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December 5, 2025



MANATEE CONFERENCE ON YOUNG CHILDREN (MCCY) 2026 THE POWER OF YOU



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2026



8:30AM-3:10PM

MANATEE TECHNICAL
COLLEGE
BRADENTON, FL



REGISTER TO JOIN US TODAY!

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$30/PERSON CLOSING DECEMBER 19TH
REGULAR \$35/PERSON CLOSING FEBRUARY 6TH**

Learn More



Attention VPK & SR Providers!
Please read the **NEW** updated information below regarding VPK and SR program providers! For general questions regarding this information, please contact our Provider Relations Department at (941) 757-2900 ext. 2300.

[Learn More](#)

Toys That Match Your Child's Age
Holiday shopping for your child? Follow our age guidelines to help you choose toys that align with your child's developmental stage, read parent resources for choosing a quality early learning program, discover fun family math activities, and more in the December issue of DEL's Parents' Pages!

[Learn More](#)



Parents' Pages

The Official Newsletter of the Division of Early Learning

DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 11
ISSUE 12



Provider Update Meetings

Provider Update Meeting
Please join us in person or virtually on **December 9th at 1:00 pm** to connect with our Provider Relations Team. DCF will be attending to discuss the latest updates, with an opportunity to ask questions and stay informed on important updates that support your work with children and families.

[Learn More](#)

Embracing Our Differences 2026
Save the date and join us to help promote diversity and inclusion through literacy during Embracing Our Differences Reading Day on **Tuesday, March 10th**, across Sarasota and Manatee counties. **Early bird registration will open up exclusively to our ELC's and Title 1 schools on December 15th!**

[Learn More](#)



EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES
READING DAY - SARASOTA/MANATEE

Embracing Our Differences and the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading invite you to promote diversity & inclusion through literacy!



NRBS! Toddler Curriculum

The ELC of Manatee County is excited to share that we will soon be piloting a new Nemours Toddler Curriculum! **Limited spots are available!** If you are interested in learning more or participating, please click below to complete the Jotform.

[Learn More](#)

Coming Soon: Book Substitutes Through Tandem

Tandem is launching next month in Manatee County! You will soon be able to book **vettted, state-compliant substitutes FEE-FREE** through our partnership with the ELC. Please check your email, more details and onboarding steps are coming soon!

[Learn More](#)



Reliable, affordable staffing support coming soon

Set up your free profile today to stay updated on next steps



Tiny Tummies Preschool Meals

FELT is looking to expand its Tiny Tummies Preschool Meals program for preschool children (ages 3-5) who may be experiencing food insecurity at home. If you would like to explore possible partnerships for weekend meal distributions for your program, please complete and submit the form below.

[Learn More](#)

#SuncoastRemakeDays

Suncoast Remake Learning Days 2026 is now open for submissions! This is a 15-day, hands-on learning festival that includes FREE learning opportunities for children and their families in our region. **Complete your event submission to receive a stipend towards your event!**

[Learn More](#)





Learning About Community
Young children's social experiences grow to include awareness of themselves, their home environment, classroom, community, and the people and places throughout their neighborhood. Pretend play is an important activity for your child at this age...

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING TRAININGS

**TUESDAY
DEC 9TH**

Discovery Source Workshop: Are You Asking the Right Question?

Please join us for an engaging, and meaningful Social-Emotional and effective interactions training series designed to provide teachers with the physical and mental tools necessary to implement best practices and positive behavior supports in their classrooms. [Learn More](#)

**OPEN
DEC 2025**

Handle With Care Training

'Handle with Care' is an initiative aimed at helping children succeed in school by alerting school staff with a simple notice when a student experiences a traumatic event involving law enforcement or Child Protection Services (CPS). [Register](#)



Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. | 600 8th Avenue West Suite 100 |
Palmetto, FL 34221 US

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PROVIDERS WITH A 13TH HOLIDAY TO THE SR CONTRACT

Providers who include a 13th holiday in their School Readiness (SR) contract must follow the requirements outlined below.

Payment Requirements

- The training must be completed in **one designated staff training day** to qualify for reimbursement.
- The training must last for **at least 50% of the provider's approved daily schedule**.
 - Providers operating more than 10 hours per day must hold a **minimum 5-hour training day**.
 - Providers offering multiple School Readiness (SR) schedules must provide training for **50% of the longest approved daily schedule**.
- The training content must be **meaningful**, support the **learning environment** and the **work of SR child care personnel**, and align with at least one of the following:
 - *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards*
 - *Any of the Florida Standards and Key Competencies listed in Form OEL-SR 735*
 - *Department of Children and Families (DCF) training*

Required Documentation

To verify compliance, providers must maintain and submit:

- A **detailed agenda** showing all topics and timeframes, and
- A **sign-in sheet** demonstrating attendance by at least **75% of SR child care personnel**.

VPK ASSESSMENT PM2 WINDOW

Most providers have PM2 window opening the end of November. **Please keep an eye on your emails. Your caseload specialist will email you your PM2 window dates. Please do not start assessments prior to hearing from your specialist. Early/late PM2 assessments will not count towards your Performance Metric Designation.**

PROVIDER PROFILE CALENDAR & VPK APP

Providers, Please double check your calendars in your profile and VPK APP for the months of November and December. November starts the holiday season of closures and it's easier to modify your calendars before attendance is due.

MY FLORIDA SCHOOLS PORTAL

The Florida Department of Education has launched the [My Florida Schools Portal](#), a new resource designed to help families explore and connect with early learning and education options that best meet their child's needs. The portal includes listings for early learning providers, traditional public schools, public charter schools, and private schools.

Please create or update your profile to ensure families have accurate and helpful information when making important decisions about their child's education. This is a valuable opportunity for free publicity and increased visibility to families in your area.

To get started, visit <https://onboarding.wonderschool.com/> and create an account.

If you have any questions or encounter issues, please email MyFloridaSchools@fldoe.org for support.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Florida's families.

If you just opted in, you're consenting to receive marketing emails from: Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc., 600 8th Avenue West, Suite 100, , Palmetto, FL 34221. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the SafeUnsubscribe® link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact](#)

