

early
learning
coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



Activating the Creative Mind



Laying the foundation for success through continued professional development

15th Annual Early Learning Conference

Saturday, November 5, 2022

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LIVE STREAMING on www.elcph.org

Conference Program



The Early Learning Coalition of
Pasco and Hernando Counties,
Inc. has been accredited as an
Authorized Provider by the
International Association for
Continuing Education and
Training (IACET).

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**A Message from
Dr. Steve Knobl
Executive Director of
The Early Learning Coalition of
Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.**

I am excited you're joining us today! The Promise Institute presents "Activating the Creative Mind" for our 15th Annual Early Learning Conference! When we facilitate creativity, a child's own curiosity will lead to critical thinking. Today's conference sessions and speakers will help us discover the benefits and strategies of implementing art, music, and loose parts for your daily classroom activities!

As we strive to work together through the pandemic and the many challenges it has presented to our industry, I continue to be impressed with your commitment and dedication for the children and families you serve each day. Each year, the day of the conference continues to be one of my favorite days as we come together as a community to learn and share with one another.

I am excited that we're continuing my family's teacher scholarship program that began three years ago, along with honoring a "teacher of the year". We have a dynamic keynote this year, with two other talented guest speakers during the morning program. Our team has worked tirelessly to deliver a high-quality virtual experience for you. This event would not be possible without the support and generosity of our sponsors and partners.

I am confident that you will love this year's conference and learn many new ways to create wonder and excitement within your classrooms for your students. On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our youngest citizens and for choosing to be an early childhood educator. It's one of the most important careers in our workforce and we're thankful for each one of you.

Sincerely,

Steve Knobl, Ph.D.



Board of Directors

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Conference Committee

Conference Committee Members

Carrie Culbertson, *Educational Services Director*

Dawn Espinoza, *Professional Development Supervisor*

Mark Cerasaro, *Training Specialist*

Katie Dean, *Provider Performance Supervisor*

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Kristen Murray, *Provider Performance Specialist*

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Maria Simpson, *Provider Performance Specialist*

Samantha Taylor, *Provider Performance Specialist*

Melinda Velez, *Strategic Partnerships and Impact Specialist*



Schedule of Events

Time

Event

8:30 AM

Welcome: Conference Opening
Pledge of Allegiance

Sarah Bee Academy 2



Greetings:

Dr. Steve Knobl, Executive Director for
The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.

Bimal Bhojani, Governor Appointed Chair of the Board of Directors for
The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.

Matt Mears, Chancellor for
Department of Education

Dawn Espinoza, Professional Development Supervisor for
The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.

9:00 AM

Session 1:

Penny Bernath, South Florida PBS's KidVision

10:00 AM

Session 2:

Ellen Acuna, Music Together Worldwide

11:00 AM

Session 3:

Keith Pentz, Early Years Consulting Services, LLC.

12:00 PM

Awards / Major Door Prizes / Wrap Up

- Teacher of the Year
- John and Helen Long Scholarship Awards

Dawn Espinoza, Professional Development Supervisor for
The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.

12:30 PM

Conference Ends

early
learning
coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



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15th Annual Early Learning Conference

Saturday, November 5, 2022

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LIVE STREAMING on www.elcph.org



Laying the foundation for success through continued professional development

Pizza

WATCH Party!

- Providers gather together as a group to watch conference!
- Take a group photo and send to our LIVE chat box! 1 photo entry per center.
- Participating providers will be entered into a drawing.
- One provider will be randomly selected from all watch party entries for a chance to win a Pizza Party for their staff and teachers!



The winning
center will also
receive a \$200 Gift
Certificate from
Discount School
Supply!





Activating the Creative Mind

Session 1: Penny Bernath

Education Director
SOUTH FLORIDA PBS

Process Art for
Young Children



Session Description:

What is Process Art? Why is it important? And how do you do it with the age group you are working with? Miss Penny will do process art with each age group in a typical preschool. Learn how to support one-year-olds, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, and PreK kids through process art. Jump on board as we navigate the often misunderstood world of art experience for young children. Join my pre-recorded presentation and ask questions live, I will be in the zoom chat room!

Presenters Bio:graphy:

Penny Bernath is the Education Director of South Florida PBS. She has contributed to the station's success with the creation of KidVision PreK, an online professional development program for preschool teachers. Penny started her early childhood career as an active parent in the preschool program at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) where she enrolled her children. She soon became a preschool teacher aide, then a teacher, a director, and eventually taught teachers how to teach preschool at NSU teaching National Child Development Associate (CDA) classes. She continued to grow professionally going out into the community developing and presenting professional development trainings for NSU, helping failing preschools with on-going training and mentoring.

Penny took this combined work and teaching knowledge to develop KidVisionPreK.org, knowing that preschool teachers needed practical standards training in a format that was easy for them to understand and apply in the classroom. KidVision PreK field trips can be matched to any curriculum, enriching it with audio-visual content and hands-on standards-based activities. Penny has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a master's in early childhood education, and a specialist degree in educational leadership. She has a State of Florida professional teaching certificate for ages 3 to grade 6. Penny is certified in Music Together, Teaching Strategies Gold, and CLASS.

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Hours!**



Go to
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Online Today!



Activating the Creative Mind

Session 2: Ellen Acuna

Early Childhood Music Specialist

The Power of Music

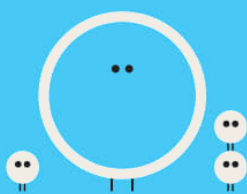
Music
Together®

Session Description:

Music Together understands that the most important time for music learning is between the ages of birth and six. This is the period of primary music development, a time when children's growing brains are most open to musical influence and growth. Exposure to a variety of music and movement experiences is crucial during this period, when the child learns so fast and so well. Join us as we engage in enjoyable music activities that foster a positive learning environment in the classroom and at home, benefiting each child's learning and development.

Presenter's Biography:

Ellen Acuna has over twenty-five years of experience as an early childhood music and movement specialist working with children birth through age five and their parents and caregivers. She has also worked as a music specialist in early learning settings, including dual language classes, Head Start programs, intergenerational music initiatives, and classes for children with hearing impairments at a school for the deaf. In addition to her teaching work, she is a mentor for other music and movement specialists at Music Together Worldwide. She presents professional development workshops for music specialists and classroom teachers, presents live webinars on topics related to music and early learning, and has presented at national conferences. She has a B.A. from West Chester University where she studied Speech Communications.



Play Along

by Music
Together



Raise the Overall Quality of Children's Early Learning through Music

Music Together® is a research-based early childhood music and movement program for children from birth through kindergarten, first offered in 1987. When Music Together is offered by a school, music becomes a powerful learning tool. From private and public preschools, to pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start, childcare centers, and in-home daycares, our award-winning music and developmentally appropriate activities have been found to raise the overall quality of children's early learning.

Benefits of Our Research-based Enrichment Resources:

- Support children's development in key early learning domains
- Give teachers tools to enhance classroom life and reach curricular goals
- Support family engagement and parent-child relationships
- Give children (and adults!) rich, enjoyable music they love

Play Along by Music Together®.

Our music enrichment resource was created especially for classroom teachers. It empowers them to make music a part of everyday learning, harnessing its power to support students like nothing else can. Play Along has the flexibility to suit any school's needs, by providing classroom teachers with an easy and fun way to enrich their work with children—and an innovative way to support family engagement efforts.



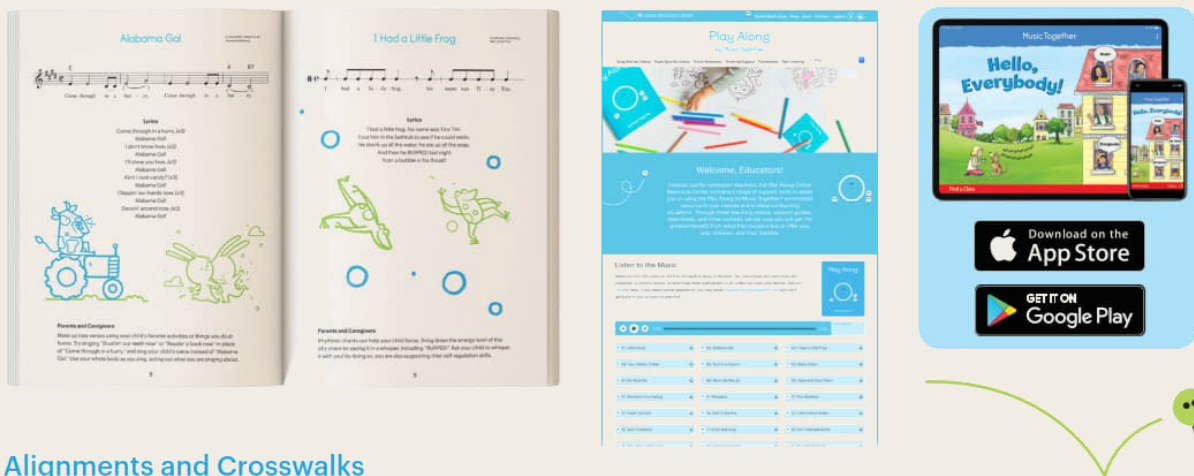
Contact **Katie O'Dea**,
Curriculum Sales Representative,
at in-school@musictogether.com,
for a personalized recommendation
for your school!



Music Enrichment Resources

Music and Materials

Play Along includes the award-winning **Music Together®** recordings, which can be downloaded/streamed using our **Hello Everybody app**. Each collection is a mix of original songs and traditional tunes in a variety of genres, styles, and cultures, including folk, blues, classical, rock, jazz, and world music. Also included are music and songbooks for families to take home, developmentally appropriate activities to be used in class, online resources to support teaching and program implementation, and basic instrument kits for each classroom.



Alignments and Crosswalks

A wide variety of schools find Play Along by Music Together to be an excellent fit due to our alignment with other standards, curricula, assessments, and philosophies, including: The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool; Head Start/Early Head Start; CLASS® (official crosswalk); ETERS/ITERS; NAEYC early childhood program standards, and individual state early learning standards.



The Importance of Family Involvement

Our home materials, online educational content and activity ideas, and **Hello Everybody app** empower families to make music with their child.

- Families can support their child's learning and development in fun and developmentally appropriate ways—anytime, anywhere.
- The learning that takes place in the classroom can be extended into the home.
- The home learning environment is enhanced with educational materials and activities.
- Families gain new tools for effective parenting (e.g., supporting transitions and routines, behavior management, etc.).

A circular portrait of Keith Pentz, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue sweater. The portrait is framed by a green and yellow circular border. The background of the portrait shows a tree trunk and some foliage.

Activating the Creative Mind

Session 3: Keith Pentz

Early Years Program Consultant

Loose Parts!
Explore! Invent!



Session Description:

“The Joy of Not Knowing: Embracing Multiple Paths – Many Options of Loose Parts” Children are a diverse lot – learning styles, capabilities, relationships with teachers, genetics, exposure to trauma, lifestyle, culture, interests, access to experiences, and so much more contribute to what and how a child learns. If we truly want all children to be successful and optimize their learning potential, we must begin to reexamine our instructional approaches, broaden our perspectives, and embrace options and opportunities for more creativity and imagination. Let’s explore together how to best facilitate and maximize learning and development.

Presenter’s Biography:

Keith L. Pentz, Early Years Program Consultant, Early Years Consulting Services, LLC, has been in the field of education for over 40 years. Keith began his career by working in childcare with infants and toddlers. Later, he taught elementary students as well as Kindergarten. Keith spent the remainder of his classroom time teaching Prekindergarten and working specifically with low socio-economic and diverse families as well as inclusion students. Following his experiences in the classroom, Keith moved on to teach at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, and he also was an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.

Along with his classroom experience and writing, Keith has been involved in a variety of research and hands-on programs—specifically regarding play therapy and play as a strategy for the development of cognitive processes. Keith was a founding member—along with Becky Bailey (Loving Guidance/Conscious Discipline), Pam Frank (psychologist/play therapist), and other teachers, counselors, and early childhood specialists—of Project Play, a developmental, play therapy-based, and behavior intervention program that worked with young children who may have difficulties developmentally, cognitively, or socially and emotionally.



2022

Teacher of the Year: Karen Roque The Reading Corner



"I am honored and humbled to be selected as Teacher of the Year! I truly put my heart into my teaching and pride myself in connecting with all my students.

I have been teaching for 20 years; 11 of those years have been at The Reading Corner in Lutz, Florida. My teaching experience is with 3-year-olds and VPK students in the classroom and also for TRC Virtual School. In 2001, I earned my CDA certification. Currently, I am working towards an associates degree in Early Childhood Education – Preschool Specialization at HCC.



Being a teacher is my God given gift. I'm happy to share my gift and help each child know how special and important they are."

- Karen Roque



CONGRATS!

2022

Teacher of the Year Nominees:

- Kristina Alvarado from The Learning Ladder Christian Preschool
- Danielle Betz from Kidz Gallery
- Mary DeCanio from the Cherry Tree
- Tammy Encinia from Eden Christian School
- Judith Gerena from Little Sunshine Preschool
- Terrica Lashley from Geaux Baby FHC
- Katrina Mulvey from New Horizons Preschool
- Yolaine Leon Perez from Elfers Christian Preschool
- Mirca Quiles from First Christian Academy
- Karen Roque from The Reading Corner
- Jennifer Ross from Little Owl Learning Academy
- Leslie Shephard from Mrs. B's Daycare
- Chrystal Stephenson from Kidz Gallery
- Meghan Swaim from Longleaf Learning Academy
- Rita Wilson from the Cherry Tree





2022 John & Helen Long Scholarship Winner: Olivia Olsen Lighthouse Preschool

CONGRATS!



"I am a senior at USF majoring in Early Childhood Education. While I was in high school, I volunteered over 200 hours at Lighthouse Preschool. In my freshmen year of college I started working at Lighthouse Preschool. I love working with young children and helping them develop a love for learning! I am super excited to be starting my full time internship, and graduating from USF this May!

Thank you so much for selecting me as this year's recipient for the John and Helen Long Scholarship!"

- Olivia Olsen



Learn More About The John and Helen Long Scholarship



The John and Helen Long Scholarship began in 2008 at Gulf High School where Dr. Knobl was the Principal. Dr. Knobl organized the family scholarship for a graduating senior who was studying to become a teacher, This was also a way to honor the legacy of his grandparents John and Helen Long. In 2018, the scholarship followed Dr. Knobl to the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties where it is now used to support a teacher completing a college degree in early childhood education.

Dr. Knobl has fond memories of his grandparents taking him and his younger sister to the Hudson Library, buying books together at Waldenbooks in the Gulfview Square Mall, and reading around the pool each summer as they were growing up. As the oldest of eight grandchildren, he recalls how often his grandparents encouraged everyone to enjoy learning and continue their education beyond high school.

By modeling a love for reading and creating a supportive learning environment, John and Helen truly left an incredible legacy for the entire family. The entire family enjoys reading about the scholarship winner and looks forward to the announcement each year.

Thank you Sponsors

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Suncoast makes it simple to give back to the community! Every time a member uses their Suncoast credit or debit cards, we donate two cents to the **Suncoast Credit Union Foundation**.

Thanks to those donations, our foundation has given more than **\$36 million** to support children in the communities we serve.

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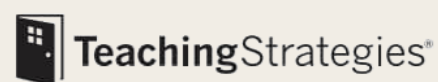
THE BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH IS PRIMARILY FUNDED BY THE FLORIDA LOTTERY, ASSISTS STUDENTS IN PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER GOALS.

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Learning Ground Foundation

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WE PROMISE!



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IN-PERSON

2023



CEU Distribution Rules

In-service Certificates

A conference certificate will be available in your “Promise Institute” account after you complete a questionnaire and survey online.

- Log into <https://phelc.talentlms.com>. (Your username is your email address)
- Locate and click on “Early Childhood Educator's Conference: Activating the Creative Mind (In-Service) .” You will find this on your home page or in “My Courses.”
- Press “Start or Resume Course” and complete the questionnaire and survey.
- Wait up to 3 weeks for an Early Learning Coalition Training Specialist to verify your attendance from the chat box.
- Once the attendance has been verified, click on the **PROGRESS** tab.
- You will find your certificate located under the **CERTIFICATIONS** tab.

CEU Terms and Conditions

By registering for this conference and purchasing CEUs, you agreed to the CEU Terms and Conditions on the Coalition’s website.

These terms and conditions include that all CEU paperwork is the responsibility of the participant.

Within one week of completion of the conference, submit your CEU Questionnaire Packet which can be found under the Files tab in the course. You will receive .4 CEUs after the submitted questionnaire has been approved.

If CEU paperwork is incomplete, it will be returned to the participant via email. Participant will have ten (10) days to complete CEU paperwork and resubmit to the Coalition.

Payment for CEUs is non-refundable.

CEU Distribution

CEU Certificates of Completion will be available in your “Promise Institute” account at <https://phelc.talentlms.com> . You will find your certificate under the **CERTIFICATIONS** tab.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. (PHELC) has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). In obtaining this accreditation, the PHELC has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of good practice. As a result of the Authorized Provider status, PHELC is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard.



Notes

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes, with a large teal splash graphic on the right side.



A Space To Grow

www.elcph.org



Become Gold Seal Accredited for FREE!

Making

Accreditation

Possible

The Early Learning Coalition of
Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.
wants to support our providers in
becoming accredited!

We have dedicated staff available to
walk you through the process



Did you know there are multiple benefits to being accredited?

- Receive 20% more for School Readiness enrolled children.
- With current legislation, that 20% can even be above your private pay rate.
- Coalition pays accreditation related resources to the provider.
- May qualify for tax exemptions.
- A positive marketing tool for prospective parents.
- Accreditation status will be noted in CCR&R provider listing.



To learn more, please contact Melissa Hayes at m.hayes@elcph.org



It's a great time to become an Early Childhood Educator!

Marchman Technical College's Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program has partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. to focus on supporting preschool teachers during their educational journey and beyond using the Preschool Development Grant (PDG).



- **FREE Textbook and Materials**
- **4 Participation Bonus Payments**
- **DCF Fees Reimbursed**
- **Resource Kit Upon Completion**
- **Retention Bonus for Continued Employment**
- **Complimentary Advisor**
- **Incentive Bonuses for Directors and Journey-workers**

**Earn a FREE CCAP (Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate)
which is equivalent to a FCCPC Staff Credential.**



Contact Samantha Dominguez at S.Dominguez@elcph.org for more information.

ATTENTION: Earn your Early Childcare Credential Today!



Are you interested in joining Early Childhood Education?

Marchman Technical College is offering the 600-hour course in Early Childhood Education. \$2,000.00 in Tuition and Fees for FREE!



Includes:

- Background Check
- DCF training coursework fees
- CPR and First Aid Certification
- 2 Participation Bonus Payments
- Complimentary Advisor

Contact Samantha Dominguez at s.dominguez@elcph.org for more information or call 727-233-8291 ext. 125



Costs covered by The Early Learning Coalition Preschool
Development Grant through the
Division of Early Learning

Infant and Toddler



Making the Most of Classroom Interactions

ELCPH is excited to announce that we are offering Making the Most of Classroom Interactions: Infant and Toddler (MMCI-IT)/CLASS Group Coaching.

This is an interactive course for infant, toddler and two teachers and care providers. It is led by a Teachstone-trained instructor* over the course of twelve sessions. This course is designed to prepare you to identify, understand, and apply stronger CLASS interactions in your infant, toddler and two classrooms.

Teachers and Care Providers who participate in MMCI trainings:

- ☐ Learn to identify and describe effective interactions in classrooms and care settings
- ☐ Discuss ways to interact intentionally to increase children's learning
- ☐ Gain access to valuable print and video resources aligned with the CLASS measure

Cost: Free while supplies last. Workbooks will be made available one week prior to start of class.

Earn: 2.4 CEUs for completing the series of twelve sessions.

Contact Information: Space is very limited, so if you are interested in attending this training, please contact Gina Kollar, Infant and Toddler Specialist as soon as possible at: g.kollar@elcph.org or 727-233-8291 ext. 126

Training Location: Virtual via Zoom. A link will be sent to you when you register.

Participants must attend all 12 sessions to be issued full credit.

Please mark your calendar and save the days & times.

Session 1a Saturday, January 14, 2023 9:00-11:00 AM	Session 1b Saturday, January 14, 2023 11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Session 2a Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6:30—8:30 PM	Session 2b Wednesday, January 25, 2023 6:30-8:30 PM	Session 3a Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 6:30-8:30 PM	Session 3b Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023 6:30—8:30 PM
Session 4a Saturday, February 18, 2023 9:00-11:00 AM	Session 4b Saturday, February 18, 2023 11:30 AM—1:30 PM	Session 5a Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 6:30—8:30 PM	Session 5b Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:30-8:30 PM	Session 6a Saturday, March 11, 2023 9:00-11:00 AM	Session 6b Saturday, March 11, 2023 11:30AM-1:30PM

Would you like to improve the quality of care in your infant, toddler, and twos classrooms?

The **Pathway to Quality** shows you where you are. Then, it gives you choices for what to focus on next.

The 10 Components of Quality includes both the **Signs of Quality** and something the early childhood field has not had before—actual **Steps to Quality**. No more guesswork about how to move your infant, toddler, and twos classrooms...

From Good to Great



If you would like to learn more about the Pathway to Quality for infant, toddler, and twos teachers, please contact:
Gina Kollar at g.kollar@elcph.org or Telephone 727-233-8291 ext. 126

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, PROGRAM DIRECTORS, AND CENTER OWNERS

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DEGREE MODELS

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OR MASTER'S DEGREE

T.E.A.C.H. supports scholars as they complete their degrees in early childhood education.

T.E.A.C.H. works with various state colleges, universities, and training institutions across Florida (in-person and online). View the **ECE Training Directory** on our website to find participating schools.

Most scholars receive:

- **85 - 90%** paid tuition
- **90%** book reimbursements
- **\$250** stipend each semester
- **\$500 - \$1,500 bonus** for contract completion, with tiered bonuses for degree-seeking students
- **90%** computer reimbursement (up to \$500)
- **3 hours/week paid release time** while attending school





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to see current
scholarship
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Early talk 
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98% 

of teachers who participated in LENA
Grow reported seeing positive changes
in children's language development

94% 

of teachers reported becoming
more satisfied with their jobs

The LENA Grow program is helping teachers across Florida improve children's language development and connect with families through an integrated, low-stress coaching program. **Learn more at:**

LENA.org

If you wish to add LENA Grow to your classroom, please contact
Gina Kollar at g.kollar@elcph.org or call (727) 233-8291 ext. 126.



START is a program for families!! The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties knows how much you love your children. We know you are invested in their success. By joining START, you will receive tools and strategies for relationship-based parenting and support to help during these challenging times and beyond.

Pasco and Hernando Families!



The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. invites families to participate in the following **FREE** activities.

START ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Participate in the Circle of Security® Parenting™ Virtual Workshop. This virtual course is designed for families. Who should attend? Mom, Dad, Step-parents, Grandparents, Guardians and so on.
- Participate in a book study, "Raising a Secure Child." This book is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened. Each family receives a **FREE** book.
- Participate in **FREE** family events.
- Receive participation incentives & prizes for completing the program.

Virtual Workshop Dates:

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM

**To register or for more information, please contact
 Elisha Perry at e.perry@elcph.org.**



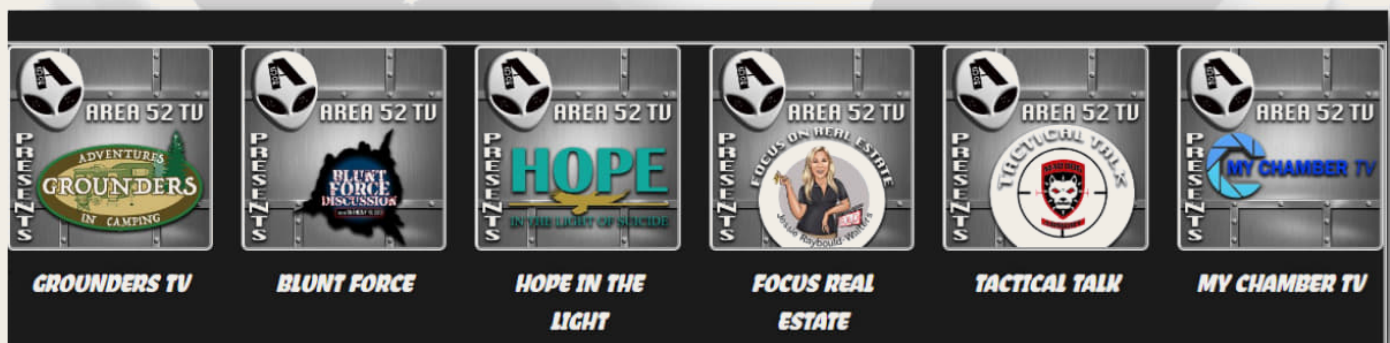
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