Mission Statement
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 high-quality early learning service delivery system for children, ages birth to five, in Orange County.

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 shared short-and long-term goals.

Both School Readiness and VPK programs are monitored at least twice each year. Both programs use a monitoring tool that parallel the agreements. Providers are first provided technical assistance to remediate any issues. If, after follow-up visits, the issues are not resolved the provider is not paid for the day(s) they remain out of compliance. Typically, providers quickly come into compliance. The most common compliance issues are ratios and VPK teaching staff in the classroom.

School Readiness
The School Readiness program has continued to fuel the economic engines of Orange County by allowing more than 8,200 families per month to receive affordable, safe and reliable child care for more than 13,000 children during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Exposure to language builds vocabulary which increases the readiness to read

A Message from our CEO
This has been a challenging year for the State of Florida and Orange County, but with the early learning Coalition of Orange County the working harder than ever to continue to be a source for valuable information and early childhood education.

One of the largest challenges was balancing services to children and families in the need for quality early care and education increases. The funding for the School Readiness program allows us to provide child care subsidies to low-income working families; however, we are thankful for a positive board of directors who helped us navigate these challenging times.

In this past year, we added programs for children with special needs, including the Voluntary Homeownership enhancement support family care and early childhood education in various settings including: the quality of care to children in foster homes.

We at 2031-2012, we continued to build partnerships with community organizations focused on early learning outcomes, and our board of directors’ strategic commitment and success accountability as it pertains to improving the needs of our children and families. The following vignettes will showcase our efforts.

We are very proud of our accomplishments this fiscal year and we ask you to continue to contribute to the needs of Orange County’s young children through your efforts.

Sincerely,
Karen Smith, CHOP
DBS, Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

A Message from our Chairman
Since its inception in 1999, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has worked to promote future economic success for the children of this community. This focus is reflected in the Coalition’s mission, vision and purpose. And, fortunately, our continued commitment is to economically healthy Orange County that begins, in part, with high quality early learning and care programs.

The 2011-2012 fiscal year was not without its challenges for our mission. We endured the challenges of limited resources and the lack of financial support to avert our dreams and goals. As a result, we continue our efforts to provide a quality, economically integrated, high-quality, special care delivery system into the next fiscal year with great optimism 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 are committed to this work. Community partners, business leaders, corporations, foundations and policy makers everywhere support us, as do the parents and teachers. These cities give us hope that our charge to contract and public to provide resources to create a quality early learning system that Orange County will be proud of 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 results it is contributing to this community. We have created and provided an array of programs for children, their parents and child care professionals. These programs enhance the quality of care available to the children of Orange County and increase the number of children who entered other early childhood programs.

We are pleased of our accomplishments during the 2011-2012 fiscal year as we worked to strengthen the quality and importance of our early care and learning programs in Orange County. Our work has not yet reached its full potential.

From this community report, we hope to gain a greater appreciation for the importance of early learning and provide you with a renewed commitment to ensure that our community is a strong and positive future for all Orange County children.

Richard Mitchell,
Our Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Regional Headquarters Palm Hospital

Our Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
Regional Headquarters Palm Hospital

We coordinate services with more than 629 providers who offer early care and education services to more than 8,000 low income children each month and over 12,000 four-year olds annually.

Introduction - Mission - Vision

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

School Readiness Payments by Care Level

Total School Readiness Payments by Funding Category

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Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:
## School Readiness Providers by Provider Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>95.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Child Care</td>
<td>95.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility/School</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## VPK Providers by Provider Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith-Based</td>
<td>19.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>0.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private School</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Center</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>65.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>15.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Number of Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Readiness</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPK</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (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 future academic success. More than 12,800 children participated in the VPK program offered by more than 400 child care providers in Orange County.

## Child Care Executive Partnership Program

The Florida Child Care Executive Partnership (CCCP) Program creates an opportunity for employers and employees to succeed as partners. Participating employers may offer an additional benefit to their low to moderate-wage-earning employees by providing them with financial assistance towards child care tuition. CCCP can also be used by early care and education providers who provide care for an employer’s child at the center. The employer can be partially reimbursed for that care by the Coalition. "The Coalition has been very supportive of the program," said the center’s executive director. "They help with times when we have low to moderate-wage-earning employees 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VPK Children</td>
<td>12238</td>
<td>12231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:

- VPK School Year: 34.91%
- VPK Summer: 65.09%

## More Than 20,000 Requests Were Received For Child Care Referrals

88 out of 100 children who enter Kindergarten behind are still behind four years later.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program is a service funded by the Coalition and operated by the Community Coordinated Care for Children (CC4C). The program provides families with a customized list of early learning options for the child based on family needs. This single point of entry makes CCRR a one-stop resource shop. A trained CCRR Specialist provides families with information about early care and education options and explains how the program can benefit the family, as well as financial assistance strategies and referrals to other community social services as needed.

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, more than 20,000 requests were received for child care referrals while more than 10,000 families were referred for financial assistance.
Special Initiatives

Orlando Magic Youth Foundation Infant/Toddler Coaching Services

The Orlando Magic Youth Foundation a McGaw Park Fund provided funding to offer an Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate (CTA) coaching program. This program provided eighty hours of specific infant/toddler training to twenty infant/toddler teachers from sixteen child care centers. When the program is completed, 19 infant/toddler teachers will have earned their infant/toddler Child Development Associate (CTA) credential, a significant step forward in their profession development.

Preschool Ambassadors

In collaboration with the City of Orlando’s Orlando Cares volunteer initiative, the Preschool Ambassadors volunteer program was established in partnership with the Adult Literacy League to provide supplemental literacy activities to children in VPK classrooms and engage families in early literacy activities. A VISTA volunteer sponsored by the City of Orlando was actively engaged in volunteer recruitment for Preschool Ambassadors. The Ready Reader volunteer initiative saw 30 volunteers working at 25 VPK sites throughout Orange County contributing 1264 hours of volunteer service reading to young children. Additional funding was provided via the Mayor’s Matching Grant to support the purchase of 100 family literacy kits to be used in Family literacy workshops of VPK sites in Orange County.

BLOOkfest Early Math & Science

BLOOkfest, a program for families and early childhood providers, was implemented this year to support young children’s understanding of math and science. The BLOOkfest partnered with the Orlando Science Center in this effort with our community BLOOkfest Early Math and Science workshop for early childhood teachers was offered eight times throughout the year to 158 early childhood professionals. Five BLOOkfest Family Engagement events were held throughout the year with 144 parents and children in attendance.

Early Literacy Enhancement Project

The Early Literacy Enhancement Project was created to assist VPK providers in increasing the number of children entering kindergarten in Orange County with the reading readiness skills necessary to promote future reading success. The Get Ready to Read-Ready early literacy screening tool was used to screen 372 VPK students at whom 465 were determined to be eligible for intervention services. Nurturers staff provided independent screening of children to determine eligibility for services as well as technical assistance in evaluating program data throughout the year.

Using the research-based Nurturers ‘brightstart’ curriculum, trained VPK teachers provided twenty weeks of targeted instruction to children in small groups. Thirteen centers participated in this pilot program. At the end of the VPK school year, children in the brightstart intervention groups showed on average gains in all categories from their initial score. Nine of the thirteen centers were able to move their children from an at-risk, below average level of performance to a level of performance commensurate with their age-level peers.

Baskets for Books

The Baskets of Magic and Florida Blue as part of their “Baskets for Books” program, provided 900 backpacks with age-appropriate books for infants, toddlers, preschool and school age children of fourteen child care centers in March, 2012. In addition, Urbana Angels Child Care and Learning Center was selected to receive a specially decorated Orlando Magic Reading Comer with additional books to better support family engagement in reading.

Over $70,000 was contributed by Disney’s Helping Kids Shine Grant and the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation to improve Quality Early Care and Education programs.

29 families participated and graduated from PKZ Baby Institute.

PKZ Baby Institute

The Parenting Kit Zone Baby Institute is a three year pilot program for parents of children between the ages of birth to five years of age residing in the Orange/Sumter 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. The pilot program for parents provides a pre and post fast setting, goal setting, journaling and self tickets which capture the growth and development through nine week cycle. The exit ticket demonstrates three “W’s.” What I already knew, What I want to know and What I learned in class.”

During Year two of PKZ Baby Institute, from nine-week cycles were held, during which 21 families participated and graduated. The community Foundation at Central Florida has provided additional funding for case management services to better determine the needs and issues of families participating in the Institute.
Our Year at a Glance

Signature Events

State of Early Care and Education 2012
The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County hosted the 2nd annual State of Early Care and Education, “Focused on the First Five Years.” The interactive panel discussion was designed to engage Central Florida businesses and community leaders in the early care and education movement.

A recent study by the Pew Charitable Trust and the Society for Human Resource Management found that foundational skills required for a job-ready workforce are built from birth and continue through age five; yet many of our children are not given the early educational, health and social supports they need to get there. Since today's infants and toddlers are tomorrow's business leaders, entrepreneurs and scientists, it is imperative that the business community be engaged in growing the best future workforce possible.

The State of Early Care and Education event line-up included the following signature events:
- Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orange County Sheriff’s Office
- Linda Sfarranuck, Executive Director at Healthy Start Coalition
- Joan Nelson, Senior Vice President, Heart of Florida United Way
- David Fuller, President of SunTrust Bank
- Lauren Rowe, Local News Anchor – Event Moderator
- “Invest $1 with a GUARANTEED Return of $15.67!”

The State of Early Care and Education event was attended by 130 guests, including a distinguished group of panelists and a wonderful moderator.

Change the First Five Years of a Child’s Life and You Change Everything!
Quality Early Learning programs increase children's cognitive and socio-emotional development, increasing their chances of leading healthy, productive lives.
Program Year Summary

Since 1999, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has worked collaboratively with public and private sector partners to enhance educational programs in Orange County serving children from birth to five years of age, or until they enter kindergarten. To achieve this goal, the Coalition funds those services important to parents with young children from research that shows the most dynamic growth occurs during the first 3 years, when the fundamentals of self-management and initial language skills begin. Further research shows 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 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 fulfill the economic exigencies of Orange County by allowing more than 8,000 families per month to receive affordable, safe and reliable child care for more than 13,000 children during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The 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 12,800 children participated in the VPK program offered by more than 400 child care providers in Orange County.

Overall, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is proud of our 2011-2012 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.

Fiscal Summary:

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Coalition’s total School Readiness Program operating budget was $36,313,372. Below is a breakout of School Readiness expenditures for the fiscal year of $36,778,806 by category.

Our providers are using the observation tool known as CLASS to gauge effective classroom interaction between teachers and children.

During the 2011 - 2012 fiscal year, the Coalition’s total Voluntary Prekindergarten VPK Education Program operating budget was $28,649,904. Below is a breakout of VPK expenditures for the fiscal year of $28,553,525 by category.