

The monthly newsletter of the Early Learning Coalition  
Visit our website: [www.elcirmo.org](http://www.elcirmo.org)

*The monthly newsletter includes information for child care providers, parents and the community.*

## Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Board Mtgs. @ 7:45 a.m.	Program Committee @ 1:30 p.m.	Finance Committee @ 8:30 a.m.	Bylaws/Personnel Committee @ 8:00 a.m.	Executive Committee @ 8:30 a.m.
3/26/2020	2/10/2020	3/2/2020	2/26/2020	3/3/2020
4/23/2020	3/9/2020	4/6/2020	3/25/2020	4/7/2020
5/28/2020	4/13/2020	5/4/2020	4/29/2020	5/5/2020
6/25/2020	5/11/2020	6/1/2020	5/27/2020	6/2/2020
	6/8/2020		6/24/2020	

Meetings are generally held at the ELC Main Office, 10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 200, Stuart, FL.

All meetings are open to the public. Providers are welcome to attend. Please check the website calendar for any changes/cancellations to the above dates and times.

To participate via teleconference, 888-346-3950, Conf. Entry Code 93487819#.

## Provider Board Representatives

Please feel free to reach out to the Provider Representatives on the Board. Representing the faith-based providers and the private providers, they are an additional resource to ask questions, share information and they are your voice!

Your current representatives are:

**Faith-based Provider Rep—Joy Yates**  
[rocksolidCA@embarqmail.com](mailto:rocksolidCA@embarqmail.com)

**Private Provider Rep—Rhi Forker**  
[rforker@thelearningcovepreschool.com](mailto:rforker@thelearningcovepreschool.com)

The roles and responsibilities of board members are listed on the website at: <https://www.elcirmo.org/board-openings/>.

**2020-2021 Provider Profiles now available for completion on the Provider Portal.** To ensure that the data from your current profile carries over, please be sure your 2019-2020 profile is in "Active" status before beginning your new Provider Profile. Keep in mind that all "active" profiles must be updated prior to contract renewal. Please submit your 2020-2021 profile by Friday, February 23, 2020.

## Professional Development for Educators

### Indian River County

#### **"Instructional Support: Concept Development"**

**2/11/20**—ELC Indian River Office,  
2459 St. Lucie Ave., Vero Beach  
6:30—8:00 p.m.  
Register through ELC website

### Martin County

No trainings

### Okeechobee County

#### **"Keys to Success in Creating Positive Social Interactions"**

**2/25/20**—Peace Lutheran Preschool  
750 NW 23rd Lane, Okeechobee  
6:30—8:00 p.m.  
Register through ELC website

Check the ELCIRMO website calendar for any trainings that may be scheduled after the publication of the newsletter.

There are NO Provider meetings  
scheduled in February.

### Reminders & Updates:

- ◆ **VPK AP2:** Providers are to use results from the most recent VPK Assessment to inform instruction.
- ◆ **Updated Rule for Child Care Standards, Chapter 65C-22:** The Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Care Regulation, has completed the rule promulgation process for Child Care Standards, Chapter 65C-22.001, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The new rule language became effective on January 29, 2020. Please be advised that your program will be monitored using the new standards during your next licensing inspection (routine/abbreviated or renewal) whichever inspection type is due next based on your license expiration date. By April 1, 2020 please assess the programs fall/use zone in accordance with Section 3.12 of the Child Face Facility Handbook and notify the local licensing office if your program plans to continue as previously approved regarding the fall/use zone for the outdoor play area. To access the new rule language visit the following link: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=65C-22>.

**Celebrate Literacy Week**—In celebration of the simultaneous reading event, celebrity members read to children at ELCIRMO's childcare centers.

## Providers



Meredith Egan, United Way of Indian River County, at Bridges Early Learning Center



Nicole King, Children's Services Council of Martin County, at Hobe Sound Early Learning



Barbara Clowdus, Governor Appointed Board Member, at Salerno Learning Center

In addition to those pictured, other readers included:

Jennifer Ahern, Children's Services Council of Martin County, at Hobe Sound Early Learning Center  
 Heather Sargent, Florida Department of Education Office of Early Learning, at Gertrude Walden Child Care Center  
 Carol Bristol, ELCIRMO, at Bridges Early Learning Center  
 Patricia Piche, ELCIRMO, at All About ABC's and Gertrude Walden Child Care Center  
 Valerie Powell, ELCIRMO, at Hope Montessori  
 Pat Hickman, ELCIRMO, at Okeechobee Children's Academy  
 Michele Schmoyer, ELCIRMO, at Gertrude Walden Child Care Center  
 Jessica Staudt, ELCIRMO, at Vero Beach Preschool

### VPK Registration 2020-2021 Program Year



Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, or VPK, is a **free** educational program that prepares 4-year-olds for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must live in Florida and be 4 on or before September 1 of the school year they enroll. Parents whose children are born between Feb. 2 and Sept. 1 of the calendar year may postpone enrolling their 4-year-old until the following year when their child is 5.

Parents of 4-year-olds with **special needs** have an option outside the classroom setting - VPK Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS). More information regarding SIS may be found at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/specialized-instructional-services-providers>.

To register your child for VPK, simply visit the Family Portal at <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com> where you will create an account and complete the application process. For additional information please visit <https://www.elcirmo.org/voluntary-pre-kindergarten/>.

### VPK Registration Information Session Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Blake Library—Computer Lab

In collaboration with the library, the Coalition will be presenting this VPK Registration Information Session to assist families in registering for VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten). To attend this event, please register at <http://martin.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?eventid=43379>. Registration will be open beginning February 15th.



#### Early Learning Parents' Pages

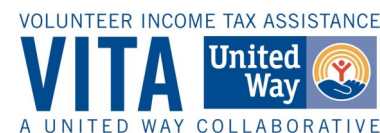
— [January 2020](#) edition

includes the following:

- ◆ Children's Week
- ◆ Celebrate Literacy Week
- ◆ Celebrate Literacy in Your Home
- ◆ Build Baby's Brain with Books
- ◆ Vision Screening for Children
- ◆ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### Need assistance with your taxes?

Contact your local United Way office. United Way VITA is a FREE tax filing service available to individuals and families earning up to \$56,000. VITA is a national program staffed by local volunteers who provide free, confidential and secure preparation and e-filing of tax returns to qualified taxpayers.



Okeechobee families—Call 239-433-3900 to book your appointment.

Martin County families—Call 772-283-4800 to schedule an appointment.

Indian River County families—Call 772-203-5766 to schedule an appointment.



## Providers & Community Partners!

We would like to share this wonderful community event with you. The Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative (KRC) will host the **Pre-K Party & Kindergarten Round-Up event on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020** from 10:00AM- 2:00PM. KRC is **looking for vendors to participate**. This is a great opportunity to promote your business and connect with the community.

Click [here](#) to access the **Pre-K Party & Kindergarten Round-Up** event page. Scroll down for the link to the **2020 Vendor Registration Form** through Eventbrite.com. The cost to vendors is \$25.00 per table. You may pay by credit card through the website [here](#). If you need to pay by check please contact KRC directly at [shannon@krcirc.org](mailto:shannon@krcirc.org).

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Thank you!

# Community

Made possible with support from



**Free Family Event!**

**Save the Date!**

**Pre-K Party & Kindergarten Round-Up**





**New location**  
behind  
Home Depot  
& GoLine  
Route 13

**Saturday, April 4th, 2020**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Richardson Center & Brackett Library**  
**Indian River State College**

At this event, you can register your child for:

- Kindergarten
- STEP into K
- VPK
- Summer VPK
- Library Card

Remember to bring your:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card (optional)
- Proof of address (utility or service bill)

**Kindergarten Registration & School Assignment Information**  
School District of Indian River County  
Office of Student Assignment  
[www.indianriverschools.org](http://www.indianriverschools.org)  
Melissa: 772-564-3046




**VPK Certificate of Eligibility Information**  
Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
772-220-1220 ext. 260  
[www.elcirmo.org](http://www.elcirmo.org)  
<https://familyservices.floridaeearlylearning.com/>




Save time:  
Register for  
VPK Certificates of  
Eligibility online



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