



EARLY LEARNING COALITION

OF ORANGE COUNTY

2019-2020

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF
EARLY LEARNING FOR ORANGE COUNTY



A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear friend,

As the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County wrapped up a busy, successful 2019, we could never have anticipated just how much more critical our mission would become in 2020. Supporting the first 2000 days of a child's life has become uniquely challenging for families and childcare providers impacted by the stress of the pandemic.

Every day, we see the devastating hardships facing Orange County families. The Coalition, its providers, supporters, and volunteers are determined to be beacons of hope and support in these trying times, particularly for our youngest residents and their families.

While the pandemic has challenged every organization's ability to operate, ELCOC entered 2020 with the tools needed to quickly pivot to a new model of program and service delivery.

In 2019, ELCOC decided to invest in significant technology upgrades for our network of over 700 providers. We purchased tablets and applications as much-needed replacements for older technology, which in 2020 has given providers the ability to reliably communicate with and serve families. In addition, new applications allow us to provide technology-based progress monitoring, which is both less stressful for children and parents and, this year, essential for safely interacting with young children.

As well as equipping our providers with Surface GO tablets, ELCOC launched the Institute for Early Learning (I4EL) in 2019. I4EL's new training space, equipped with facilities and technology for both virtual and in-person course delivery, allows us to safely deliver timely, live streamed programs, events, and training to both providers and families.

ELCOC continues to support our providers and uplift our community in every way possible. We are participating in a Pandemic Response effort with community partners, bringing together interested professionals and organizations in the community to better support children, families and early childhood programs.

ELCOC's always-critical mission to provide Orange County children with quality early education has never been so urgent. For our youngest residents and their families, we must be 'the village it takes to raise a child', especially in these isolating, disruptive times.

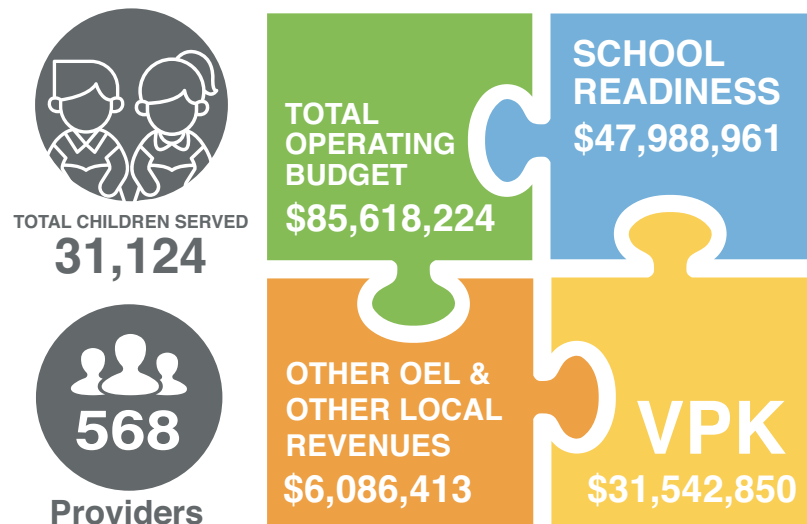
We will get them through this, together.

Karen Willis

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide every child with equal access to high quality early learning programs by supporting those who help children grow and develop.

2019-2020 EXPENDITURES BY FUND



CARING FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORKERS WHO CARE FOR US: ELCOC'S RAPID RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With many Floridians asked to stay at home beginning in March 2020, ELCOC focused on helping nearly 600 providers to remain open and able to serve families of essential workers.

Up-To-Date Provider Resources

ELCOC's Provider Services staff established weekly virtual meetings, where providers can voice concerns and ELCOC can provide updates on the latest state and federal guidelines. We also implemented a COVID-19 resource page on our website for these ongoing updates.

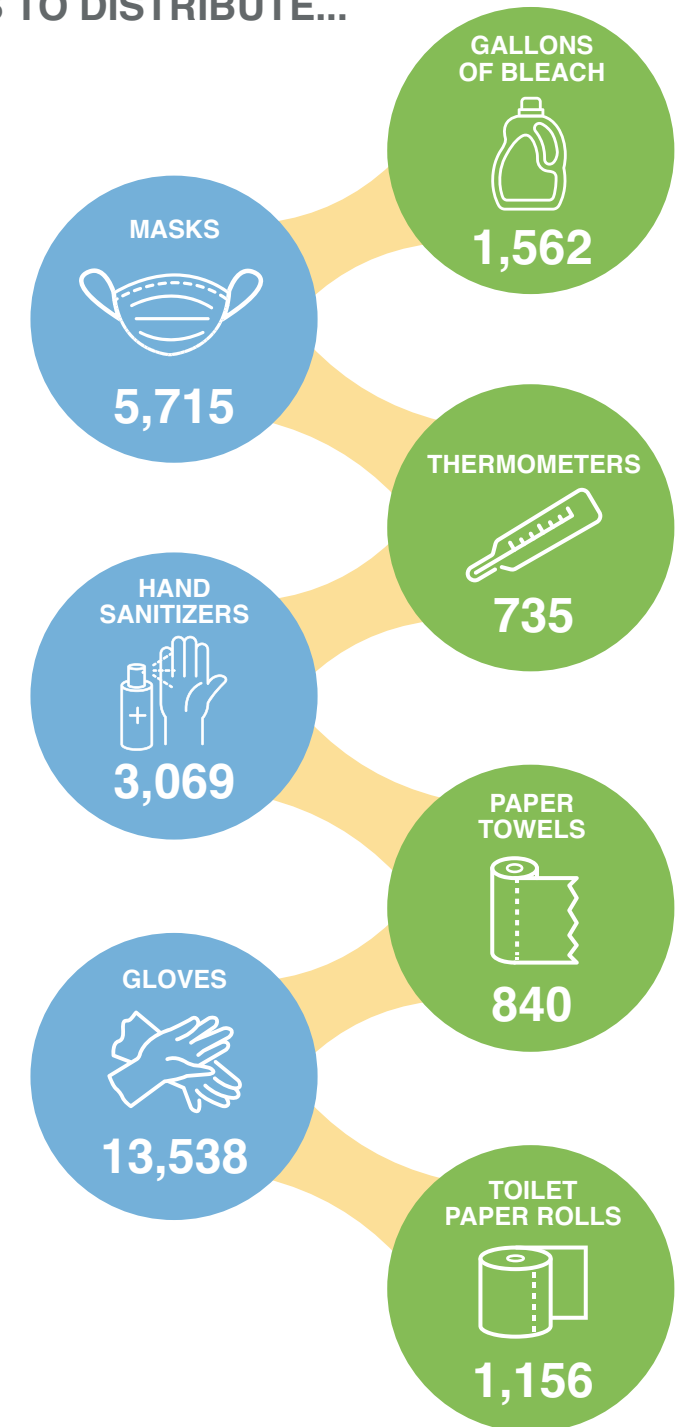
Continuing Education for Providers – Going Online

A strong network of quality childcare is essential for businesses to reopen and for parents to return to work. ELCOC's Business Institute for Early Learning Entrepreneurs, with the support of Wells Fargo, launched the virtual Early Childhood Education business conferences and webinar series.

Cleaning Materials Drive

Early in the spring of 2020, many providers told us they had the capacity to stay open but could not obtain the necessary sanitation materials. ELCOC immediately launched a community donation drive for cleaning materials. Thanks to an enthusiastic response, we were able to collect and distribute these necessary and scarce supplies to our providers.

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWED US TO DISTRIBUTE...



SUPPORTING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN EARLY EDUCATORS



Photos appearing in this report were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. ELCOC along with our early learning providers and volunteers are currently following CDC guidelines.

Early childhood educators countywide report growing numbers of young children exhibiting increasingly severe and challenging behavior. ELCOC recognized the need to equip childcare staff to handle these escalating behaviors and effectively manage work-related and personal stress.

In 2019, the Florida Blue Foundation awarded ELCOC with a Consumer Health grant to provide early childhood mental health support. This proposal included the introduction of a pilot Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide short-term mental health counseling services to early childhood staff and their families.

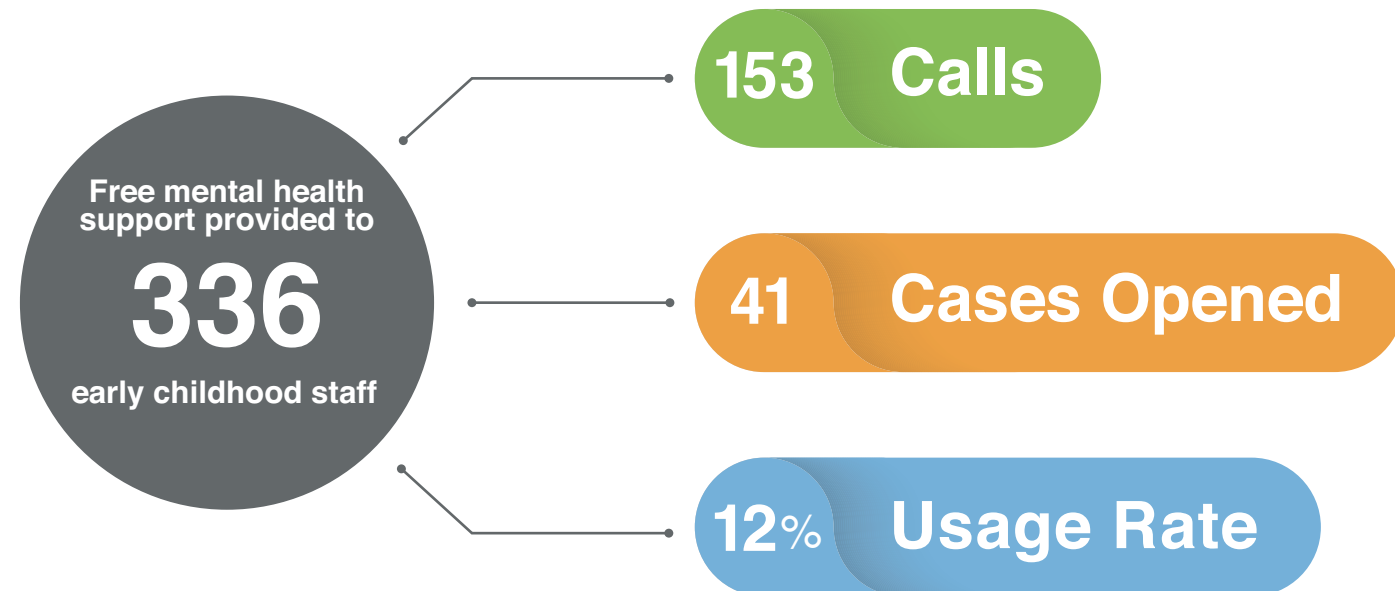
We launched the pilot Employee Assistance Program in January 2020, with 25 childcare centers and family childcare home providers participating. Anxiety has been the leading presenting concern among early educators; depression, family and marital relationships have also been identified as issues.

ELCOC thanks the Florida Blue Foundation for supporting our early childcare community through this difficult time. Caring for young children's mental health must include care for the early childhood teachers who guide our next generation forward.

"[EAP] will impact or change a lot of lives. The employees will get the help they need to function in life and do their jobs well. Thank you!"

- Childcare Director

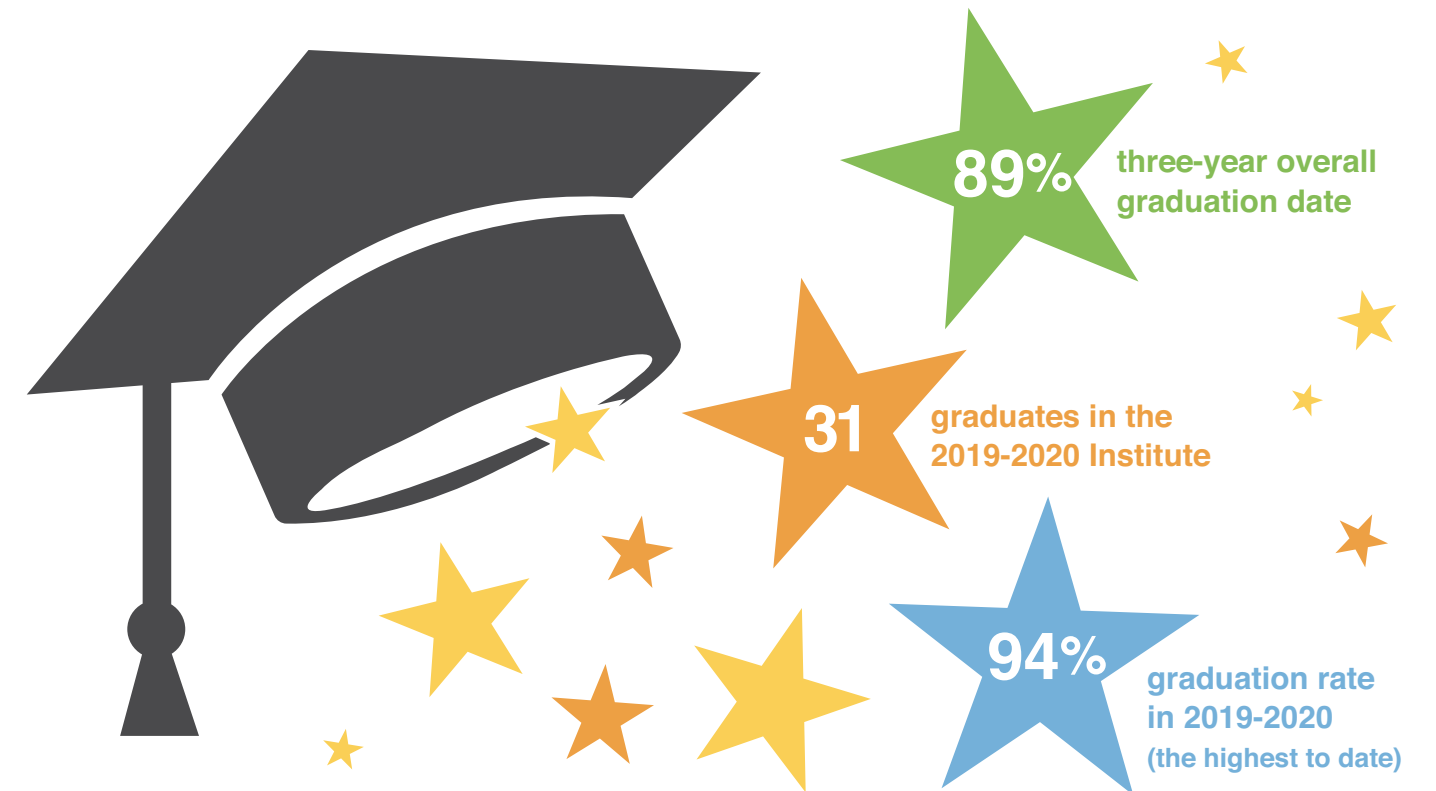
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM YEAR 1 IMPACT



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: 2019-2020 BUSINESS INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING ENTREPRENEURS

Celebrating Three Years of Continuing Education

The Business Institute for Early Learning Entrepreneurs helps to build the stability of early learning programs across Orange County. The five targeted sessions empower providers to work toward a sustainable business that can engage in the greater community effectively as professionals.



HOW BEST MEMORIES ACADEMY SURVIVED THE LOCKDOWN

Like many other businesses, Best Memories Academy experienced a sharp decline in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite this challenging pandemic, I was also able to keep my 12 employees paid and my business open.

The Business Institute and ELCOC not only provided me with knowledge about taking my business to another level -- it also provided hope. I felt secure that I knew what to do, where to go, and who to reach if I needed support, which allowed me to serve as a strong supporter to my staff and to our families.

I have been blessed with wonderful teachers, and together we have been the frontline warriors. My staff comes to work with the best attitude you could imagine, happy and ready to do whatever it takes to survive these difficult times together.

On June 17th, 2020, Best Memories Academy was honored to be named the Senate Small Business of the Week by Senator Marco Rubio's U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. This honor recognizes small businesses that are successful, that create a positive impact in their community, and that have continued to play an impactful role during the coronavirus pandemic. I believe I have been able to succeed in uncertain times because I participated in the Business Institute for Early Learning Entrepreneurs.

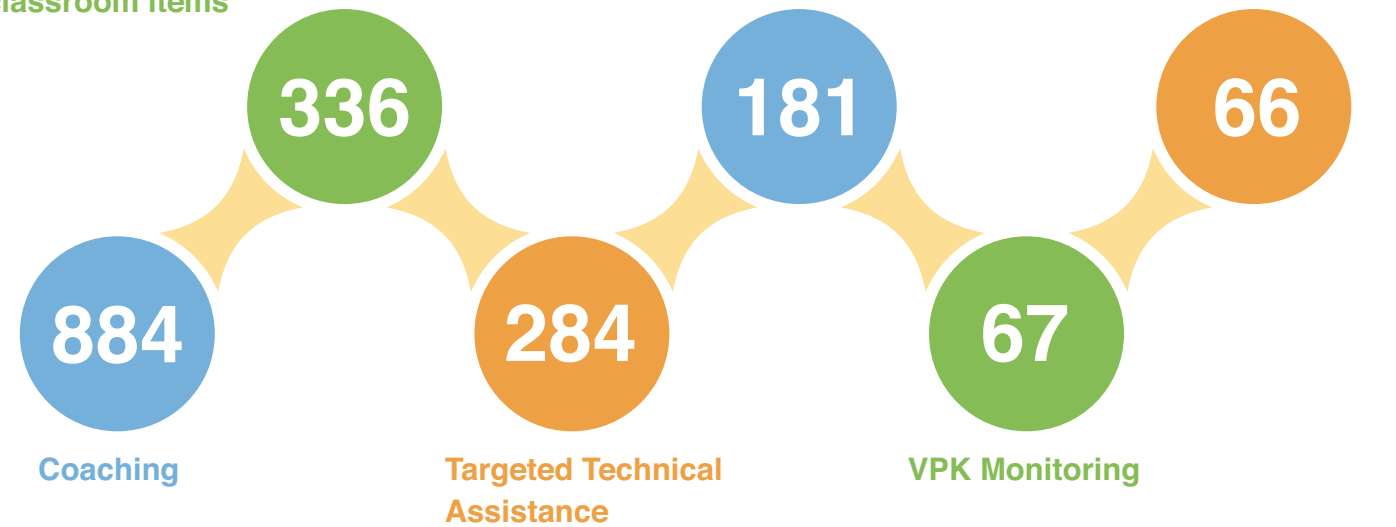
Lyana Vázquez

BEST MEMORIES ACADEMY

2,163 TOTAL VISITS TO PROVIDERS IN 2019-2020

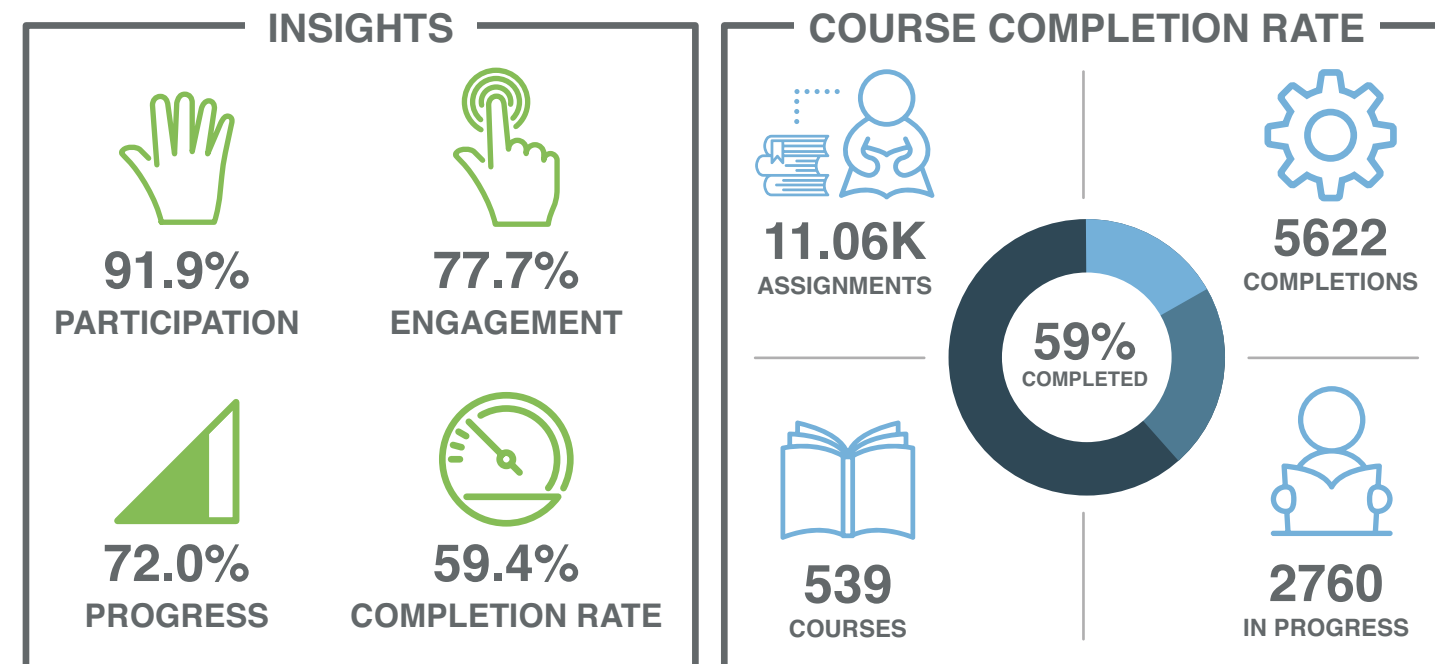
This includes but is not limited to...

Material dropped off to providers, such as laptops (Surface Go), supplies and classroom items



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING

The Institute for Early Learning (I4EL) offers early childhood professionals the opportunities to enhance their evidence-based practice and business acumen in early care and education.



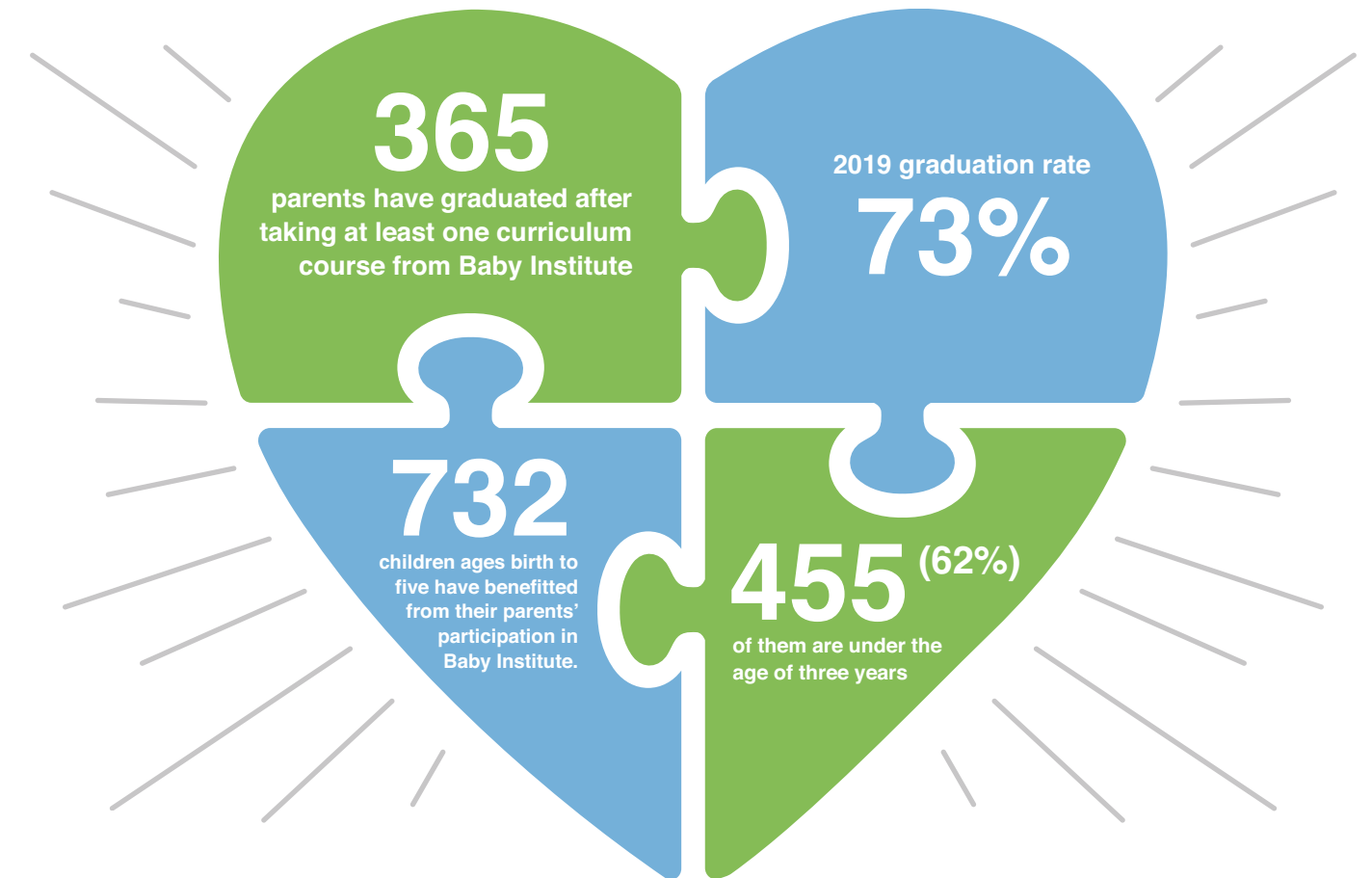
At this time, I4EL has 2229 participants registered. Participation measures per course indicate that of 553 courses offered 59% completed the courses with which they were registered. Participants, on average, are regularly registered across 60 active course offerings with a 91.9% participation rate.

I4EL offers several annual course series including: BrightStart!, CLASS and the National Child Development Associates. With all annual courses, I4EL provides guides, texts, and a variety of materials that support the participants implementation of the content learned.

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 better parenting and, in turn, to better school readiness outcomes for children. In 2019, we began planning for the expansion of Baby Institute from Parramore to all of Orange County.



YOLANDA'S STORY



Yolanda enrolled in Baby Institute because she was a new and overwhelmed mother.

"I thought I knew everything about 'parenting', but when I brought my baby home, the routine I thought would work - just wasn't," she recalls. She needed support with her new parenting journey and turned to Baby Institute.

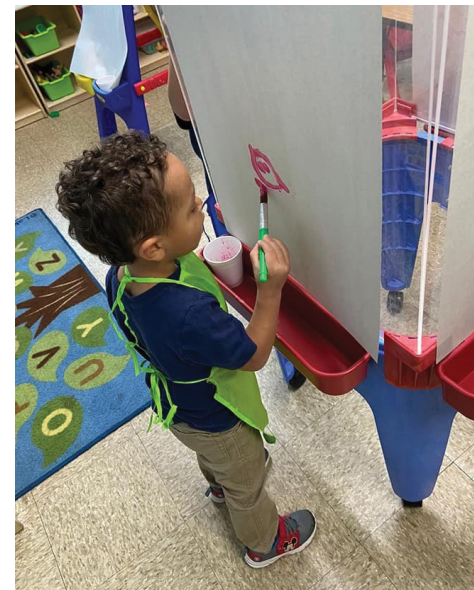
Yolanda most values two principles learned from Baby Institute: that listening to her instincts is the best way to build connection with and caring for her son and that spending time bonding with her son strengthens those motherly instincts. The books and songs she learned in class helped foster the attachment she needed to feel confident in her mother/son connection.

Yolanda has worked at a local preschool in the community and was recently promoted to the position of director. She attributes the positive parenting skills she learned and her successes in the field of early education as a direct reflection of her involvement in Baby Institute.

We salute Yolanda -- a shining star who is applying the knowledge learned in Baby Institute to help both her family and her community as an early childhood education professional.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Artist in Residence program is offered with the support of the PNC Foundation



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EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE TO SUCCEED: A PARENT'S STORY

We have three adopted kiddos and I reached out to your department for help with our youngest, Sally*. She was exposed to narcotics in utero and was born premature. Up until now she had not had any issues, but she was recently expelled from two VPK providers for aggressive tantrums and overall difficult behaviors.

I felt very desperate and helpless when seeking help for our daughter. I called six local organizations and providers to get her assessed to figure out what we need to do for her to be successful in her third school and to get her ready for kindergarten. Your team was the only one that was willing and able to assess our daughter.

With your assessment, we can open a world of resources that she doesn't receive on her current plan. This is a real game changer for us as a family. I can tell that your staff genuinely cares for our daughter and wants to help her to be successful and ready to start Kindergarten next year. We appreciate the guidance and wisdom, as well as your promptness and willingness to help us.

**Names have been changed for privacy*



EARLY LEARNING RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Artist in Residence

To support early childhood teachers in their understanding of the importance of creativity and the arts, the Artist in Residence program worked with 17 teachers in eight childcare programs. Participants completing the Artist in Residence program showed a 42% increase in knowledge of the role of art and creativity in child development.

Ginsburg Early Scholars

Three infant teachers who work with 22 children in two programs participated in the Ginsburg Family Foundation-sponsored scholarship initiative. One teacher was able to begin her AA degree program, while another teacher was awarded her national Child Development Associate credential certificate.

COVID-19 Early Childhood Director Support Sessions

Sponsored by Florida Blue Foundation and led by Dr. Kim Renk, these sessions offered a safe space for early childhood directors and family childcare home providers to discuss how they were coping in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

66 participants participated over the course of seven months; 76% of participants strongly agreed that the sessions were a valuable support.

Circle of Security

In collaboration with Dr. Kim Renk and the University of Central Florida Psychology Department, the Circle of Security attachment-based training was offered to teaching teams at two centers in Pine Hills.

Orlando Magic Infant/Toddler Initiative/LENA Grow

The LENA Grow program uses technology to support infant/toddler teachers' understanding of the importance of language and conversational turns in the first three years of life. In 2020, eight teachers caring for 48 children in five childcare centers participated in the LENA Grow program.

Infant/toddler teachers in the LENA Grow program showed a 74% increase in subject knowledge and a 55% increase in the number of conversational interactions with the infants and toddlers in their care.

ENCOURAGING YOUNG READERS FROM A SOCIAL DISTANCE: 2019-2020 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



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In 2020, despite COVID, our wonderful volunteer readers stepped up to create storytime magic online for their enthusiastic young listeners.

Children from five early learning centers enjoyed the first virtual Celebrity Readers with the Charles Schwab Reading Extravaganza. Additionally, through our Books and Badges Program, first responders from the Orlando Fire Department, Orlando Police Department, and Orange County Sheriff's Office provided numerous pre-recorded videos for the enjoyment of the children.

Our Ready Reader program also welcomed and sustained 12 new volunteers, who virtually read to the children every week at specific centers.

During the year we also held five book drives, getting more than 500 books into the hands of young readers across Orange County.

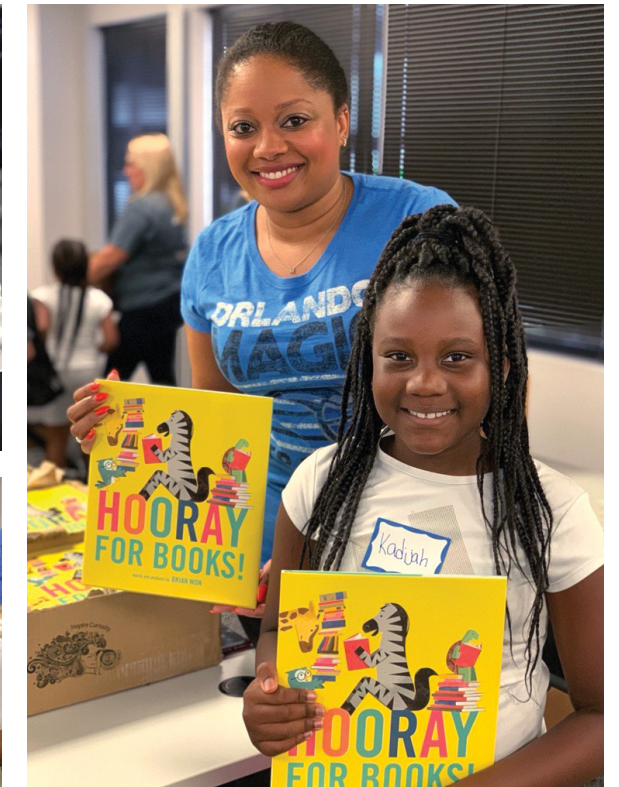
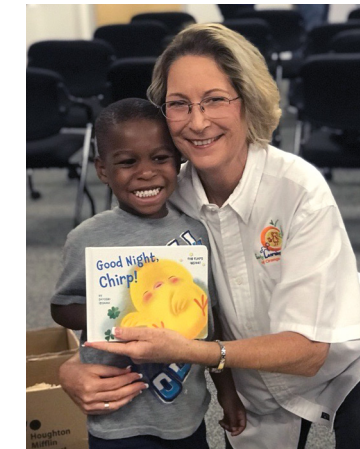
ENCOURAGING YOUNG READERS FROM A SOCIAL DISTANCE: 2019-2020 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

They say it takes a village to raise a child. In this case, it is the heart of an entire organization

The Orlando Magic's Baskets for Books program, presented by Florida Blue, donates two books to the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County for every point made by the Orlando Magic during home games.

Since the program's inception in 2010, more than 54,000 books have been donated to build the home libraries of children most in need. Nearly 4,000 books were donated last season (2019-20) with the support of Houghton Mifflin & Harcourt Publishing Company.

The Orlando Magic team remains committed to literacy efforts as one of its three focus areas, recognizing the great need to encourage early literacy and a love for lifelong learning in children ages birth to five in Central Florida.



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Thank you to the Orlando Magic and Florida Blue for making such a huge impact in the lives of thousands of children in our community!



By age four, children who live in low-income homes will hear **30 MILLION FEWER WORDS** than children who live in more affluent homes

Help us bridge the gap through our literacy initiatives



Special thanks to the amazing supporters of the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County!

Corporate Donors

100 Women Strong	Heart of Florida United Way	Rita and Jeffrey Adler Foundation
4C (Community Coordinated Care for Children)	Helios Education Foundation	Rosen Hotels & Resorts
AdventHealth	IPRG, Inc.	Rotary Club of Winter Garden
Association of Early Learning Coalitions	Kaplan Early Learning Company	Seaside National Bank & Trust
B & L Management	Lakeshore Learning Materials	SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando
Bainum Family Foundation	Massey Services Inc.	Seminole State College
Bridges International	Moss, Krusick and Associates	Simply Healthcare
CareerSource Central Florida	Nemours Children's Health System	Smiley Face Braces
Cash & Associates/Hub International	Nordstrom	State Farm
Central Florida Foundation	Orange Blossom Family Health	Storybook School
Central Florida Urban League	Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children	Teaching Strategies Inc.
Charles Schwab	Orange County Public Schools	Truist
Charles Schwab Foundation	Orange County Sheriff's Office	University of Central Florida
City of Orlando	Orange County Youth & Family Services	UPS Foundation
Conway Learning Center	Orlando Health	Valencia College
Darden Restaurants	Orlando Magic	Verizon Wireless
Discount School Supply	Orlando Magic Youth Foundation	Walmart
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	OUC (Orlando Utilities Commission)	Walt Disney World
Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions	PNC Foundation	Wellcare
Florida Blue Foundation	Publix Super Markets Charities	Wells Fargo
Florida Office of Early Learning	R.L. Burns, Inc.	Westgate Foundation
Fringe Benefit Plans, Inc.	Right Management	Westgate Resorts
Ginsburg Family Foundation	Ripley Entertainment, Inc.	Winter Park Health Foundation

Individual Donors

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