

Reimbursement Questions? Our Team is here to help!

You can always email or call the Early Learning Coalition for help. Finding your dedicated contact person for reimbursement questions is as easy as reading your childcare center name!

Question: What is the PROVIDER name?

Example: *Stella the Star's Childcare Center*

Answer: *The word Stella starts with the letter S.*

That childcare center would call Dorothy Stephenson for assistance because she is assigned to the letter S.

Please see the chart BELOW to find your contact person.
Our team is here to help!

2026-2027 Reimbursement Sector Assignment

Staff	Sector (Provider Name)	Email	Phone Number
Barbara Brown	H, L, V, Y	bbrown@elcoc.org	407-634-7923
Beverly Thomas	F, O, T, W	bthomas@elcoc.org	407-634-7762
Damodar Pokharel	B, K, U, X	dpokharel@elcoc.org	407-440-9945
Dorothy Stephenson	P, R, S, Z	dstephenson@elcoc.org	407-634-7914
Gwen Harris	E, I, Q, OCPS Schools	gharris@elcoc.org	407-634-7922
Joanne Clarke	A, G, J, Head Start Centers	jclarke@elcoc.org	407-634-7919
Michna Gustin	C, D, M, N	mgustin@elcoc.org	407-279-1864

CHILDCARE
EDUCATION INSTITUTE

PRO SOLUTIONS
TRAINING

StraighterLine Educational Group

Monthly Office Hours



Join this EXCLUSIVE session built for Teachers
and Directors.

Navigate All Access PD with Confidence.

Bring
Your
Questions!

All Access PD

Coffee & Conversation

Orange County ELC Teachers and Directors

Grab your coffee and join us for an exclusive session designed just for Orange County teachers and directors! We'll explore the All Access PD platform together, answer questions, and share tips to help you confidently navigate the platform and support your professional development needs.

Plus, walk away with the Activation Challenge and a chance to win!

Click [HERE](#) to
register for
Coffee &
Conversation



Register now for this exciting session:



Session: Coffee and Conversation
Thursday
October 08, 2026
1:00 PM EST



Questions?

Contact your StraighterLine Customer Success Manager.

Copyright ©2026 by Straighterline, LLC. All rights reserved

CHILDCARE
EDUCATION INSTITUTE

PRO SOLUTIONS
TRAINING

StraightLine Educational Group

Join Our Free PD Webinar



Everyone is Special: Inclusion and Teaching Neurodiverse Learners

Register
Now!

Participants will explore ways to recognize and respond to varied sensory, communication, social-emotional, and learning needs; adapt instruction and classroom routines; and foster meaningful participation for every child. Grounded in respect, belonging, and individualized support, the course helps educators build classrooms that honor each learner's unique strengths and differences.



Presented by:
Dr. Chrystine Mitchell
Director of Early Childhood Education

Continue learning
after the session
with a newly added
All Access course!

Click [HERE](#)
to register
for Everyone
is Special

Click [Here](#) or Scan Below to Register!



October 12th, 2026
At 1:00 pm EST



BRAND NEW

Highlights

Early Learning

Kindness Connections: Purple Preschool Enrichment Box Ideas!

You can **enhance the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** at your childcare center by using the **Highlights Early Learning KINDNESS CONNECTIONS bundle** in your lesson plans!

The **PURPLE Preschool Enrichment Box** contains **10 different lesson plans**.

KINDNESS CONNECTIONS: Resources to support your lessons



1. Preschool Enrichment Box with detailed lesson plans
2. Teacher Portfolio
3. Student Journals
4. Several Books



KINDNESS CONNECTIONS

A program designed to teach children all about **KINDNESS**

BRAND NEW

Highlights

Early Learning

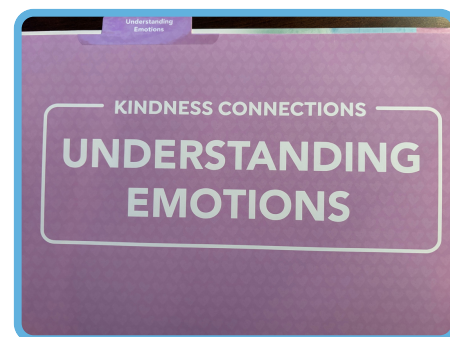
Kindness Connections: Purple Preschool Enrichment Box Ideas!

Each month, the **Early Learning Coalition of Orange County** will take a **deep dive into 1 lesson plan** to showcase how your teachers can help students develop kindness, empathy, and strong social skills at your childcare center.



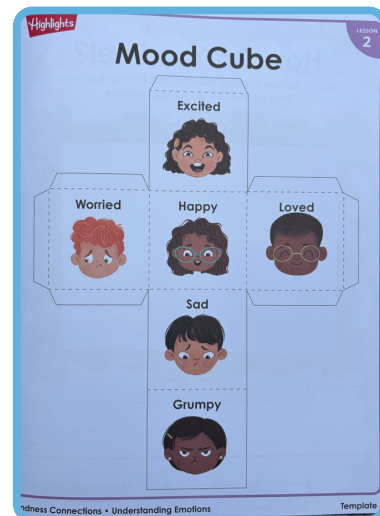
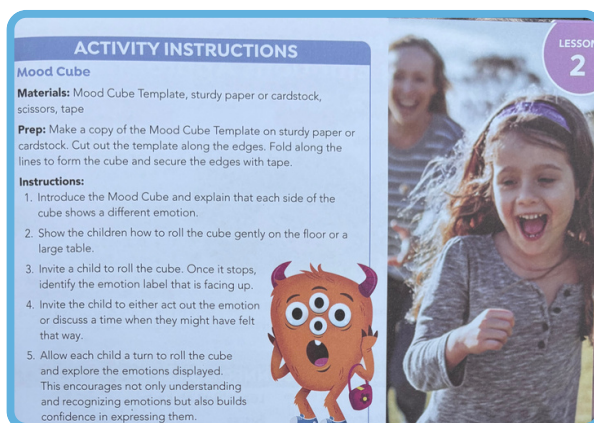
Steps for Success

1. Open the **PURPLE Preschool Enrichment Box** and pull the file labeled **UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS**



September Deep Dive: UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS

If you **turn to Page 5 in the COLLECTION GUIDE**, you will see Activity Instructions for a **MOOD CUBE**! This is an excellent activity during Circle Time!



Gentle Reminder: Pop-In Visits

Coalition staff may visit programs **during normal business hours** as part of our monitoring and support efforts.

Providers are expected to allow staff access to the program and applicable areas upon arrival.

Maintaining timely access is an **important part of remaining in good standing** with program requirements.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued partnership!

**THANK
YOU**



Childcare Provider Spotlight

KIDDIE
ACADEMY
WINTER PARK



We're excited to feature
Kiddie Academy of Winter Park
led by **Director Ninoshka Colon Melendez**
at 420 S. Orlando Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

Fast Facts:

108 Children Enrolled
25 Staff Members

Kiddie Academy of Winter Park

Facebook
Instagram

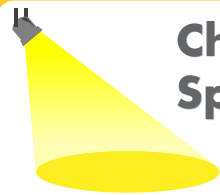


What are your FAVORITE WAYS to keep children engaged, focused, and excited about learning each day?

My favorite ways to keep children engaged, focused, and excited about learning each day include **creating consistent routines, planning fun and meaningful learning experiences, and involving families in the learning process.**

Having a routine helps children know what to expect and feel secure throughout the day. I also believe communication with families is very important. Keeping families informed about upcoming events, activities, and classroom experiences encourages them to be involved and helps create a strong connection between home and school. **When children see their families and teachers working together, it makes learning even more exciting and meaningful.**





Childcare Provider Spotlight



Answers provided by
Director
Ninoshka Colon Melendez

Can you share a **SUCCESS STORY** where a creative activity helped children learn a new skill?

One of our favorite success stories was our **Hero Play Day**, where we creatively incorporated community helpers into fun, hands-on activities. Children participated in activities such as a **Hero Obstacle Course**, **Police Badge Match**, **Firefighter Fun**, and an **Ice Cream Shop Counting activity**. These experiences helped children learn about the important role community helpers have in keeping our community safe and healthy. The children were able to practice skills such as counting, matching, problem-solving, and teamwork while having fun. **By making learning interactive and exciting, the children stayed engaged and showed a better understanding of the different community helpers.** It was wonderful to see them learn new skills while using their imagination and creativity!





Childcare Provider Spotlight

KIDDIE
ACADEMY
WINTER PARK



Answers provided by
Director
Ninoshka Colon Melendez

Caring for children takes energy. What SELF-CARE practices help you and your teachers stay at your best?

We encourage our teachers to take breaks when needed, stay hydrated, and make time to recharge. We also support one another by communicating, working as a team, and creating a positive work environment.

Taking care of our physical and emotional well-being helps us bring our best selves to the children each day. We also believe that celebrating small accomplishments and showing appreciation for one another helps keep our team motivated and happy.

Kiddie Academy of Winter Park teacher **Ronalia Baker Roberts** was featured as an Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Teacher of the Month!





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org



DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Learning Takeaway mentioned in Parents' Pages

Understanding Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS)

FELDS is a **framework of eight domains** that outline age-appropriate milestones and skills for children from birth to age five.

They help both teachers and parents understand a child's development, track progress, and support early learning to prepare children for kindergarten.



Parents' Pages

The Official Newsletter of the Division of Early Learning

SEPTEMBER 2026
VOLUME 12
ISSUE 9

How Florida's Early Learning Standards and Assessments Work Together

Fall is an exciting time in early learning classrooms. Children are meeting new friends, learning new routines and exploring their classrooms. It is also the time when teachers use standards for lesson planning and begin assessments to learn more about each child's skills and development.

In this month's Parents' Pages, you will find articles on the [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards \(FELDS\)](#) and the Voluntary Prekindergarten assessment, [Florida Assessment of Student Thinking \(FAST\) Star Early](#)

Teachers also pay attention to children's interests and strengths. The information collected helps teachers plan lessons and activities that meet the needs of every child.

Families are an important part of the assessment process. Parents and caregivers can share information about their child's interests, abilities and experiences observed at home. When families and teachers work together, they can better support each child's individual needs.

Click [HERE](#) to
read the entire
Parents' Pages
for **SEPTEMBER**