

### Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!



**ELCOC Board Members, community members, staff members, and employees with the Florida Department of Children and Families** enjoyed reading books to children during the week of January 26-30, 2026, at the following child care centers:

- Kids R Kids Learning Academy of Avalon Park
- Resurrection Catholic Church Preschool
- Conway Learning Center
- Welbourne Nursery and Preschool
- Orlando Day Nursery
- Little Angels Child Care and Learning Center
- Calvary City Christian Academy and Preschool
- Potter's House Academy
- Washington Shores Primary Learning Center



### Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!



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Read, White, and Blue: Celebrating 250 Chapters of America is a statewide initiative led by the **Florida Department of Education**. The goal is to inspire students and families to make literacy a joyful part of everyday life.

## SWIM LESSONS



CITY OF  
**ORLANDO**

FAMILIES, PARKS AND RECREATION



Mark your calendars! **The City of Orlando Families, Parks and Recreation** is offering **swimming lessons!**

Classes start on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held at several community pools. See the flyer for more info!



# 2026 SPRING SWIM LESSONS

CLASSES BEGIN

**Saturday, March 7, 2026 through  
Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**Pre-School (3-5 years)..... 8 - 8:30 a.m.**

**Youth (6-17 years)..... 8:35 - 9 :05 a.m.**

**Adult (18 and Up)..... 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.**

CLASSES ARE SATURDAYS ONLY FOR EIGHT WEEKS

*Please review your cart before completing enrollment, we cannot process a refund after transaction.*

CLASSES HELD AT

College Park Pool ..... 407.246.4090

Dover Shores Pool..... 407.246.4091

Dr. James R. Smith Pool .. 407.246.4093

Wadeview Pool..... 407.246.4092

Northwest Pool..... 407.246.4094



   @orlandofpr

Cost is \$40 for city resident and \$50 for non-city resident.

Online registration only and pay online at [orlando.gov](http://orlando.gov).

*Swim cap (optional), towel, goggles, one piece bathing suit required.*

To verify residency, click on **Information Locator** at the bottom of the homepage at [orlando.gov](http://orlando.gov).

To verify closest pool to you use map adjacent to the pool photo online at [orlando.gov](http://orlando.gov).





We're excited to feature **Kid City USA College Park**, led by **Director Meibol Herrera** at 2828 Edgewater Drive in Orlando.



**Fast Facts:**  
72 Children Enrolled  
11 Staff Members

To learn more about Kid City USA College Park [Click HERE](#)

**How do you balance your administrative responsibilities while still staying connected with your children, staff, and parents? What STRATEGIES do you practice?**

By prioritizing my duties, delegating effectively, and maintaining daily visibility in classrooms. Regular communication with parents and staff helps me stay connected while ensuring smooth operations.



**Can you share a SUCCESS STORY on how you improved your childcare center for children and their families?**

By strengthening staff training and improving communication with families, we created a more consistent and supportive learning environment; as a result, children showed greater engagement, and parents expressed higher satisfaction.



**Can you share how your teachers make CIRCLE TIME special?**

By creating age-appropriate activities that encourage participation, language development, and social interaction.



## NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

ELCOC is proud to recognize the **amazing teachers** making a difference in your child care centers!

**Nominate your best educators** for our **ELCOC Teacher of the Month Awards**. Winning teachers receive a certificate and a partner-donated gift during surprise visits.

Click [HERE](#) to nominate the best teachers at your child care center!

Each Teacher of the Month is automatically in the running for the ultimate **ELCOC Teacher of the Year 2026 award** presented in June!

### JANUARY

#### Teacher of the Month **3 WINNERS** selected!

**Maria Ortiz** from  
**Royal Academy**  
**Preschool**



**Golnaz Mahmoody** from  
**O2B Kids Casselberry**



**Stephanie Nicole** from  
**Brave City Childcare**



## 2026 DIAPER DRIVE

We need your help to collect  
**40,000 diapers**  
for the Central Florida Diaper  
Bank to help Orange County  
families!



Click [HERE](#) to BUY  
Diapers and  
help us meet our  
collection goal!



**ELCOC CEO Dr. Scott Fritz** kicked off the  
diaper drive with adorable **Amiera**, the  
2026 ELCOC Diaper Drive Baby  
Ambassador!

Amiera attends **Great Minds Academy**,  
an ELCOC Provider!

Amiera's grandmother, Joy Bouler, is the  
owner and her mother, Khorinna Prince,  
is a teacher.

Standing next to Dr. Fritz is Caye Knight,  
ELCOC Financial Analyst Manager. She is  
Amiera's Aunt!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Online giving and collection efforts are underway now!
- Sat. March 7th: In-person community drop-off celebration
  - 10 am to 1 pm at Dr. James R. Smith Neighborhood Center
  - 1723 Bruton Boulevard in Orlando
- Tues. March 10th: ELCOC delivers diapers to Central Florida Diaper Bank!



# 2026 DIAPER DRIVE

COLLECTION GOAL:  
**40,000 DIAPERS**

## 2 WAYS TO HELP ORANGE COUNTY FAMILIES



**SCAN HERE**



**Buy Diapers**  
from our Amazon List:  
Donations shipped  
to ELCOC

**Bring Diapers**  
Drop Off Event:  
Sat. March 7, 2026:  
10am to 1pm  
**Dr. James R. Smith**  
Neighborhood Center  
1723 Bruton Boulevard  
Orlando





## Campaña de Recolección de Pañales Anual de ELCOC

Meta: **¡40,000 pañales** para ayudar a las familias del Condado Orange!

**¡Tu ayuda hace la diferencia!**



**SCAN HERE**



**Compra pañales** a través de nuestra lista en Amazon y serán entregados directamente a nuestras oficinas.

**Evento de entrega de pañales**  
Sábado, 7 de marzo de 2026,  
de 10:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.

**Centro Comunitario**  
**Dr. James R. Smith**  
1723 Bruton Blvd, Orlando



## PARENT NEWSLETTER



# Parents' Pages

*The Official Newsletter of the Division of Early Learning*

FEBRUARY 2026  
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ISSUE 2



DIVISION OF  
**Early Learning**

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

**Click [HERE](#) for the February Newsletter**  
**to share with your Parents!**