

VPK STUDENTS RECEIVE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County partnered with **AdventHealth** and **Orange County Public Schools** to host "**Pathways to Progress: Early Childhood Development Day**".

The 3-part program offers free screenings for VPK students in Orange County. Families gathered at Conway Learning Center on March 28 to receive **play-based screenings in hearing, speech, and motor skills**, plus guidance and support for next steps. Together with **AdventHealth** and **Orange County Public Schools**, we're helping children start strong, so they stay strong at school.

2 more events are scheduled!

April 25 at First Step Kid's Academy

May 2 at AdventHealth for Children
West Lakes Early Learning Center



Professional Development for Child Care Teachers

Take classes with
I4EL: The Institute for Early Learning
to earn your
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential



Registration for our CDA July Cohort
opens on May 19, 2026

WE OFFER:

- Self-Paced Courses
- Live Virtual & In-Person Training
- Career Pathway Support
- Scholarship Guidance



Scan the **QR CODE**
to create an **ACCOUNT**
and get **EMAIL UPDATES**
when registration opens!

For more information,
EMAIL gguzman@elcoc.org or VISIT institute4el.talentlms.com



SCREENSHOT the QR code on your smartphone.
Then touch QR code on the **SCREENSHOT** to open link!

JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE IN-PERSON COFFEE TALK WORKSHOP: YOUR PATH TO CONTRACT CONFIDENCE



We will help you navigate SR and VPK contracts and update profiles, ensuring your program is fully contract-ready. We will bring the coffee!

EACH SESSION INCLUDES:

- Morning Contract Overview: A guided walkthrough of SR & VPK contract requirements.
- Hands-On Profile Support: Dedicated time with a Provider Relations Specialist to help you update and finalize your provider profile and ensure your program is contract ready.
- Complimentary Educational Items for Attendees



HOW TO REGISTER

- Use the QR Code to sign up for one of the available sessions at ELCOC Headquarters, 7700 Southland Blvd, Suite 100, Orlando, FL 32809
- You will see 3 options labeled for School Readiness (SR), Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK), or both—please select the option that best aligns with your program’s services and schedule.



OPTIONS

MARCH

APRIL

SR	March 10, 24	April 7
VPK	March 3, 17, 31	April 14
SR & VPK	March 4, 12, 18, 26	April 2, 8, 15



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



Facebook Instagram X @orlandofpr

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

Online registration only and pay online at orlando.gov.

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

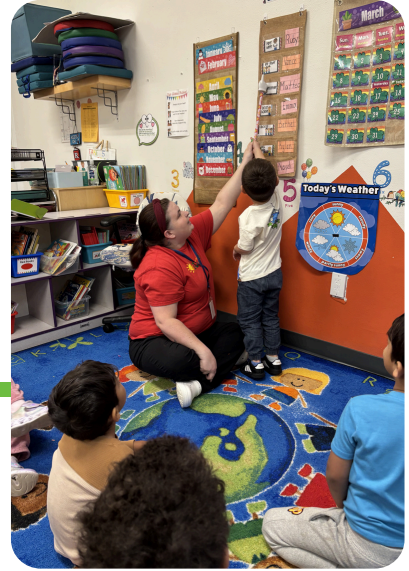
To verify residency, click on **Information Locator** at the bottom of the homepage at orlando.gov.

To verify closest pool to you use map adjacent to the pool photo online at orlando.gov.





We're excited to feature
Sunshine Learners Academy Inc.
led by **Director Maribel Suarez** at 18555
Old Cheney Hwy. in Orlando.



Fast Facts:

37 Children Enrolled
9 Staff Members

[Click HERE](#)

To learn more about
Sunshine Learners Academy





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

I prioritize open communication and make time to check in with staff, parents, and children throughout the day. I plan my administrative tasks around times when I can still be present in the classrooms. Staying organized with lists and a calendar helps me manage everything without missing important moments. My mom also plays an important role in supporting the center and helping with daily operations. With her support, I'm able to balance my responsibilities while staying connected to our children, families, and staff.

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

When I took over the center in 2024, there was no structured curriculum, and the environment did not reflect the quality of care I believe children deserve. I knew I wanted to create a place where children could truly learn, grow, and feel supported. With the support of my mom, I introduced a structured curriculum, strengthened staff support, and focused on creating a warm, engaging environment for both children and families. Together, we worked to improve daily operations and build a stronger foundation for the center. Since then, we have seen a big transformation. Children are more engaged, families feel more confident, and teachers feel more supported and motivated in their work.

Can you share how your teachers make CIRCLE TIME special?

Our teachers make circle time special by creating a fun, engaging, and interactive experience using the **Learning Beyond Paper curriculum**. They begin with songs, movement, and greetings to build a sense of community and help children feel included. Each day includes hands-on activities like exploring textures, colors, or counting objects, all connected to early learning concepts. Teachers also use storytelling, open-ended questions, and show and tell to encourage children to share ideas and build language skills.

[Click HERE](#)
To learn more

Learning
BEYOND 



Family Services Event

SLIDE INTO SUMMER SAFARI

Let's go on an exploration!

Saturday, May 16, 2026
12pm to 2pm

Grand Avenue Neighborhood Center
800 Grand Street
Orlando, FL 32805



- Free Food and Activities
- Free Educational toys for first 300 families with children, infants to 5 years old

#growingfamilyengagement







EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF ORANGE COUNTY

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EVENT SPONSORS & PARTNERS



AdventHealth
for Children

Enriching mind, body and spirit with AdventHealth for Children



West Lakes
Early Learning
Center



Beyond Simplyfit

lose weight • become stronger • live healthy



CITY OF
ORLANDO
FAMILIES, PARKS AND RECREATION



The Howard Phillips
Center for
children's
families

Central Florida
Early Steps

Orlando Health Anschutz Pediatric Hospital for Children



Central Florida
Help Me Grow
Florida



DISCOUNT
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Gardner Media



Lakeshore®



Mindful Play
LEARNING



NEMOURS
CHILDREN'S HEALTH



Orange County
Public Schools



Pre-K
ESE





ORANGE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM



ORLANDO
SCIENCE
CENTER



O2b
KIDS!



ROSEN JCC
LEARNING
CENTER

#growingfamilyengagement







VPK GRADUATION PHOTOS NEEDED



Is your child care center hosting a **VPK Graduation ceremony?**

We would love to share photos of the graduating students in our upcoming PROVIDER Post Newsletter!

Please **EMAIL PHOTOS** to Erin Kent at ekent@elcoc.org so they can be included.

Congratulations VPK Graduates!

PARENT NEWSLETTER



DIVISION OF
Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Click **HERE** for the APRIL Newsletter to share with your Parents!



Parents' Pages

The Official Newsletter of the Division of Early Learning

APRIL 2026
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