



JANUARY-MARCH 2025 ISSUE 1

Newsletter

early learning coalition
OF PASCO & HERNANDO
A Space To Grow
www.elcph.org



ELCPH Mission Statement
Creating a supportive community
for children to be successful in
school and life.



ELCPH Vision Statement
Supporting quality education
for every child.



Are you looking to support your child's education? Check out the Promise Institute. Improving the quality of the Early Childhood experience by improving the knowledge and skillsets of the adults connected to it. The Promise Institute provides both free in-person and online adult learning opportunities!



Visit <https://community-elcph.talentlms.com/plus/>

FAMILY EDUCATION - FREE PARENT WORKSHOPS

START is a program for families! Participate in the Circle of Security® Parenting™ Virtual Workshop. This virtual course is designed for Mom, Dad, Step-Parents, Grandparents, Guardians and so on. Families receive tools and strategies for relationship-based parenting including all class materials. New workshops starting in the Spring.



Owlivia's Reading Corner



Celebrate Literacy Week is January 27 - January 31! Join us in reading this year's selected titles:

- Little Excavator by Ana Dewdney
- Dig, Dig, Digging by Margaret Mayo

Other fun titles this month include:

- How to Catch a Snowman by Adam Wallace
- Never Feed a Yeti Spaghetti by Make Believe Idea
- Fill a Bucket by Carol McCloud and Katherine Martin



Family Engagement

Get ready for a season full of engaging learning fun! Here are some simple, hands-on activities you can enjoy at home to promote literacy and fine motor skills. We hope these activities bring joy and learning into your home this season!

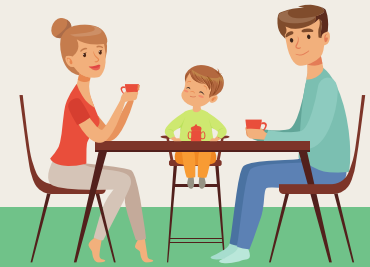
Find your activities in the link below:

[ELCPH Parent Circle Activities January - March 2025](#)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
JANUARY 2025

<p>Week 1</p> <p>Snowy Story Time Create a cozy reading nook at home. Choose winter-themed books to read together while sipping hot cocoa. Encourage your child to retell the story or draw their favorite scene.</p>	<p>Week 2</p> <p>Winter Craft Creations Make simple crafts using items from around the house, like cutting out paper snowflakes or decorating pinecones with glitter and paint.</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p>Family Wellness Fun Go on a "Winter Walk Scavenger Hunt" in your neighborhood, looking for signs of winter (bare trees, animal tracks, etc.). Create a chart to record your findings.</p>	<p>Week 4</p> <p>Acts of Kindness Jar Together, write down acts of kindness (e.g., help a neighbor, say something kind, donate toys) on slips of paper and put them in a jar. Pick one daily to complete as a family.</p>

Family engagement at home during the early years is vital for a child's growth. Activities like reading together, playing educational games, and encouraging curiosity strengthen learning, language, and social skills. A supportive home environment fosters confidence and a lifelong love of learning.



Family Activities

- ☁ Winter Words: Explore winter-themed vocabulary (snowflake, mitten, sled) with flashcards or a word-matching game.
- ❤ Valentine's Day Words: Practice early literacy by creating love-themed word lists (heart, hug, card).
- 🍀 St. Patrick's Day Words: Build holiday excitement by hunting for themed words (leprechaun, gold, rainbow).
- 🎨 Build a Snowman Activity: Use shapes to create a paper snowman while naming the parts (circle for the body, triangle for the nose) to strengthen vocabulary and creativity.
- ✏ Fine Motor Tracing Lines: Help your child trace wavy, straight, and zig-zag lines to improve pre-writing skills.
- 🔍 Letter Search Activity: Find and dot the letters in the fourleaf clover, using a green dot marker.



Florida VPK

Registration for the 2025-2026 Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) is now open! VPK is a free educational program that prepares 4-year-olds for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must reside in Florida and be 4 on or before September 1 of the school year they enroll. Parents whose children are born between February 2 and September 1 of the calendar year may postpone enrollment for the following year when their child is 5.



School Readiness



The School Readiness (SR) program offers financial assistance to eligible families in need of affordable quality child care for children, age birth – 12 years old. School Readiness funds pay a portion of child care costs based on the family’s income and risk factors. Each School Readiness program provides a developmental screening for children and referrals to specific health and educational specialists.

Florida VPK supports the development of early literacy, executive functioning, and social emotional skills.

To learn more about Florida VPK, please click Family Portal below!



To learn more about School Readiness, please click Family Portal below!



You may apply for School Readiness services by Family Portal below. If you are eligible, you will be placed on the Wait List until enrollment takes place, depending on availability of funding.

Apply Here

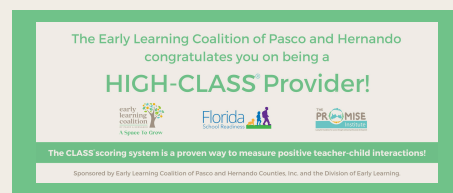
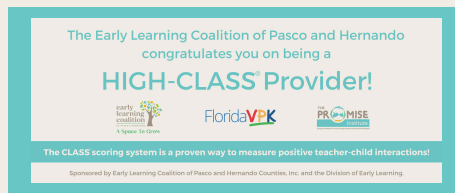


Addressing Quality Education

WHAT IS CLASS®

CLASS®, an acronym for **C**lassroom **A**ssessment **S**coring **S**ystem is an evidence-based observational tool used to assess the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions in the classroom. Research supports that quality interactions between adults and children promote children's social and cognitive development, helping them thrive in their learning environments. Classrooms that have received high CLASS® scores are proven to support greater learning gains in language, math, and early literacy development. All School Readiness CLASS® scores can be found at <https://caressearch.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch> and **LOOK around your community for "High-CLASS" banners. Ask your provider about their CLASS® score today!**

You can learn more about the CLASS® observational tool by visiting www.teachstone.com



Florida Early Learning Standards

The Florida Early Learning Standards are guidelines designed to support young children's growth and development from birth to five years old. They focus on key areas such as physical development, language and communication, cognitive abilities, and social-emotional skills. These standards help families and caregivers understand age-appropriate milestones and provide practical strategies to encourage learning at home.

Learn more about the Florida Early Learning Standards Click Below.

[Florida Early Learning Standards](#)



Community Partner Spotlight



Pasco County
Tel: 727-841-7883
<https://healthystartcoalitionpasco.org/>



Hernando County
Tel: 352-848-3977
www.kidscentralinc.org

Every baby deserves a healthy start! Learn about Healthy Start's free services for pregnant women and babies up to the age of three.

Healthy Start provides the following services for moms and babies:

- Breast Feeding Education and Support
- Childbirth Education
- Parenting Education and Support
- Tobacco Free Education and Support
- Women's Education and Support



If you have questions or would like to suggest content, please contact CCR&R Coordinator, Brenda Mayo at b.mayo@elcph.org.