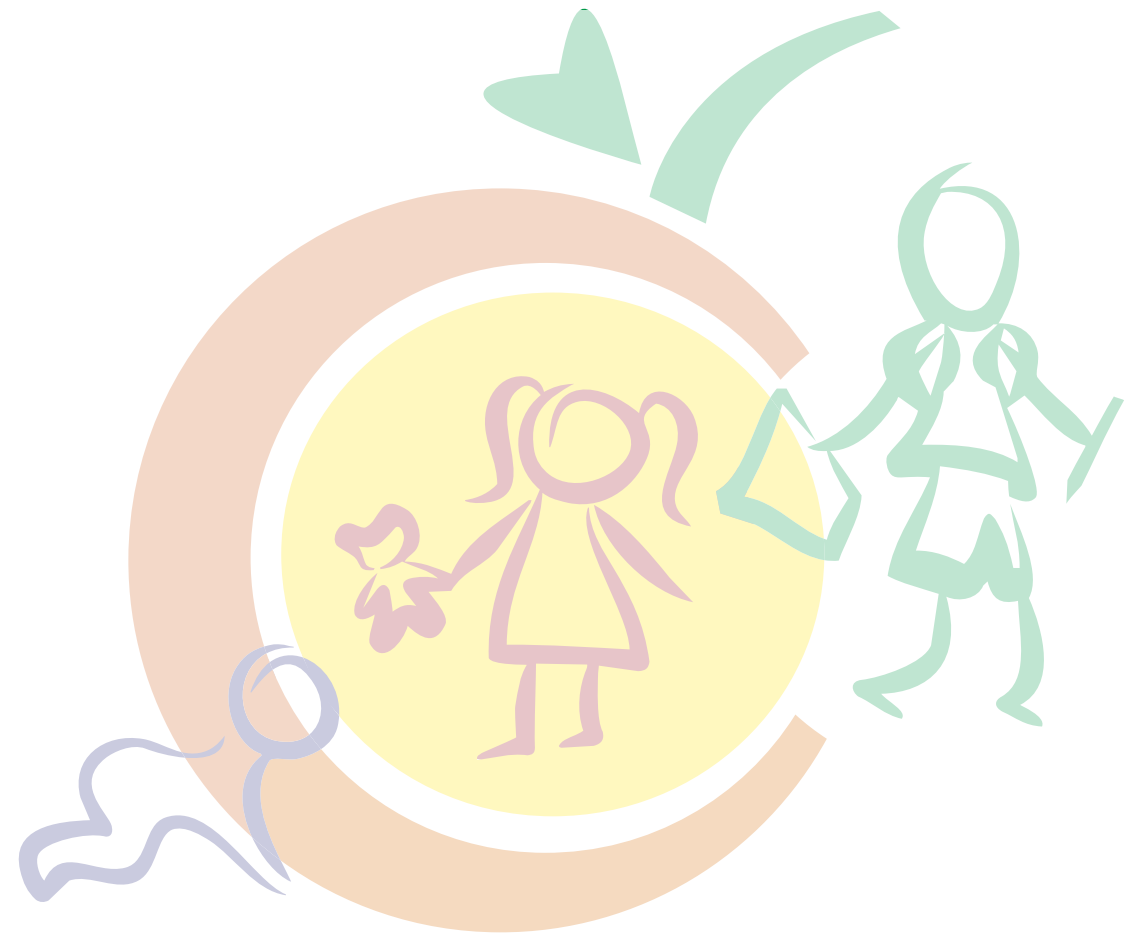


Early Learning Coalition of Orange County



Florida Office of Early Learning

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to view our website



www.elcoc.org

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2011 - 2012
COMMUNITY REPORT



Ensuring all Orange County children enter school ready to learn.



OFFICERS

Richard E. Morrison, Board Chair
Florida Hospital

Linda Landman-Gonzalez, Board Vice Chair
Orlando Magic

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Bethel Family Day Care Home

Marilyn Doyle, Ed.D.
Orange County Public Schools

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Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)

Kimberly Grabert
Department of Children and Families

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Pam Piorkowski
Orlando Christian Prep

Adrienne Rowe
Aulani at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts

Dawn Steward
Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Myrna Villanueva, Ed.D.
Valencia Community College

Ilene Wilkins, Ed.D.
UCP of Central Florida

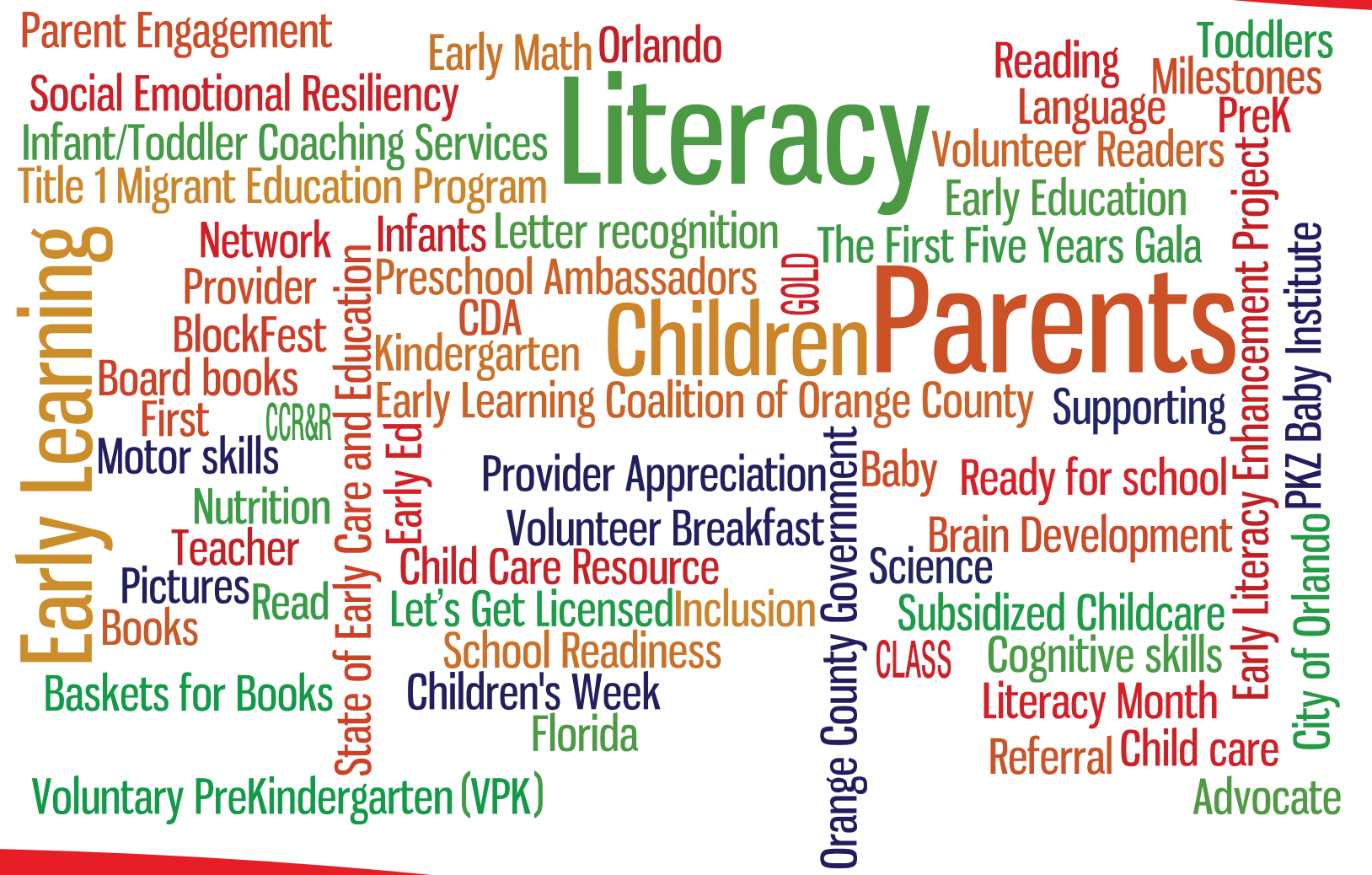
Tyra Witsell
Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children

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- Florida Blue
- Florida Hospital
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children
- Orlando Health
- Orlando Magic
- Orlando Sentinel
- Walt Disney World



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 2011-2012 fiscal year was full of activity to further our mission. 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 to combine 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 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 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 pleased of our accomplishments during the 2011-2012 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 you 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, Chair
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 need for quality early care and education increases. 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, we worked diligently to increase Voluntary PreKindergarten enrollment and support early care and early childhood educators in elevating the quality of care in each center and family child care home.

In 2011-2012, 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
CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

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 short and long term goals.

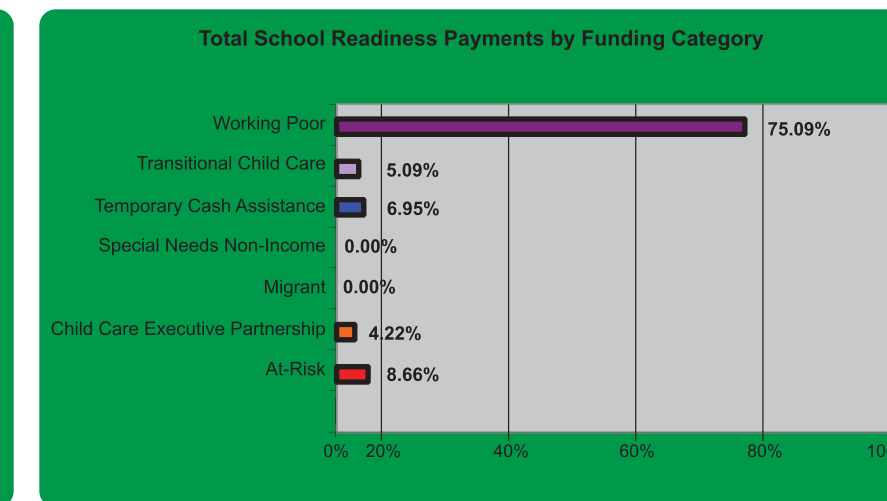
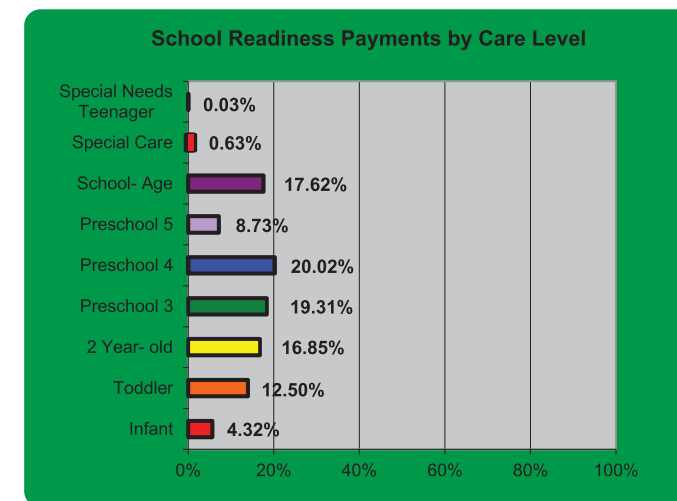
Both School Readiness and VPK programs are monitored at least twice each year. Both programs use a monitoring tool that parallels the agreements. Providers are first provided technical assistance to remediate any issue(s). If, after follow-up visits, the issues are not resolved the provider is not paid 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.

Exposure to language builds vocabulary which increases the readiness to read

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.

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



We coordinate services with more than 625 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.

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

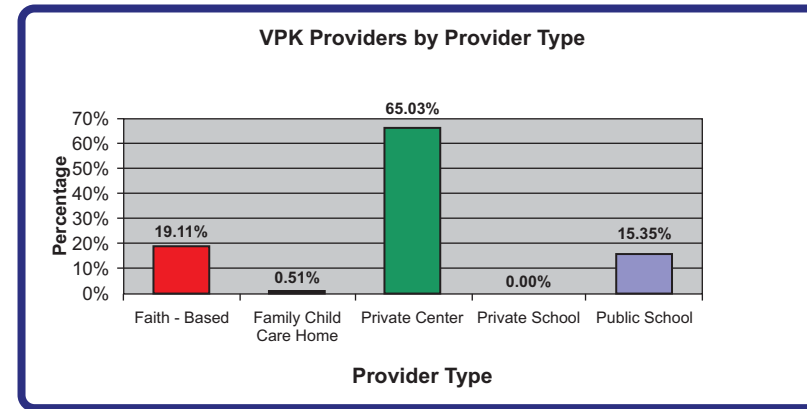
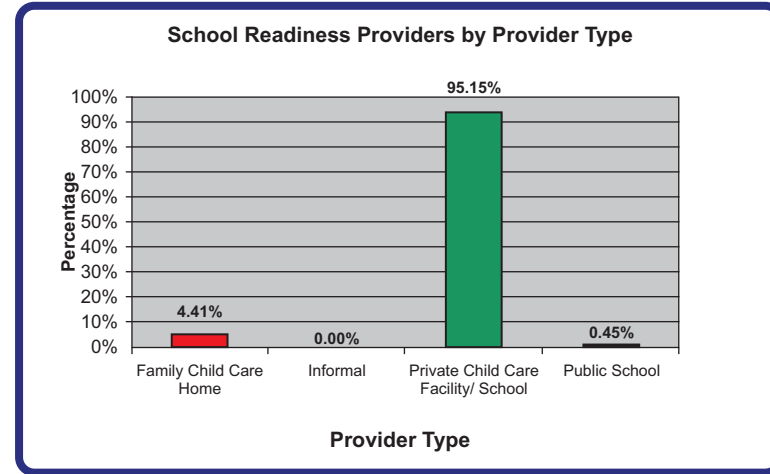
Total number of providers that participate in the Coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers

588

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers

410



Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

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 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.

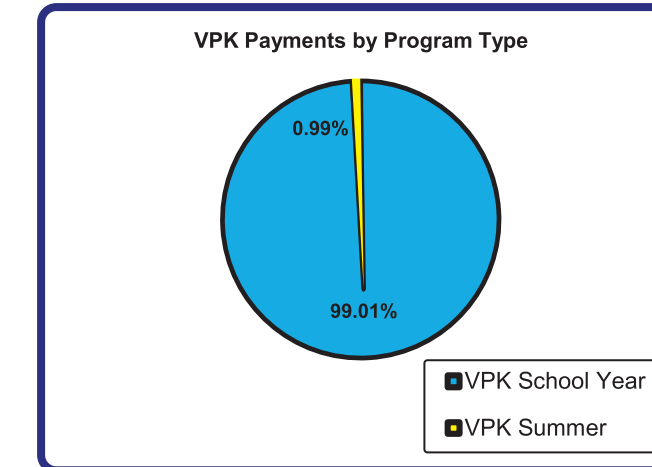


Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children
12838

VPK Families
12621

Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



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). The program provides families with a customized list of early learning providers based on family needs. 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 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 2011-2012 fiscal year, more than 20,000 requests were received for child care referrals while more than 10,000 calls were received for financial assistance with child care.



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.

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



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

Orlando Magic Youth Foundation Infant/Toddler Coaching Services

The Orlando Magic Youth Foundation a McCormick Fund provided funding to offer an Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) 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 (CDA) credential, a significant step forward in their professional 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 26 volunteers working at 25 VPK sites throughout Orange County contributing **1206 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 at VPK sites in Orange County.



BLOCKFest Early Math & Science

BLOCKFest, a program for families and early childhood providers, was implemented this year to support young children's understanding of math and science. The ELCOC partnered with the Orlando Science Center in this effort with our community. BLOCKFest offers two components to better support children's engagement with blocks. Early Math and Science workshop for early childhood teachers was offered eight times throughout the year to 116 early childhood professionals. Five BLOCKFest Family Engagement events were held throughout the year with 196 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! Revised early literacy screening tool was used to screen 372 VPK students of whom 66% were determined to be eligible for intervention services. Nemours 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 Nemours 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 an increase of 23% 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 Orlando 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 at fourteen child care centers in March, 2012. In addition, Little Angels Child Care and Learning Center was selected to receive a specially decorated Orlando Magic Reading Corner with additional books to better support family engagement in reading.



PKZ Baby Institute

The Parramore Kidz Zone Baby Institute is a three year pilot project 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.

The pilot program for parents provides a pre and post-test, goal setting, journaling and exit tickets which capture the growth and development through a nine week cycle. The exit ticket demonstrates three W's: "What I already Knew, What I wanted to Know and What I learned in Class."

During Year Two of PKZ Baby Institute, three nine-week cycles were held, during which 29 families participated and graduated. The Community Foundation of Central Florida has provided additional funding for case management services to better determine the needs and issues of families participating in Baby Institute.



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.



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 scientist, it is imperative that the business community be engaged in growing the best future workforce possible.

Special thanks to our sponsors Disney, Sir Speedy and Nemours the event would not have been possible without their support!

The State of Early Care and Education (one of our three signature events) was attended by 130 guests, including a distinguished group of panelists and a wonderful moderator:

- Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orange County Sheriff's Office
- Linda Sutherland, 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 6 News Anchor – Event Moderator



The 2nd Annual "The First Five Years Gala" raises over \$88,000 for Early Care and Education.

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange and Osceola Counties extends our sincerest gratitude to our generous sponsors, attendees and volunteers for their participation in our 2nd annual "The First Five Years Gala" held Saturday, June 23, 2012 at Disney's World ShowPlace Pavilion at Epcot. The gala was co-hosted by Dick Batchelor and Tico Perez and honored Dr. Sandy Shugart as an early care and education champion.

Nearly 375 friends of early care and education attended the event which included a performance by some truly unforgettable children and Lauren Rowe 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 \$88,000 in local support, and receiving \$1,300,000 in federal match contributions. Every dollar goes directly to early learning programs for children in our community. By achieving our goal of local and state funds, nearly 5,000 children will be able to receive early care and education services!



Change the First Five Years of a Child's
Life and You Change Everything!

Executive Committee

Except for the power to amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall have all of the powers and authority of the Board of Directors in the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors, subject to the direction and control of the Board of Directors.

- Richard Morrison, Chair
Florida Hospital
- Linda Landman Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Orlando Magic
- Laura Kroupa-Williamson, Treasurer
Darden Restaurants
- Robert C. Wheeler, Secretary
Robert C. Wheeler CPA, CFE
- Adrienne Rowe
Aulani at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts
- Ilene Wilkins, Ed.D. At-Large
UCP of Central Florida
- Karen Willis
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Board Governance Committee

Committee is responsible for implementing action steps in five areas to enhance board service: Roles and Responsibilities, Composition, Knowledge, Effectiveness and Leadership.

- Linda Landman Gonzalez, Chair
Orlando Magic
- Betty Lowery
Disney
- Tyra Witsell
Orange County Citizens Commission for Children
- Patty Ambinder
Community Volunteer
- Jaime Pinero
CenturyLink
- Lorna Y. Henry
Orlando Sentinel
- Karen Willis
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Finance Committee

Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing appropriate accounting and fiscal procedures and internal controls; reviewing and recommending an annual budget and subsequent modifications thereof; and conducting oversight in the selection of the audit firm and completion of the audit.

- Laura Kroupa-Williamson, Chair
Darden Restaurants
- Lonnie Bell
Orange County Board of Commissioners
- Dawn Steward
Orange County Healthy Start Coalition
- Robert C. Wheeler
Robert C. Wheeler CPA, CFE
- Dr. Marilyn Doyle
Orange County Public Schools
- Janine Duhon
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Best Business Practices Task Force

Task Force works in conjunction with various partners to collaborate and facilitate provider access to professional business assistance, education, and training; and best practices from the child care network.

- Jaime Pinero, Chair
CenturyLink
- Colleen Gallagher
Community Coordinated Care for Children, 4C
- Lorna Henry
Orlando Sentinel
- Joyce Hinton
Workforce Central Florida
- Rendy Bethel Avila
Bethel-Avila Family Childcare Home
- Lois Smith
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Fund Development Task Force

Task Force is responsible for developing and building a solid and sustainable diversified funding plan to cover program and general/administrative costs of the organization and to provide support for signature initiatives and special events.

- Robert C. Wheeler, Chair
Robert C. Wheeler CPA, CFE
- Laura Kroupa-Williamson
Darden Restaurants
- Dawn Steward
Orange County Healthy Start Coalition
- El Cabrel Lee
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Quality Initiatives Committee

Committee is responsible for overseeing the identification, prioritization, development and implementation of all quality initiatives undertaken by the Board of Directors.

- Dr. Myrna Villanueva, Chair
Valencia College
- Rendy Bethel Avila
Bethel-Avila Family Childcare Home
- Dr. Marilyn Doyle
Orange County Public Schools
- Pamela Piorkowski
Orlando Christian Prep
- Ilene Wilkins, Ed.D.
UCP of Central Florida
- Lois Smith
ELCOC Staff Liaison

Literacy & Reading Task Force

Task Force works to identify strategies which offers the best possible opportunity for children to read on grade level by the end of grade 3.

- Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins
Orange County Head Start
- Rendy Bethel Avila
Bethel-Avila Family Childcare Home
- Gabriele Bloodworth
Orange County Health Department
- University of Central Florida Representative
Adult Literacy League Representative
- Lois Smith
ELCOC Staff Liaison

First Five Year Gala Steering Committee

Committee serves as the leading body for the fundraising and donor solicitation, logistical planning and execution of the annual The First Five Years Gala.

- Charlie Rogers
Florida Traditional Bank
- Robert C. Wheeler
Robert C. Wheeler CPA, CFE
- Betty Lowery
Walt Disney World
- Angie Sola
Walt Disney World
- Victor Salgado
Wild Palms Productions
- Rufus Barfield
Barfield Communications
- Laura Kroupa-Williamson
Darden Restaurants
- Karen Willis
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Staff Liaison
- Susan Sunka
Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County Staff Liaison
- El Cabrel Lee
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Staff Liaison

Food Security Task Force

This Task Force works through partnerships and collaborations to facilitate parent and provider access to food assistance and nutrition education to assure the essential growth and development of Orange County children.

- Patricia Ambinder, Chair
Community Volunteer
- Gabriele Bloodworth
Orange County Health Department
- Kimberly Grabert, CPM
Florida DCF, Circuit 9
- Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins
Orange County Head Start
- Colleen Gallagher
Community Coordinated Care for Children, 4C
- Pam Piorkowski
Orlando Christian Prep
- Dr. Cindy Jurie
ELCOC Staff Liaison



Community Outreach:

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County hosted or participated in a variety of community events to inform the public on the importance of quality early care and education during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Those events included, but are not limited to:

- Pinwheels for Prevention - pinwheel distribution to early childhood sites, businesses, hospitals and other partners to raise awareness and to combat child abuse
- Orange County Early Care and Education Provider Appreciation Luncheon
- Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!
- Florida Children's Week activities
- Star 94.5 Community Minute Interviews
- Local 6 News Flashpoint Broadcast
- Zora Neale Hurston Festival Education Zone
- Cox Media Spring Fiesta
- Family Hope Day and Easter Egg Hunt
- Family Day
- Birth, Baby, & Beyond Community 1st Annual Baby Shower
- Playground Music & Arts Festival
- Crime Prevention Walk & Health Fair

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 collectively with public and private sector partners to enhance educational programs in Orange County serving children from birth to five years of age, or until the child enters kindergarten.

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, 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 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.

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.

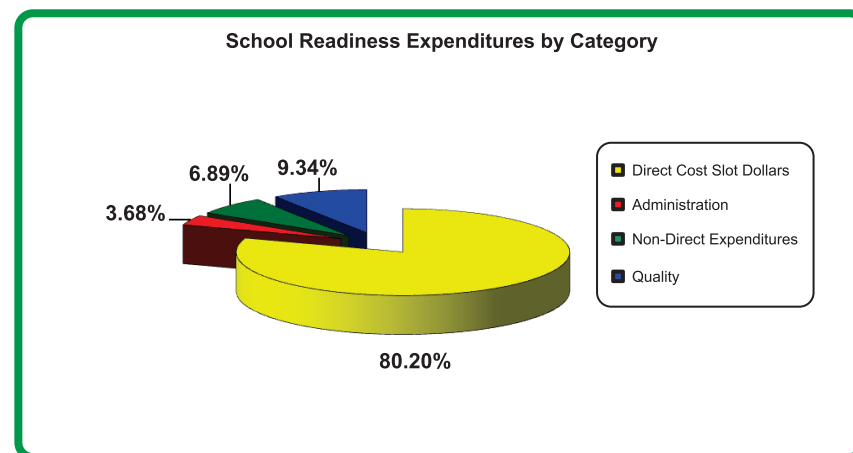


Longitudinal studies show early investments in high - quality early care and education saves money and limited resources.

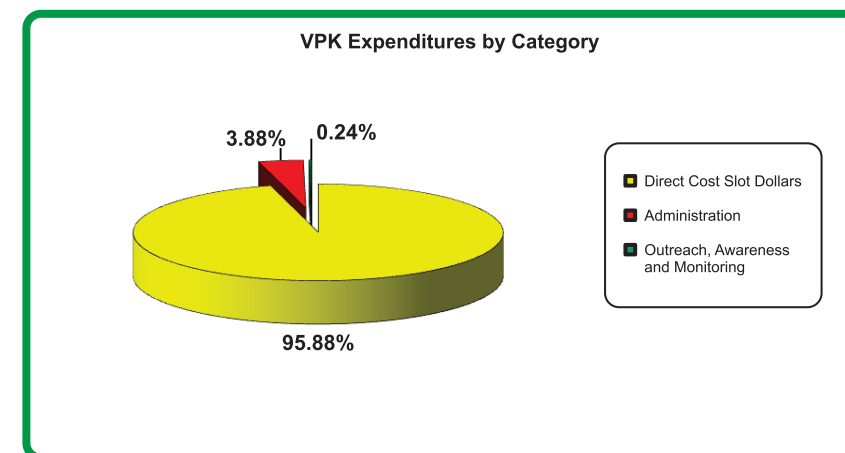


Fiscal Summary:

During the 2011 - 2012 fiscal year, the Coalition's total School Readiness Program operating budget was \$36,313,572. Below is a breakout of School Readiness expenditures for the fiscal year of \$36,178,806 by category.



During the 2011 - 2012 fiscal year, the Coalition's total Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program operating budget was \$28,648,904. Below is a breakout of VPK expenditures for the fiscal year of \$28,553,525 by category.



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