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ELC focus

October 3, 2025



SAVE *the* DATE

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



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2026



8:30AM-3:10PM

MANATEE TECHNICAL
COLLEGE
BRADENTON, FL



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 18TH! \$30/PERSON (REGULAR \$35/PERSON)

[Learn More](#)



Attention VPK & SR Providers!
Please read the **NEW** and 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](#)

Fall into Reading

Snuggle up and help your child build a cozy habit with books, read about celebrating 20 years of VPK, learn the ABCs of safe sleep, discover resources and support services for children and families with disabilities, explore fun fall family science activities, and more in the October issue of DEL's Parents' Pages!

[Read More](#)



Provider Update Meeting
Join us in person or virtually on **October 14th at 1:00pm** to connect with our CEI & Grants Team for an overview of New World's Reading and Star Early Literacy Reports, and to stay informed on updates that support your work with children and families.

[Learn More](#)

Celebrating 20 Years of VPK Provider Resources

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) is excited to share the new VPK 20th Birthday Toolkit, including resources and activities for school districts, providers, and families to help celebrate 20 years of VPK!

[Learn More](#)





Teacher-Child Interactions
 Providers, are you interested in learning new techniques and talk strategies to help improve students' language, literacy, and social-emotional development? Click on the link below to learn more about LENA Grow and connect with a program specialist!

[Learn More](#)

Enjoy the Sights & Sounds of Language with Your Child

Children gradually learn to use language and writing to effectively communicate their thoughts, express their feelings, tell stories, and share ideas. These emerging skills are evidence of developing an understanding that all communication is meaningful.

[Learn More](#)



Enjoy the Sights and Sounds of Language with Your Child.

Children gradually learn to use language and writing to effectively communicate their thoughts, express their feelings, tell stories, and share ideas. Their exposure to social situations requires them to practice initiating and participating in conversations as they take turns listening and responding to what is said. These emerging skills are evidence of developing an understanding that all communication is meaningful. All children develop these skills in their own time; be patient with your child's developing abilities.

Disfrute de las imágenes y los sonidos del lenguaje con su hijo.

Los niños aprenden gradualmente a utilizar el lenguaje y la escritura para comunicar eficazmente sus pensamientos, expresar sus sentimientos, contar historias y compartir ideas. Su exposición a situaciones sociales les exige practicar el inicio y la participación en conversaciones mientras se turnan para escuchar y responder a lo que se dice. Estas habilidades emergentes son evidencia del desarrollo de una comprensión de que toda comunicación es significativa. Todos los niños desarrollan estas habilidades a su debido tiempo. Sea paciente con las habilidades en desarrollo de su hijo.

OCTOBER 2025
 OCTUBRE



Resources for Eligible Families
 New Worlds Reading is Florida's free home literacy program for eligible students in VPK through 5th grade. The NWR School District and Educator Toolkit includes email samples, digital flyers, social media posts, and more, making it easy to share information on New Worlds Reading with eligible families.

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING TRAININGS

**TUESDAY
 OCT 21**

Tuesday Tune-Up Session

Do you have questions about challenging behavior and early childhood development? **RSVP in advance** to join us via Zoom for an open forum to connect with our Child Development Team and learn more about problem solving and cognitive abilities. [Learn More](#)

**WEDNESDAY
 OCT 22**

Stronger Than the Storm (4-Part Series)

When a hurricane or disaster hits, child care centers are often the first places families look to for stability. This 4-week virtual series is designed to help child care providers create, refine, and finalize their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Each week blends focused instruction, interactive Q&A, live demonstrations, and practical assignments to move you from learning into confident action. [Learn More](#)

**THURSDAY
OCT 23**

Understanding My CLASS Scores

Join us for an opportunity to connect with an ELC CLASS Assessor and review your classroom's scores, discuss how the CLASS tool reflects your daily interactions, and explore ways to use your feedback for continued growth. **RSVP by Monday, October 20th. [Learn More](#)**

**TUESDAY
OCT 28**

Sleep Baby Safely

Learn how you can help prevent infant deaths from unsafe sleep environments. Review Manatee County data and key safety tips, and discuss real-life scenarios to help you support your co-workers and families. **[Register](#)**

**OPEN
OCT 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](#)**

**SATURDAY
NOV 15**

Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED

Are you certified? Save the date and join us at the ELC of Manatee County and earn your Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification! **More details coming soon!**



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

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HOW DOES ZONING AFFECT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS?

Manatee County Government wants to understand how local zoning regulations affect child care providers. They want to hear about any challenges you've faced so they can identify opportunities to improve policies and support your work. Your voice matters! Please complete the survey below.

Take Survey

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.

STRONGER THAN THE STORM (4-PART SERIES)

When a hurricane or disaster hits, child care centers are often the first places families look to for stability - but without a plan, providers risk extended closures, financial loss, and uncertainty for children and parents.

Stronger Than the Storm is more than a training. It's your **step-by-step roadmap** to protect children, support families, and keep your program financially resilient. no matter what Florida's hurricane season brings.

This **4-week virtual series** is designed to help child care providers create, refine, and finalize their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Each week blends focused instruction, interactive Q&A, live demonstrations, and practical assignments to move you from learning into confident action.

Webinar Date Virtual Office Times:

October 22nd 6:30pm - 7:30pm

October 29th 6:30pm - 7:30pm

November 5th 6:30pm - 7:30pm

November 12th 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Register today to join us at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iBqFOSxnSR2HaL4tVP91DA or click the link below for more information.

Learn More

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](#)