

# Welcome Providers!

April 2025

Teachers plant seeds that grow forever.



# Agenda

- Guest Speakers:
  - Safe Families for Children Ingrid Perry
  - Tykes & Teens Janice Berry and Anne Howard
  - FLDOH Milly Ruiz
  - Fatherhood Initiative Eric Seibenick and Michael Landrau
- Program Quality Updates
- Finance
- Family Services
- Early Childhood Specialists
- Provider and DCF Reps



Children  
Families

SAFE  
TOGETHER



Safe Families  
for Children

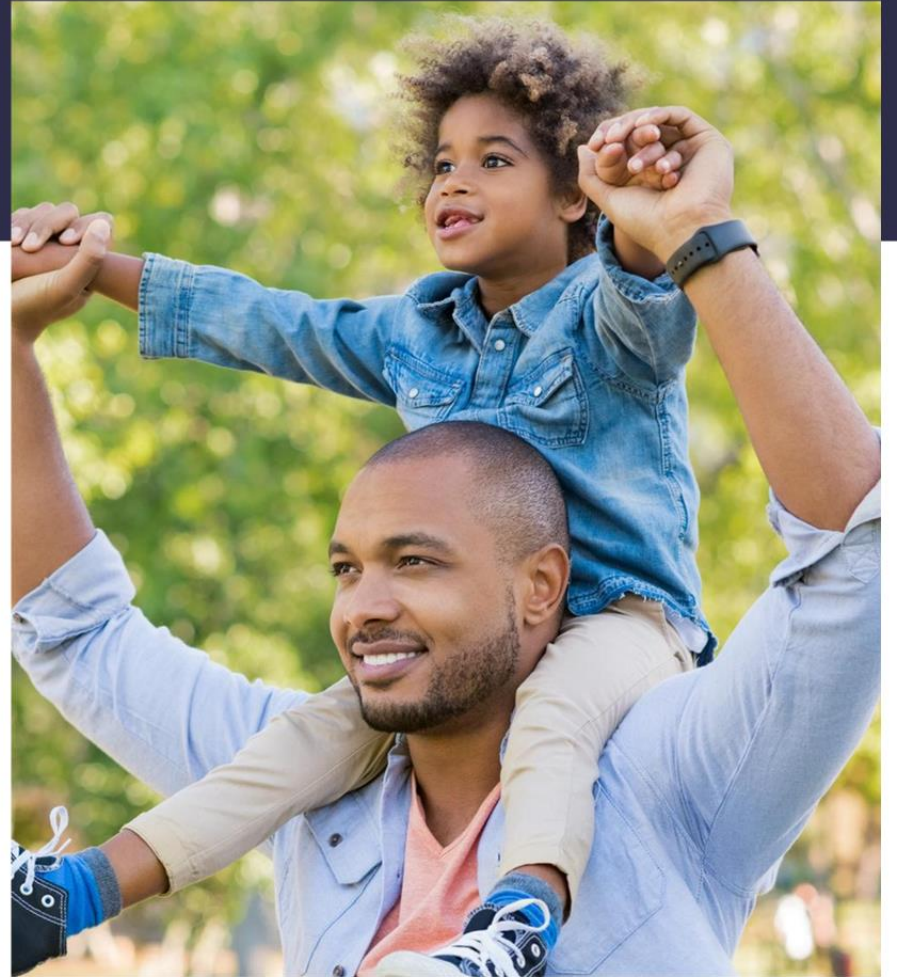




# Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*

## Who We Are

**Safe Families for Children is a family-preservation movement committed to prevent child abuse and reduce the number of kids entering the foster care system.**







# Safe Families Objectives



## Child Abuse Prevention

We provide an overwhelmed and resource-limited parent with a safe, temporary place for their child without threat of losing custody. By offering support, the goal is to avert potential abuse/neglect episodes.

## Child Welfare Deflection

We provide a safe alternative to child welfare custody, significantly reducing the number of children entering foster care.

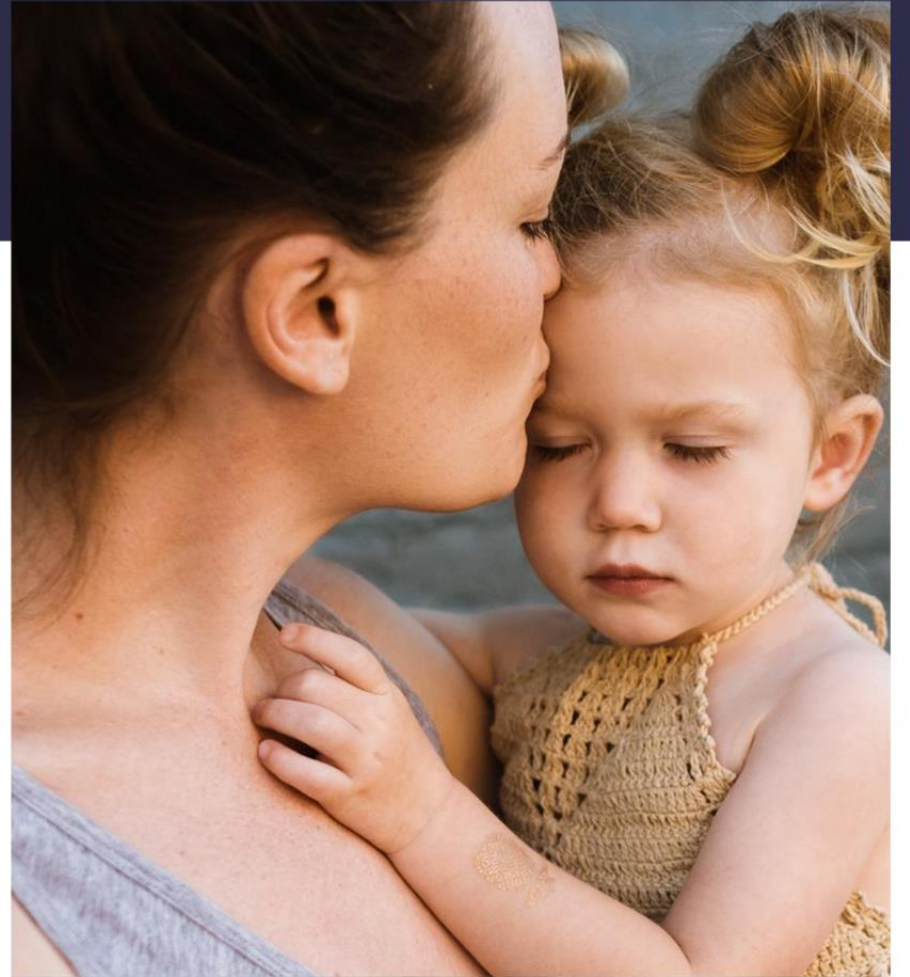
## Family Support and Stabilization

Many parents struggle because of limited social support and unavailable extended family. We want to become the extended family and support system.

# Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*

## What We Do

**Partnering with the local church,  
Safe Families host children and offer  
family-like supports to parents  
facing hardship and crisis. Our goal is  
to help keep children safe and  
families together.**

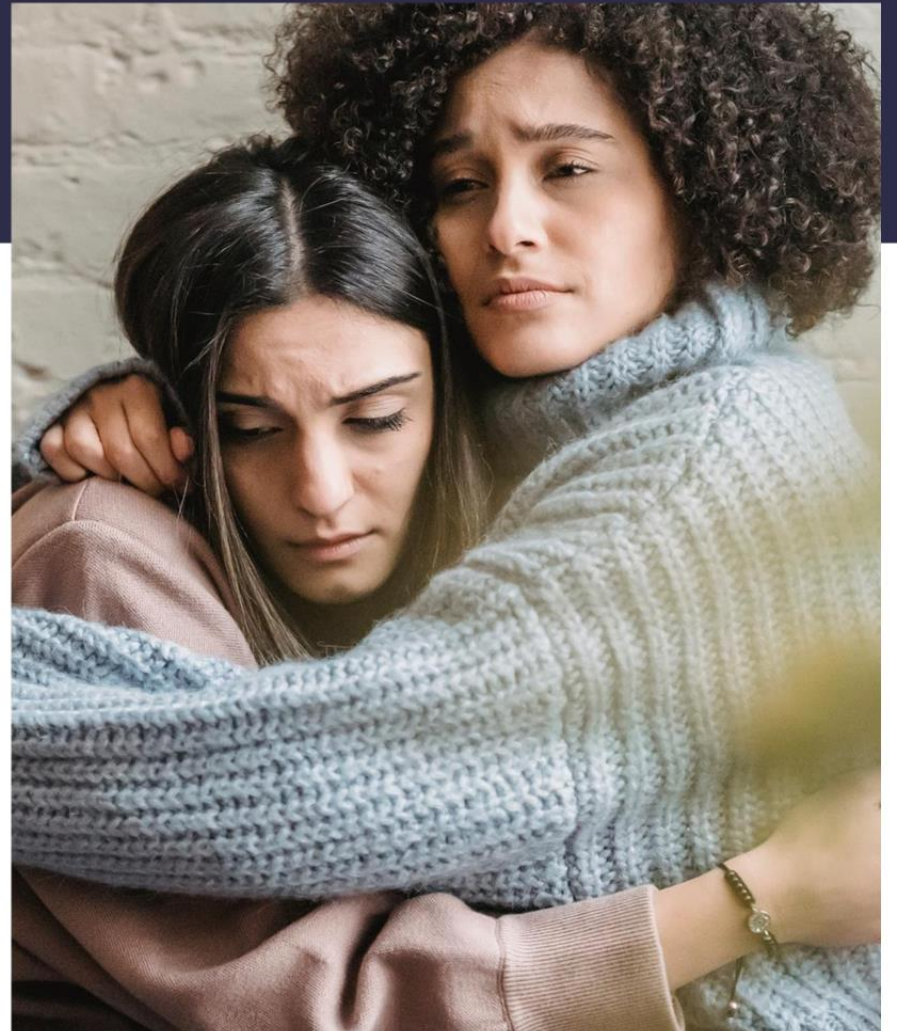




# Children *SAFE* Families *TOGETHER*

## Who We Serve

Through a community of volunteers, Safe Families for Children desires to stand in the gap and provide a safety net for those families facing a crisis in a vacuum and in isolation.





Safe Families for Children help to build social support systems around families who are experiencing:

- Isolation
- Loss of employment
- Homelessness
- Hospitalization
- Substance treatment
- Domestic violence
- Aging out of foster care



# Our Unique Model

- We mobilize volunteers to reach those in their community who are facing hardships and crisis in isolation.



Community

Families

SFFC  
Circle of Support  
helps surround  
families thru hosting  
children and  
supporting parents.



Safe Families  
for Children

*How Safe Families Works*

**Wrap-Around Families**



Wrapping family-like support around parents  
to keep children safe and families together!





# Referrals

## Are you an organization that would like to refer a family?

If you know of a child or family who would benefit from the Safe Families for Children program, we're eager to help.

If the need for help is urgent, simply contact the [Safe Families chapter](#) that is closest to you. You can also utilize our [e-referral form](#) and a Safe Families representative will contact you within 24 business hours.



For referrals, call the  
Intake Line: 772-217-9066

<https://sfcms.net/makeareferral/index.php>

Questions?

THANK YOU!



Safe Families  
*for* Children







# Florida Department of Health

- **Early Learning Centers and the Oral Health Program**

**Florida  
HEALTH**

**April 10, 2025**



# Dental Program History and Expansion

2014

## School-Based Dental Sealant Program

- Martin County becomes one of five state pilot programs.
- Services in Title I schools.
- Screenings, dental sealants, fluoride varnishes, and oral hygiene instructions



# Dental Program History and Expansion

## 2016 Program Expansion

- WIC
- ELCs
- Head Start
- Community Outreach programs





# Tooth Brushing Program

- Since 2017
- Provide all necessary supplies and staff orientation.
- Children brush their teeth after lunch or snack with staff supervision.
- Children are monitored every 3-months.





# Early Learning Centers and Oral Health

## The health of a child's mouth is vital to their overall health and well-being.

Baby teeth are important for many reasons such as eating, speaking smiling, and maintaining the space for the new adult teeth.

Early Learning Centers play an important role in promoting oral health and encouraging good habits from an early age.

- Children may not be brushing at home.
- 
- Good dental habits developed at an early age will be carried through to adulthood.
- 
- Children learn basic hygiene principles and develop tooth brushing skills by brushing their own teeth.
- 



# Contact Information



- **Milagros Ruiz, RDH**
- **Dental Hygienist, Program Coordinator**
- **School-Based Dental Sealant Program**
- **Florida Dept of Health in Martin County**
- **Cell 772-521-0193**
-

*The David Cardno*



# Fatherhood

## INITIATIVE





**TEAM Dad Training:** Evidence-based 24:7 Dad Curriculum, provides a 12 Week in-depth course addressing all barriers to fatherhood, graduation

**Dad Clubs:** Monthly father-centered activities where fathers share their fatherhood journey with other dads.

**One-On-One Counseling:** Available for any father who wants or needs additional counseling and resources.

**Jail Program:** Evidence-based Inside-Out Dad Curriculum complete with graduation at 12 weeks

A photograph of a man with a beard and a young child laughing together. The man is on the left, wearing a pink shirt, and the child is on the right, wearing a striped shirt. They are both looking at each other and laughing. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

# JUST THE FACTS

Infants whose dads  
play with them  
**have good  
mental and  
social  
outcomes.**

**National  
Fatherhood  
Initiative®**

[www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org)

SOURCE: Amodia-Bidakowska, Lavery, C., & Ramchandani, P.G. (2020). Father-child play: A systematic review of its frequency, characteristics and potential impact on children's development. *Developmental Review*, 57, 100924.



- ✓ More likely to receive prenatal care
- ✓ Less likely to smoke during pregnancy
- ✓ Healthier births
- ✓ Lower risk of post-partum stress
- ✓ Lower risk of post-partum depression
- ✓ Lower parenting stress
- ✓ More leisure time
- ✓ Higher marital satisfaction

# Father involvement is good for mom



# The Fatherhood Team



**Eric Seibenick**



**Michael Landrau**

# Your Questions

SCAN ME



# Program Quality Updates





# VPK Summer Bridge

- Facilitated by School Districts
- Eligible Children: Scoring below 10<sup>th</sup> Percentile on PM 3, Non-participation due to failed practice or assessment inappropriate
- Send these flyers with parent letter within 7 days of testing
- Letter of Eligibility Template forthcoming

A flyer for the VPK Summer Bridge program. It features a large circular graphic on the right side containing a photo of a young child dressed as an aviator, wearing goggles and a scarf, holding a small airplane. The background of the flyer has blue and yellow curved stripes. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.

**IS YOUR CHILD  
READY FOR  
KINDERGARTEN?**

*Take the next step with*  
**SUMMER BRIDGE**

Your child will take the FAST Star Early Literacy assessment three times during the VPK school year. If on the third assessment they:

- Scored below the 10th percentile
- Could not complete the practice items
- Could not complete the assessment because it is inappropriate for their needs (e.g., child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires paper-based testing, a non-English speaking child)

**Summer Bridge can help!**

Summer Bridge is a FREE summer program offered by the school district to help eligible VPK students get ready for kindergarten. Your district's Summer Bridge program includes:

- Qualified instructors
- Four hours of instruction a day
- Small class sizes
- Developmentally appropriate instruction
- Focus on emergent literacy skills

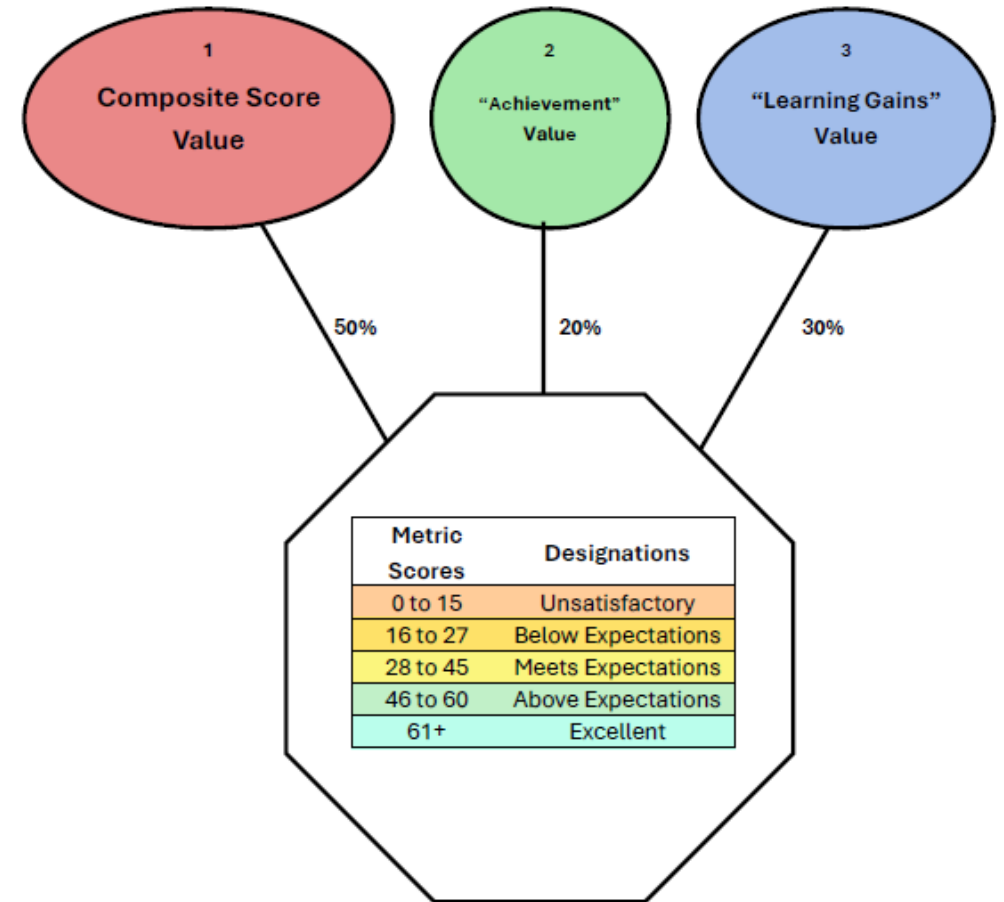
**Contact your school district to enroll.**

  **DIVISION OF  
Early Learning**  
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

# VPK Designations

- PM 3 will determine Learning Gains (30%) and Achievement (20%). Composite score is 50%.
- Performance Designations expected within 30 days of first day of school, ideally much sooner
- Designations are Public Information and will be posted on FL DOE VPK Accountability website
- ELCIRMO website: Star Training Video (How to Plan with Star Reports), Provider on Probation Rule Update Video

## VPK Provider Performance Metric & Designation



# Provider on Probation Rule Update

- Anticipated approval by SBOE 4-9-25
- Designations of Below Expectations or Unsatisfactory will be POPs
- Education Improvement Plan (3 parts)
- POP Training on Website and emailed from Quality Specialists





# Provider on Probation Improvement Plan

Anticipated approval from SBOE 4-9-25

## Curriculum

- Select + Implement Approved Curriculum\*
- Provide evidence of staff curriculum training

## Staff Development

- Develop a plan
- Use approved staff development activities\*

## Communication

- Plan to notify families in writing of designation and improvement plan within 14 days of Coalition-approved plan, or child's enrollment

*Recording and  
Slideshow on  
ELCIRMO  
website*

\*To be listed on DOE's VPK Accountability website

<https://origin.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/vpk-accountability.stml>

# Marco Polo Superstars

The ELC of IRMO would like to highlight the following providers for being our top MarcoPolo For Families users this month!

- 1 Vero Beach Preschool
- 2 North County Charter
- 3 Bethel Lutheran Preschool

**Teacher Tip:** Connect your families to the MarcoPolo For Families educational app for FREE! Use the **Spring Choice Board** to promote continued learning at home!



# CDA



National Institute for Child Care Management

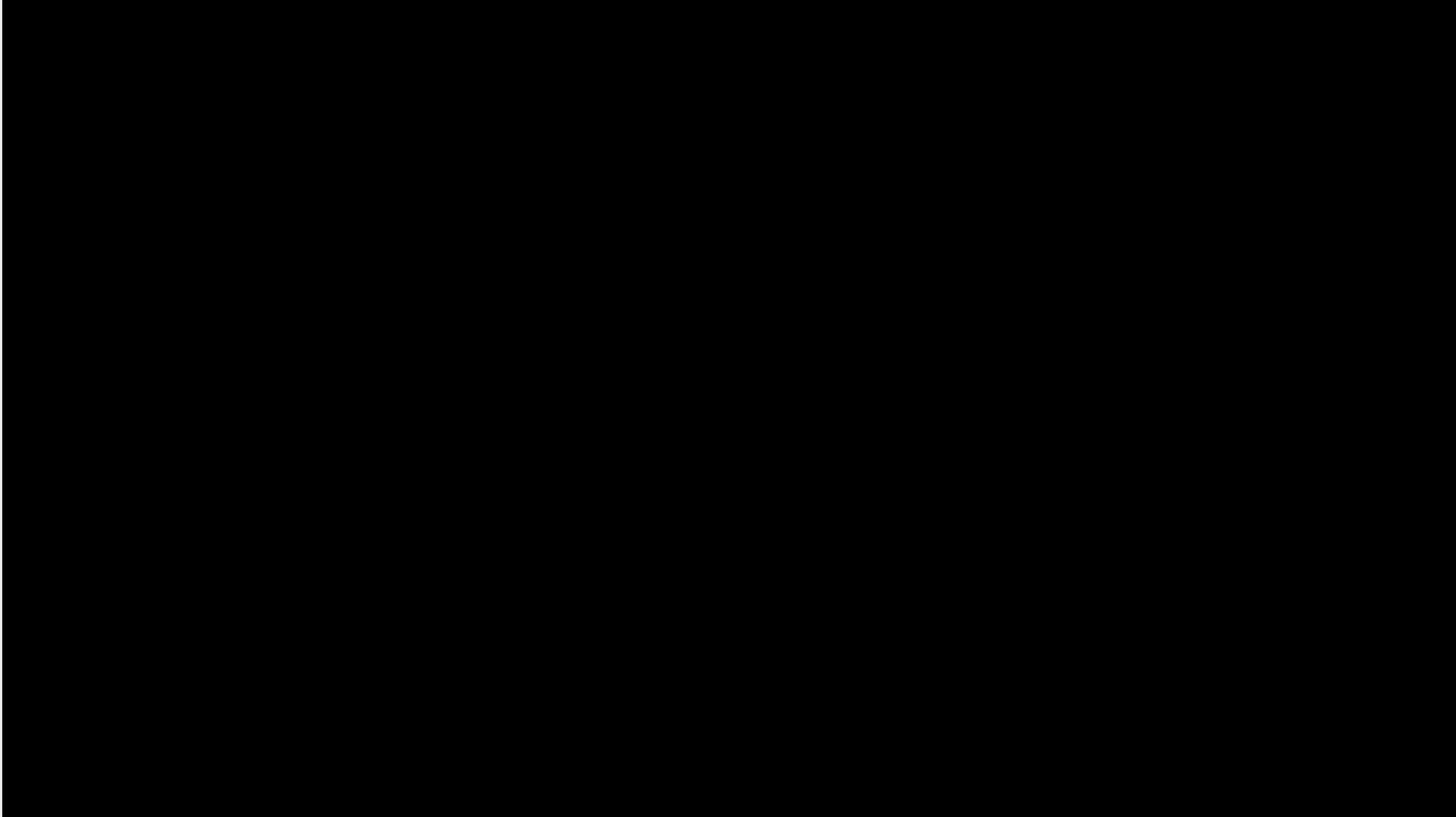
3-day Fast-Track in person or virtual

<https://niccm.com/General/cda-fast-track.html>



# Marco Polo

Transition to Kindergarten Summer  
Back to School Family Events



# Finance Updates



# New Portal



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

Menu

HOME

ABOUT

SUPPORT

TUTORIALS

## FDOE Single Sign-On

The Single Sign-On (SSO) Portal provides users within Florida's educational community with a convenient way to log into multiple state resources with one account.



SELECT AN OPTION BELOW TO GET STARTED



EDUCATORS



GUEST ACCESS



## 2025–2026 Provider Profiles Are Now Available in the Provider Portal!

To complete your 2025 Provider Profile, please follow these steps:

1. Log in to your Provider Portal account.
2. Complete the 2024 – 2025 Cost of Care Survey (if not already completed)
3. Open your current Profile and click the blue “Create 2025” button at the top.
4. Review each section of your Profile for accuracy and make any necessary updates.

Please note that most of your current information will carry over automatically, except for your calendar closure dates. As you review and update your Profile, keep the following in mind:

- If you plan to increase your rates for the 2025–2026 program year (effective July 1, 2025), be sure to:
  - Update the “Private Pay Rate” tab.
  - Use the SR daily rate helper button at the bottom of the screen.
  - Upload a new rate sheet using the updated template.
- Once all sections are updated, submit your profile for Coalition review.



Note: DO NOT remove any documents from your Document TAB, we need backup documentation for accountability purposes.

#### Documents

- To remain compliant with your SR and/or VPK contracts, ensure that all required documents are valid. If any documents expire before June 30, 2025, please upload updated versions as soon as possible.
  - W-9: Upload a signed copy dated 2025
- E-Verify: Upload a fully completed, signed, and notarized form for 2025–2026
- Sunbiz: Upload the latest annual report.

#### Important Deadlines

All Provider Profiles must be completed and made Active (with no further revisions needed) by April 30, 2025.

# Rule Updates as of 4/9/25

## Parent Co-pays

- Youngest child will have the only co-payment
- Co-payment may not exceed 7% of household income

## QPI Differential

- 4% differential for composite scores between 4.5–4.99 has been removed from the rule





# Family Services



# Family Portal

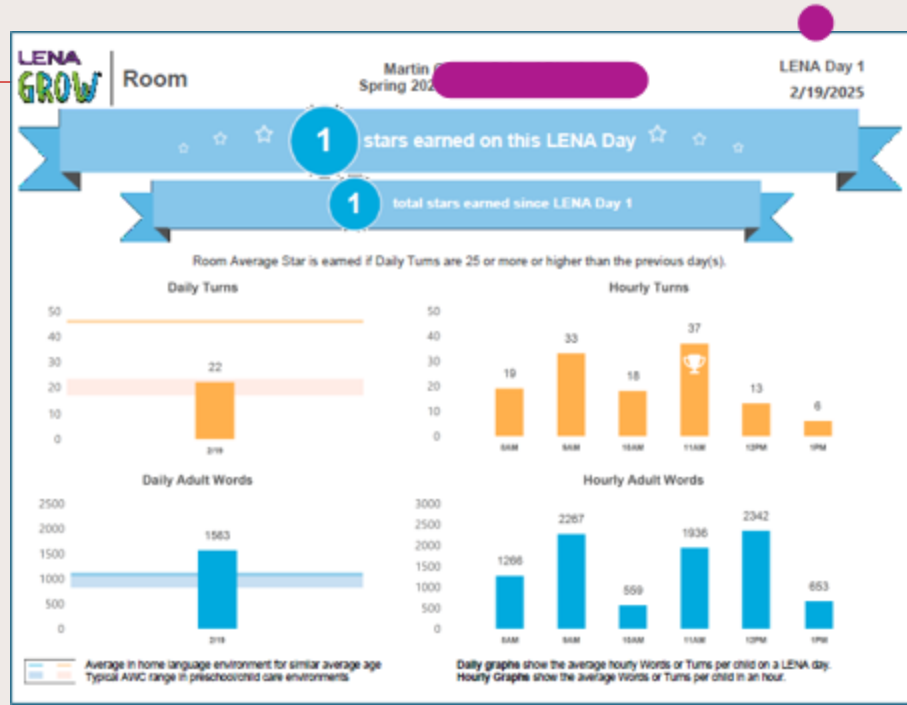
- Please have families contact their Family Services Specialist to assist with reregistering their accounts.



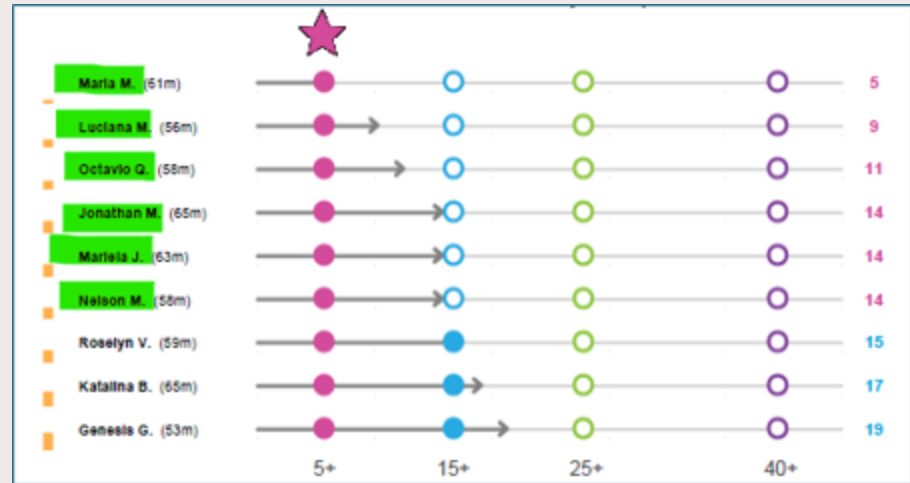
# Early Childhood Specialists



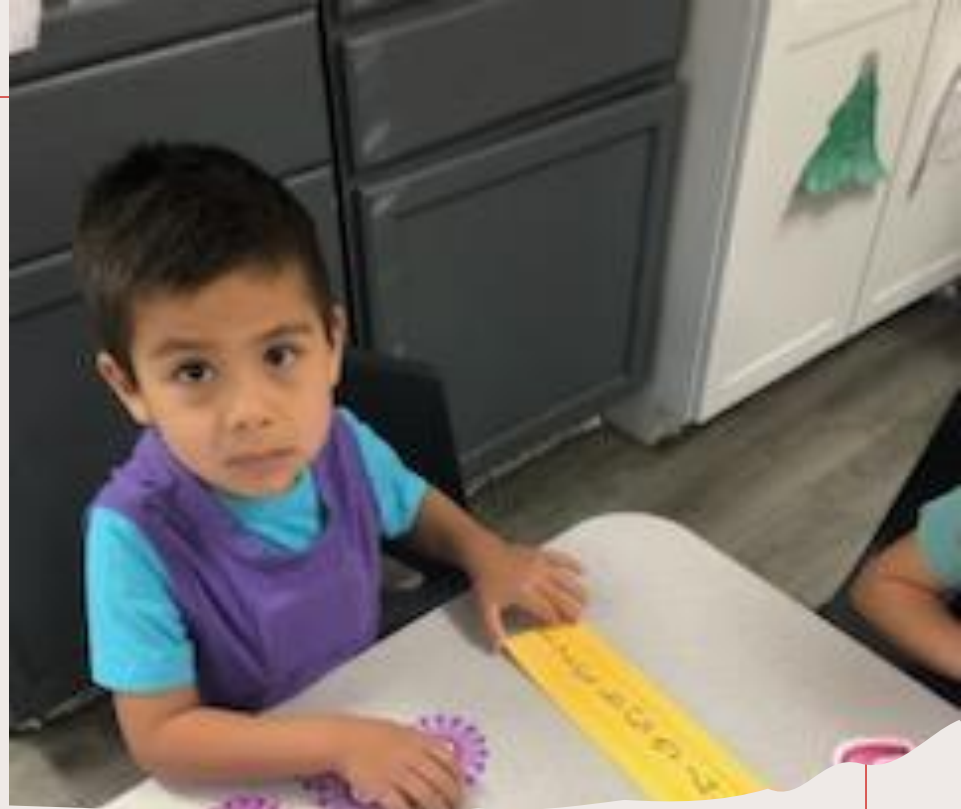




LENA IS  
COMING  
to Indian  
River  
County!







**Rock Solid Christian  
Academy Okeechobee,  
ROCKED LENA!!**

Next up... World  
Class South





# Martin County School District (Port Salerno and Indiantown) LENA Classrooms – Language is growing!





# Bring it with Big Talk Teachers

Community of Practice

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**USING BIG  
TALK OUTSIDE**



A REFLECTIVE COMMUNITY OF  
PRACTICE GATHERING

WEDNESDAY APRIL  
30TH

VIRTUAL: 12-2PM

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- FREE MATERIALS FOR YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

PLEASE EMAIL [KJUSTICE@ELCIRMO](mailto:kjustice@elcirmo) TO  
REGISTER BY **APRIL 1ST**. SUBMIT ANSWERS  
TO TWO REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS TO HOLD  
YOUR SPOT!



# Provider Representatives

Lorie Rudolph, Faith Based Rep.

Rachna Handa, Private Provider Rep.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM**

Private Childcare Provider Board Representative –  
Okeechobee County

Term of Office: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2029

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM**

Faith-Based Childcare Provider Board Representative –  
Indian River County

Term of Office: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2029

Please email nomination form to Jill Flanagan by  
4/30/25 [jflanagan@elicrmo.org](mailto:jflanagan@elicrmo.org)

# DCF Representative

Avida Rosa, Child Care Regulations Supervisor

Kristen Jones, Child Care Regulation Counselor

Temina Jefferson, Child Care Regulation Counselor

Marie







# May Provider Meetings

IR 5/13/25

OK 5/14/25

MC 5/16/25

Provider Appreciation

