical assistance with each staff member within each classroom. Ms. Hong, the owner of Elite Prep was very open to embracing the ECERS-R tool, she then made structural changes within the classrooms and added a cafeteria. As a result of these positive changes the schools ERS scores went from failing to passing with a score of 5.36. Ms. Hong is continuing to be diligent in

maintaining a high ERS score. She stated it is very important to the vision of Elite Preparatory to serve their community by offering quality childcare for all families.

Lisa, provider services specialist at ELCOC



"Our schools have been open for 30 years and like all schools we went through a period where the staff just got too comfortable and started to slack off on their lesson plans and even making sure the attendance was done. They were relying on others to make sure their work was completed. Nancy from the coalition helped us turn things around and we are truly grateful! We would not be where we are right now without Nancy and the ELCOC."

Misha, center director at American Preschool



Friends of Early Care and Education:

4-H Youth Development
Amaya Papaya Play Zone
Cash & Associates, P.A. –IPRG
Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)
Conway Learning Center
Darden
Devereux, Inc.
Fifth-Third Bank
Kaplan Early Learning Company
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Local 6 WKMG-TV
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Orange County Health Department
Orange County Public Schools
Orange County Sheriff's Office
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State Rep. Mike Horner, District 79
SeaWorld
Seminole State College
Scholastic Book Fairs
SunTrust Bank
University of Central Florida
University of Central Florida Colleges of
Education & Nursing
Valencia College
Westgate Children's Center
In Memory of Aaron & Marie Davidson



Program Year Summary:

For more than ten years, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has worked to implement the provisions set forth in the School Readiness Act to establish integrated and quality service delivery systems for publicly funded early care and education programs in Orange County serving primarily children from birth to five years of age.

To achieve this goal, the Coalition funds those services important to parents with young children. Brain research shows the most dynamic growth occurs during the first 3 years. That's when the fundamentals of self-management and initial language skills begin. Further research shows that children who have the benefit of high-quality early childhood development programs tend to have higher scores on math and reading achievement tests, have greater language

skills, are better prepared to enter elementary school and are more likely to pursue post-secondary education.

In addition to the services we provide for parents with young children, we also provide professional staff consultants and resources to increase the quality of early education programs.

The School Readiness program has continued to fuel the economic engines of Orange County by allowing more than 8,900 families to afford safe and reliable child care for more than 15,000 children during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program prepares four-year-olds for kindergarten. VPK provides four year-olds with both self-management and emergent literacy skills, such as letter and sound recognition, skills critical for future academic success. More than 11,700 children participated in the VPK program offered by more than 395 child care providers in Orange County.

Overall, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is proud of our 2010-2011 program year accomplishments. Our successes have impacted the Orange County community, but they have also shed light on the work that still needs to be done.



Early Learning Coalition of Orange County



Focused on the First Five Years Orange County's State of Early Care and Education



Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Registration: 8:00am
Breakfast Program: 8:30am - 9:45am
Cost: \$10.00

Crowne Plaza Hotel Orlando
304 W. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32801

RSVP by Feb. 10, 2012
www.conta.cc/y8YNOg



Please use this QR-code to view the link above.



visit www.elcoc.org
or call (407) 841-6607

Why Should Businesses Care?

As Central Florida continues to compete in the global economy in areas of healthcare, financial services, and technology, the need for a qualified workforce will grow. Are Orange County's children academically prepared to meet this challenge? Focusing on the first five years is critical to lifelong success, not just for the individual, but for the community-at-large.

Sponsor



WALT DISNEY Parks and Resorts

*Ensuring all Orange County children enter school ready to learn.
All proceeds will support the Foundation
for Early Childhood Development*



For more information about
individual tickets
and sponsorships visit
firstfiveyearsgala.org
Please call
(407) 377-1212 or email us at
info@firstfiveyearsgala.org

SAVE THE DATE
June 23, 2012

early learning matters..

2nd Annual
The First Five Years Gala
Celebrating the First Five Years
of a Child's Development

Dick Batchelor
Co-Chair



Tico Perez
Co-Chair



Walt Disney World Resort
Saturday, June 23, 2012
6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Silent Auction &
Entertainment

Please use this QR-code
to view our website



www.elcoc.org



Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

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FLORIDA'S OFFICE of EARLY LEARNING

Support the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County • All donations to ELCOC have match potential and may be tax-deductible