

SPOTLIGHT

2023

ON PROVIDERS



**A SPACE
TO
GROW**

EARLY LEARNING
WHAT'S NEXT

WWW.ELCPH.ORG

TABLE

03

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LETTER**

05

**PROVIDER
REPRESENTATIVE
LETTER**

06

**INNOVATIVE
LEARNING**

11

**SIMPLE SUMMER
ACTIVITIES TO HELP
CHILDREN LEARN**

16

**PASCO'S
APPRENTICESHIP'S
MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

22

**WELCOME TO THE
PROMISE INSTITUTE**

27

WRITE FOR US

30

FOLLOW US

CONTENTS



OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It's hard to believe it's spring of 2023 already. Where does the time go? The past year has been very rewarding for our staff and Board of Directors. Our team is dedicated to timely customer service and we're here for you. We continue to award several stability grants to many of you from the Federal government. I hope the money is helping you hire and retain staff, award salary increases and bonuses, and is supporting classroom and other business purchases.

I have continued to prioritize my time in the field with you. If I didn't visit you in 2022, please know I have a plan to get out to see you this year. Our Board members have enjoyed visiting providers and reading to children on our visits. Fortunately, we have been able to purchase children's books with grants and provide a copy to each child after the Board member reads to the class.

Our team is working very hard to complete the new CLASS assessment in our 750+ VPK classrooms. In addition, we have developed several webinars and trainings to support teacher development with this new assessment. Contract season is coming up fast so please be on the lookout for information from our provider relations team in the coming weeks.

We have prioritized teacher recruitment and retention at the Coalition. We have seen and heard from most of you about the ongoing staffing and budget challenges. We are bringing more credentialed teachers into our local workforce through our partnership with Pasco County's Marchman Technical College's Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program and Wesley Chapel's Adult Education Program. We are excited to share that we have partnered with Hernando County Schools to create a similar model at Wilton Simpson Technical College.

CONTINUED...

The apprenticeship program will offer opportunities for preschool teachers to continue their educational journey while earning a FREE Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate. In addition, participants will be provided with FREE materials and textbooks along with receiving Classroom Supply kits and participation bonus payments. Directors and owners are encouraged to reach out to our Early Education Advisor, Samantha Dominguez at s.dominguez@elcph.org for enrollment.

On behalf of the Coalition's Board of Directors and our staff, please allow me to thank you for your tremendous work and commitment to our children and families. As we continue to professionalize our field, I challenge you to help us eliminate "daycare" from our vocabulary. What you do as teachers, directors, and staff everyday with children is early childhood education. We admire and appreciate each one of you. Please feel free to reach out to our offices with any questions or concerns.



STEVE KNOBL, PH.D.



“

We have prioritized teacher recruitment and retention at the Coalition. We have seen and heard from most of you about the ongoing staffing and budget challenges. We are bringing more credentialed teachers into our local workforce.



YOUR FAITH BASED PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

I've had the opportunity to spend some time with directors from many counties within our state during the past few months. We've shared things from DCF regulations to grants, profiles, and training opportunities offered by our Early Learning Coalitions. While sharing with each other it became very clear to me that what we experience in a relational aspect with our coalition may be rare. Our coalition staff has worked tirelessly to become one of the most supportive entities to Providers. Dr. Knobl's leadership has provided a personal focus, therefore offering a variety of resources to assist each of us.

One of those recently offered resources is a program called MarcoPolo Learning, a digital tool for teachers, to encourage curiosity in children. As early educators, we strive to find a way to extend learning. MarcoPolo gives children screentime that is both educational and fun! It offers real-life videos and pictures as well as characters to help develop their creativity and problem-solving skills. Our families can also trust that it is safe, unlike much of what is accessible on YouTube. Teachers can send a "Class Trip" or individual playlists to view at home, which supports a child's individual need or class lesson. The fact that this is an extension from our classrooms into the home is a valuable advantage. Additionally, everything on MarcoPolo is also offered in Spanish.

As a director, the ability to offer supportive, fun resources to our teachers is an important part of equipping them for success. Staff retention can be enhanced by opportunities such as these. If you'd like to know more about MarcoPolo and other resources, please feel free to contact me or Samantha Taylor at s.taylor@elcph.org.

Once again thank you to Steve and our ELC staff for, in my opinion, being better than other coalitions in our state!

Respectfully to all of you who work tirelessly with our little learners,

Jan Jones

JAN JONES

PASCO COUNTY FAITH BASED PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVE

INNOVATIVE LEARNING BRING YOUR CLASSROOM TO LIFE



Curiosity triggers areas in the brain that help us become better at learning skills and retaining information. Curiosity even enhances overall learning success!

In August, the Early Learning Coalition partnered with MarcoPolo Learning and introduced providers to MarcoPolo for Educators. This digital resource aligns with and enhances your early learning curriculum,

and provides support to every domain of CLASS Framework for classroom quality.

MarcoPolo Learning is an award-winning developer of early childhood content and technology for schools and homes. Its product for schools,



The videos are short and informative, which makes them easy to include into any lesson plan.

MarcoPolo for Educators, provides the largest library of curriculum-aligned, developmentally appropriate videos that bring curriculum to life, teach diverse learners, and drive learning from school to home through an

innovative connection of its teacher-facing and child-facing platforms.

If you would like more information, please contact Samantha Taylor at s.taylor@elcph.org.

HEAR IT FROM OTHERS:

"Initiating the Marco Polo program in our VPK classroom has been an asset. The videos are short and informative, which makes them easy to include into any lesson plan. All videos come with learning materials such as educator guides, printables, and photocards. We have found it useful when introducing the different studies within Creative Curriculum, both programs align beautifully. Marco Polo is a program we highly recommend and we'll continue to use in the foreseeable future."

Kristina Alvarado
The Learning Ladder Preschool



PROVIDER Recognitions

Tanglewood Learning Center April 2022

- Contracted New Port Richey Provider since 2011.
- 5 staff members who helped open the center in 2011 have remained employed to date.
- Received People's Choice Best of the Best recognition in their Daycare category in 2019.



Little Explorers Learning Center July 2022

- School Readiness and VPK Provider since April 2019 serving Twos to School Age.
- SRPA score increased from 4.08 to 5.14.
- 12 staff members have completed 42 courses in all – with emphasis on MMCI and Conscious Discipline.



Mrs. Maxine's Large Family Childcare Home October 2022

- School Readiness provider since 2011
- Serving birth through school-age
- Offering 24-hour care, Monday-Saturday
- SRPA score increased from 4.60 to 6.06

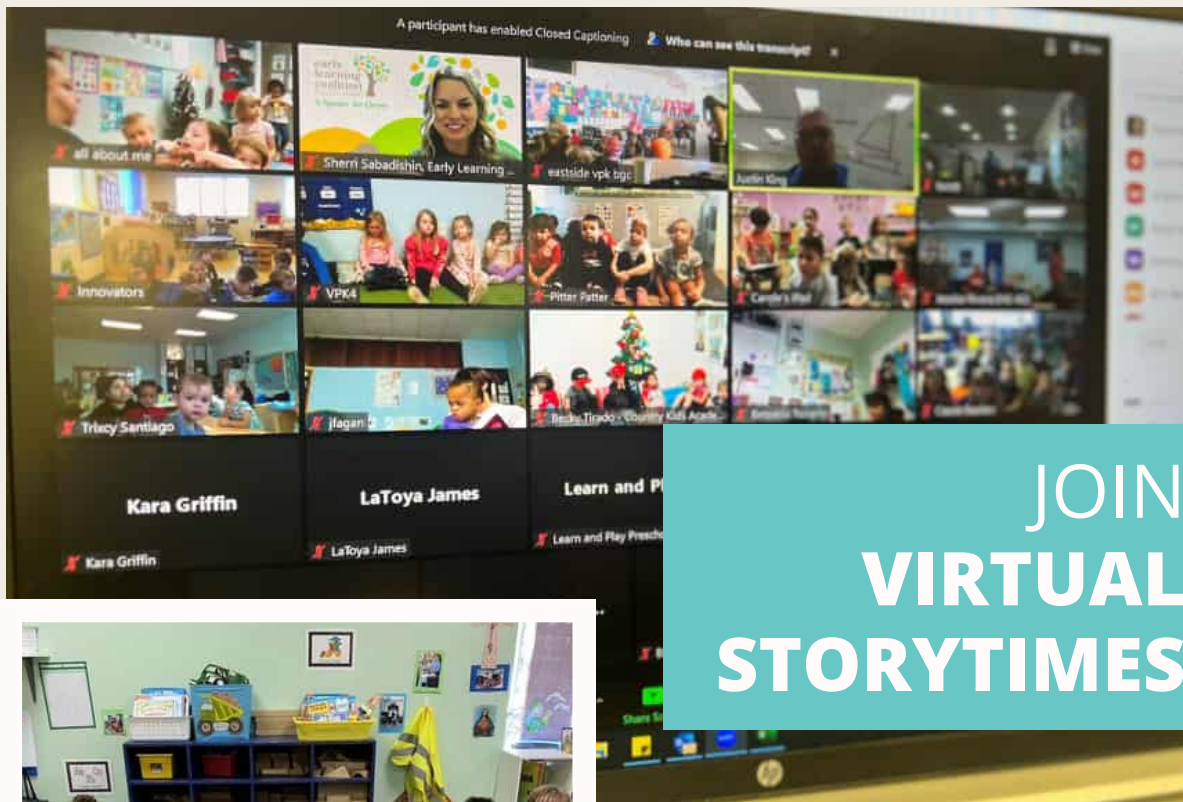


The Cherry Tree January 2023

- Opened in 1994 - 29 years in business
- Apple Accredited since 2001
- Gold Seal Provider
- VPK provider since 2005 and 750 VPK served to date



Thank You!



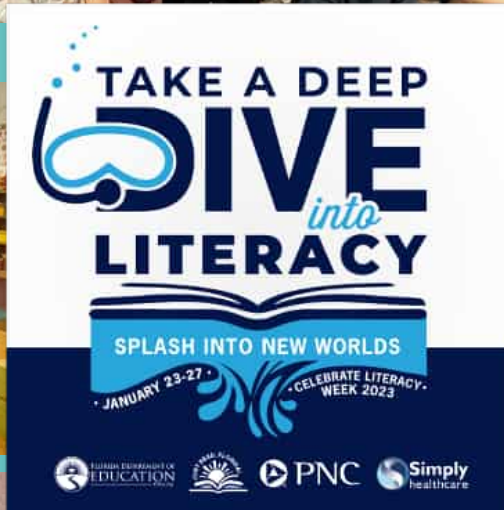
The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando partners with both Pasco and Hernando County libraries to host two virtual storytimes each month.

Did you know that your classroom can join the fun?

Children have the opportunity to receive a book, learn new songs, and engage in fun activities based around the story.

If your classroom is interested in joining a storytime, please reach out to Sherri Sabadishin at s.sabadishin@elcph.org.

CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK, FLORIDA!



60
Providers!



January 23 - January 27, 2023



SIMPLE SUMMER **ACTIVITIES TO HELP CHILDREN LEARN**

Sarah Maignan
Admissions Manager
Primrose School at Collier Parkway
www.PrimroseCollierParkway.com

Summer is a time to slow down, spend time outdoors and have some fun! While this change of pace is an opportunity for families to get more rest and relaxation, it's important that children still engage in activities that encourage learning.

The summer season provides plenty of ways for children to explore nature and discover science, so "find learning opportunities" does not have to be another addition to your to-do list. The outdoors provides the perfect setting for young children to experience physics, chemistry, and biology in ways that they can relate to and understand.

Swinging, sliding, and swimming are great examples of activities that your little one is likely

already doing that also introduce her to the fascinating world of science.

Swinging back and forth on a swing set allows children to experience the effects of motion and gravity. Children realize that as the swing comes to a stop, they must push off the ground to set the swing back in motion.

Slides allow children to experience the effects of gravity and friction. Children realize they can slow down by pressing on the soles of their shoes or go faster by lifting their feet.

Children experiment with the scientific principle of buoyancy while learning to swim, asking questions like, "Why do I float sometimes and other times I sink?"

It's not necessary for you to explain the science behind each activity—the experiences alone build a foundation for learning and help children grasp scientific principles later in life. But, to build on your child's learning and encourage his natural curiosity, consider explaining the science in a hands-on way by setting up simple experiments.



For example, if your child asks what she needs to do to float, try this interactive game to help teach her why some objects sink and others float:

- Help your child fill a bucket with water and gather miscellaneous items.
- Ask your child to predict if items will float or sink and ask for the reasoning behind each prediction.
- Allow your child to place the items in the water, one at a time. As each item is tested, let her change her prediction—it shows she is thinking critically and refining her thoughts based on evidence. Listen to her observations each time.

- After your child has tested each item, ask her how the items that float or sink are similar to one another.

Finding ways to play with science this summer doesn't have to be complicated. Just follow your child and listen to her questions—science is everywhere!

“

As each item is tested, let her change her prediction—it shows she is thinking critically and refining her thoughts based on evidence. Listen to her observations each time.

For more helpful parenting tips and information, visit our blog at www.PrimroseSchools.com/blog.



PROVIDER VISIT HIGHLIGHTS *With*

Executive Director, Steve Knobl, Ph.D

1



2



3



4



1. CHILDREN'S NEST DAY SCHOOL, LUTZ
2. ALL ABOARD ACADEMY, SPRING HILL
3. JUNGLE EXPRESS LEARNING CENTER, BROOKSVILLE
4. DISCOVERY POINT SUNCOAST CROSSINGS, ODESSA

THANK YOU!

....to all childcare providers!
We appreciate ELCPH board
members visiting with us!

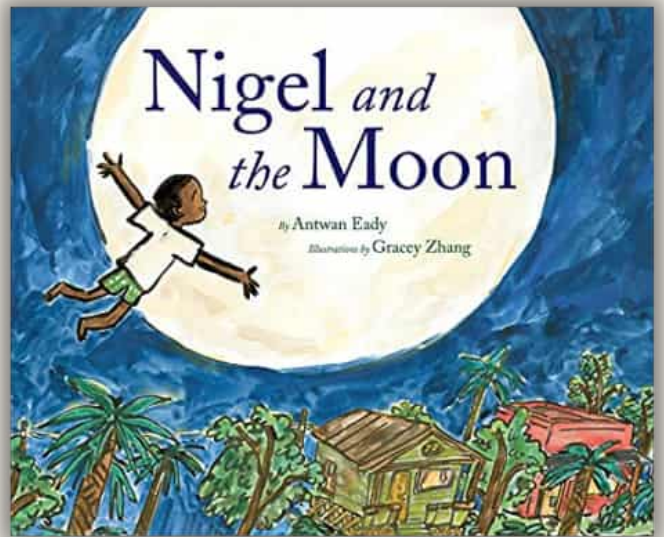
Jumpstart

Read **for the Record**

October 27, 2022

Over 2 million readers and thousands of classrooms, libraries, and communities came together to celebrate early literacy.

Special thanks to our participating childcare providers!



ELCPH's
Dr. Steve Knobl and
board member,
Dr. David Slovut at
Mz. Cassandra's
Alphabetz Kidz.



ELCPH's Christine Dyal
at Learn and Play Preschool



ELCPH's Maria Simpson
at Growing In Grace II

EDUCATION

PASCO'S

APPRENTICESHIP'S

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Katrin Chefero

Admissions Manager

Marchman Technical Child Care Apprenticeship Program of Pasco

Change. Change can be intimidating or invigorating. For the Child Care Apprenticeship Program of Pasco County, it has been a little of both. We were contacted in 2021 with an idea from the ELCPH to partner with our program to recruit and retain quality early childhood professionals using a newly acquired Preschool Development Grant.

At first, we were unsure of what this idea meant. Why us? What would this look like in our classrooms? How would this affect our well-established program in the county school system. We had always flown a bit under the radar, and were often a best kept secret in the industry. For the first time, we were being seen as a very





important and integral part of our community by people that hadn't known about our program previously. Our program was being recognized and advertised more than it ever had before. We were feeling very noticed and incredibly supported. While slightly overwhelmed by all of the changes, we went into this partnership with full faith and trust, unsure of what it would bring, and feeling a bit of trepidation with the unknown.

Fast forward to our fourth full semester, and coming up on the close of our second year in this partnership through the ELCPH and the Child Care Apprenticeship Program of Pasco County. We are no longer feeling any intimidation, but a sense of invigoration that

continues with each passing month.

Thanks to this partnership, we have put approximately 100 well trained early childhood educators into the classrooms of local childcare centers, head start programs, faith-based classrooms and before and after school programs across both sides of Pasco County, and into Hernando as well.

Our Apprentices work full time in their local child care setting, then attend our class one night a week for three hours from August- May. At the end of the program, they have completed 144 classroom hours, and 2000 on the job hours under the supervision of a journey worker.

While they've always had the support of their journey worker, classroom teacher and director/boss; thanks to the grant, we were able to add the role of Early Childhood Academic Advisor. Ms. Dominguez has been such a beneficial piece to our program. She has helped recruit people to the field, guide them through the educational and DCF journey, and continues to keep in touch with them and their employers after they graduate. This support has been crucial to building the numbers in our classrooms, but also in keeping them retained in the field.

We have seen such a feeling of excitement, pride and invigoration in each of our Apprentices. They are eager to get to cross the stage

in their cap and gown, earn their generous supply kit, and go on to mentor other educators in their workplace.

Students utilize the Promise Institute, attend the annual conference, reach out to the Early Childhood Academic Advisor with questions, and are letting others in their workplace and community know that they, too, should enroll in our class to earn their Staff Credential. Most importantly, they are teaching intentionally, and providing quality classroom environments to their children. They see this as a lifetime career and are staying in the field.

While it's been two years of change, we couldn't be more excited by the partnership we've had with the



ELCPH and the PDG grant. We feel invigorated and ready to see where the years continue to take us. Most importantly, when we visit our current Apprentices in their workplace, and see so many former students working alongside them, we are confident that we're making a difference in the Early Childhood profession and

helping our participating employers, families, children and educators in our communities.

The goal of the PDG grant with the ELCPH and our program was to recruit and retain quality early childhood professionals. We can all agree, that the goal has been achieved.

“

We have seen such a feeling of excitement, pride and invigoration in each of our Apprentices. They are eager to get to cross the stage in their cap and gown, earn their generous supply kit, and go on to mentor other educators in their workplace.

HEAR IT FROM A GRADUATE

"I'm a 3-year-old teacher and I've always wanted to be an educator. With Covid, I took a year off from my education and as time passed, getting back seemed intimidating. The staff at Marchman helped me get my CDA and encouraged me to further my education. I've learned so much from my peers and their experiences. Being a part of this program was beneficial for me and my students. As a teacher, I'm always learning and trying to improve. Now that I've achieved this goal new opportunities are opening for me. This program not only encouraged me to get my CDA but I'm now planning on getting my bachelor's in education."

Melanie Medina
Storybook on Ridge
Marchman 600 Hour Graduate



FREE
TEXTBOOK
AND
MATERIALS!



REGISTER
TODAY!



ITS A GREAT TIME TO BECOME AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR!

Marchman Technical College's Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program has partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. to focus on supporting preschool teachers through their education journey using the preschool development grant.



Earn your Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate* for Free!

- DCF Fees Reimbursed
- Participation Bonus
- Classroom supply kit upon completion
- Complimentary Education Advisor

*FCCPC Equivalency



Contact Samantha Dominguez at s.dominguez@elcph.org for more information.

early
learning
coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



Laying the foundation for success through continued professional development

PBS
KIDS

Join us for a Literacy, Math and Art experience!

WEDU PBS presents valuable, engaging training for Early Learning Providers. The training provides fun, ready-to-use activities for your students based on popular PBS and Sesame Street Characters.

**Literacy in the Early
Childhood Classroom**

**Early Math Skills
for Young Learners**

**Integrating the Arts
into Early Learning
Environments.**

March 23

6:30 PM-8 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82678506931>

April 27

6:30 PM-8 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82678506931>

May 18

6:30 PM-8 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82678506931>

Register at <https://phelc.talentlms.com/>

For questions or more information, please contact:
Sarah Keith, WEDU PBS Education Training Specialist
813-293-2320 skeith@wedu.org

WELCOME TO THE PROMISE INSTITUTE

Angela Portfield
Contracted Trainer
Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando



The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties continuously strives to meet the needs of Early Childhood providers and partners in the community. To support the mission and vision of ensuring **children are successful in school and life** by providing a quality education from day one, ELCPH has added contracted trainers to their “ELC family” to support the community with more opportunities.

Together our belief is that “every child, caregiver and teacher deserve the best possible resources on their road to success”! The Executive Director, with the ELC staff and the ELC Board members, made “A Space to Grow” a priority, offering more quality professional development opportunities! The ELC recognizes the variety of needs of adult learners. Therefore, trainings have included: Online options; Hybrid options; and Facilitated professional development for selected providers through grant funding.

OVERVIEW OF CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM AND STRATEGIES

Online course including presentation, videos to support the interactive learning experiences, and resources. Zoom sessions with a presentation facilitated by a contracted trainer. This course provides an overview of the State required Classroom Assessment Scoring System Assessment with a deeper understanding of the Domains, Dimensions, and Indicators of high-quality interactions with young children.

CLASS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TRAINING

Online course including presentation, videos to support interactive learning experiences, and resources. This training focuses specifically on one CLASS Domain: Positive Climate, Negative Climate and Teacher Sensitivity. This online training allows the learner to take the course at their own pace as an introduction, or to refresh, enhance and deepen their learning.

CLASS CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION TRAINING

Online course including presentation, videos to support interactive learning experiences, and resources. This training focuses specifically on one CLASS Domain: Behavior Management, Productivity, and Instructional Learning Formats. This online training allows the learner to take the course at their own pace as an introduction, or to refresh, enhance and deepen their learning.

CLASS INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TRAINING

Online course including presentation, videos to support interactive learning experiences, and resources. Training focuses specifically on: Concept Development, Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling. This online training allows the learner to take the course at their own pace as an introduction, or to refresh, enhance and deepen their learning.

AND FACILITATED OPPORTUNITIES!

Facilitated professional development for selected providers through grant funding. Includes online modules from Conscious Discipline, with participant workbooks and resources regarding Adult Social Emotional Learning, as well as Zoom sessions with presentations, participants taking the lead to present components of the concepts, live practice of concepts and classroom implementation of resources participants demonstrate, videos to share examples of application of concepts, ability to share ideas with one another to clarify questions.

Wonder is the Path to Everywhere

Loose Parts with
Keith Pentz

Register on: The Promise Institute
Wonder is the Path to Everywhere
Series

<https://elcph.org/promise-institute/>



April 4th

Wonder is the Path to
Everywhere—Part 1
The Journey Begins:
Embracing Loose
Parts

Virtual
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



June 6th

Wonder is the Path to
Everywhere—Part 2
The Journey Continues:
Learning is a Process

Virtual
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



To Be Announced

Wonder is the Path to
Everywhere—Part 3
On the Journey Together:
Neurodiversity and the
Thrill of New Questions

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
at ELCPH Springhill

CEUs available for \$10
In-Service hours are free.



Activating the Creative Mind

15th Annual Early Learning Conference

Saturday, November 5, 2022

WHAT
DID YOU
THINK?



“My first conference and it was a great experience! I left with many things to think about and how we can use these ideas in our infant room.”

“I enjoyed learning new concepts to try with all the children in my center. I especially loved the songs and how singing helps keeping the children engaged.”

Over 300 Conference Attendees!

Dynamic Speakers!

Miss Penny Bernath/KidVision PreK

Ellen Acuna/Music Together

Keith Pentz/Loose Parts! Explore!

THANK YOU!
Sponsors!

KidVision PreK

Discount School Supply

Suncoast Credit Union

Florida Lottery

Lakeshore Learning

Teaching Strategies

MarcoPolo Learning

25 SPOTLIGHT ON PROVIDERS



HCA Florida
Oak Hill Hospital

September 2022:
560 Cuddle books
donated



LOVING START



HCA Florida
Trinity Hospital

November 2022:
1500 Cuddle book
donations



Over 5,000 Cuddle Books have
reached new Moms in Pasco and
Hernando Counties!



WRITE FOR US! A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE.

SPOTLIGHT on Providers is published annually by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. for the provider community. It is distributed electronically to all providers and is also available on the website at www.elcph.org.

Authors are encouraged to submit readable, practical manuscripts that reflect and advance the knowledge base of the profession. Manuscripts should be prepared in current APA style (2009, 6th Edition). This style includes: typed, double-spaced, wide margins, and cover page with a working title, authors' full names, degrees, affiliations, and e-mail address for the lead author.

Manuscripts published by ELCPH address both the continuing interests of early childhood professionals and emerging ideas and issues in the field. Among topics considered are emergent curriculum for children from birth through age 8, effective assessment strategies, effective classroom practices that reflect sound theory and research, program administration, relationships with families, and public policy effecting early care and education.

The length of journal manuscripts ranges from 1 to 3 pages, including complete references. Please submit manuscripts as e-mail attachments to expedite the review process. Send to s.sabadishin@elcph.org with the subject heading SPOTLIGHT Manuscript. Manuscripts are reviewed and processed electronically. Manuscripts that are submitted in hard copy will not be reviewed.

Educational Services

Carrie Culbertson

Educational Services Director
727-233-8291 Ext. 112

Katie Dean

Provider Performance Supervisor
727-233-8291 Ext. 118

Christine Dyal

Provider Performance Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 117

Melissa Hayes

Provider Performance Specialist
727-569-1004 Ext. 110

Beverly Kamp

Provider Performance Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 109

Kristen Murray

Provider Performance Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 131

Maria Simpson

Provider Performance Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 127

Samantha Taylor

Provider Performance Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 151

Professional Training Specialist

Dawn Espinoza

Professional Development
Supervisor
727-233-8291 Ext. 111

Mark Cerasaro

Training Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 144

Developmental Services

Elisha Perry

Developmental Services
Supervisor
727-233-8291 Ext. 120

Pam Dudek

Child Screening Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 142

Kelly Duhon

Developmental Services
Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 102

Engagement Unit

Sherri Sabadishin

Organizational & Public
Engagement Supervisor
727-233-8291 Ext. 104

Samantha Dominguez

Early Education Advisor
727-233-8291 Ext. 125

Melinda Velez

Strategic Partnerships &
Impact Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 115



Provider Relations

Ljubica Sevic

Provider Relations Director
727-233-8291 Ext. 119

Colleen Armentrout

Senior Provider Relations
Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 107

Jenna Zimmer

Provider Contract & Compliance
Manager
727-233-8291 Ext. 105

Juverkis Cordero

Provider Relations Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 132

Jamie Hernandez

Provider Relations Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 106

Princess Taull-Lai

Provider Relations Specialist
727-233-8291 Ext. 150



SPOTLIGHT CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to our cover model:

Alivia Davis
Newborn Daughter of
Colleen Armentrout



Executive Director	Steve Knobl, Ph.D.
Executive Editor	Sherri Sabadishin
Managing Editors	Samantha Dominguez Melinda Velez
Copy Editors	Ramute "Jak" Jakubauskas
Contributing Writers	Kristina Alvarado Katrin Chefero Sarah Maignan Melanie Medina
Photo Cover	Alivia Davis - Newborn Daughter of Colleen Armentrout
Staff Writers	Angela Porterfield Sherri Sabadishin
Contributing Board Members	Jan Jones

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

15506 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
727-233-8291 | coalitionnews@elcph.org



Follow us!

