



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

PROVIDER WEBINAR

FEBRUARY 29, 2024



AGENDA

WELCOME

UPDATES

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION (ECE)

FAMILY SERVICES

DISTANCE LEARNING

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PROVIDER RELATIONS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

BUILDING A WORLD CLASS WORKFORCE





WELCOME

ARNOLD MCKAY



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

MELANIE WORLEY SANDERS

Introducing Nick Narayan



Cell: (281) 220-7269

Support: (866) 457-8776

imaginelearning.com



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Program Assessment registration should be updated in the Quality Performance System (QPS) for SR providers whenever staff changes occur.
- VPK providers with teacher changes must update their application in EFS Mod.
- Remember, Program Assessment is a contract requirement. Reschedule requests for your program assessments are not guaranteed due to the volume of assessments that must be completed by ELC staff each year.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL KITS

Almost 300 children in 2022-2023 showed concerns on their ASQ: SE screenings.

To assist these families in supporting their child(ren) with social-emotional concerns, ELC mailed a special delivery of educational materials directly to their homes.



VPK LITERACY SURPRISE

ELC has invested in new books from the DEL-approved children's book list to improve literacy and language skills for children receiving VPK instruction.

Adding these books to 231 VPK classroom libraries will enable children to explore the contents of the books while enhancing their sense of adventure and creativity through reading. Teachers can develop activities around the books to help build literacy and language skills.

Titles Include:

- Baby Goes to Market
- Budy Body Book
- Chicka Chicka 1,2,3
- Colors of Us
- Doorbell Rang
- Full, Full, Full of Love
- Germs are Not for Sharing
- Peter's Chair
- Ten Black Dots
- Quinito, Day and Night



PROVIDER RESOURCE ROOM

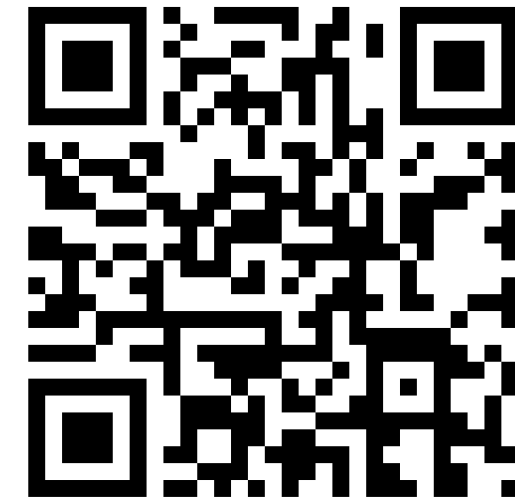
- ELC's Provider Resource Rooms are available in each service center.
- Order bulletin board paper, construction paper, and die cuts to help create different themes for your centers!
- Free to use - order online and pick-up at your nearest service center.



FIRST AID - CPR - AED CLASSES

Training Dates:

- March 23, 2024
- May 11, 2024
- June 22, 2024



- Location: ELC Leon County Service Center, 2639 N Monroe Street, Building C-300, Tallahassee, FL 32303
- Cost: \$50
- Time: Class begins at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 1:00 P.M.





FAMILY SERVICES

SHUNEKI BROWN



SCHOOL READINESS

We are sending out funding notifications for our CCTA Program (ALICE population) and the School Readiness program.

As you all know, July 31st was the last day we sent funding notifications for our SR Program. However, we've been granted additional funding that will allow us to invite families off our waitlist.

Since February, we have invited over 400 families from our waitlist. We will continue to invite families from our waitlist until we clear it.

- Please remind your families to check their emails daily to ensure they don't miss their funding notification or 30-day deadline.
- Please encourage your families to contact us with any funding-related questions.

SR ENROLLMENT TERMINATIONS



- Please terminate enrollments in EFS MOD when children no longer attend your facility.
- Terminate/cancel enrollments in EFS MOD when children have never attended your facility.
- Remind your families that a new Provider Transfer form is required for all transfers.

CHILD CARE FEES BEFORE ENROLLMENT

- Please let your parents know the cost of their monthly child care fees before they enroll their child in your center.





DISTANCE LEARNING

KATHY DOUGLAS

ELC 5024: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS TO KINDERGARTEN - THE ROLE OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS



- 20 Hours, or 2 CEUs (cost for CEUs \$33.00)
- March 27, 2024 – May 2, 2024
- Target Audience: PreK and VPK Teachers, Assistant Directors and Directors
- **This course qualifies for a \$300 stipend if teachers meet the ELC Requirements.**

Register at elcbigbend.org under Provider Resources: Professional Development

ELC 4355: FINE TUNING, FINE MOTOR SKILLS THROUGH PLAY



- March 12, 2024 – April 17, 2024
- Self-Paced – open 24/7
- 15 In-Service Hours (no fee), or 1.5 CEUs (cost \$28.00)
- Target Audience: Birth – Five teachers, Assistant Directors, and Directors
- **This course qualifies for a \$225.00 stipend if teachers meet the ELC Requirements.**

Register at elcbigbend.org under Provider Resources: Professional Development

ELC 3723: MATHEMATICAL MASTERPIECES - EXPLORING MATH THROUGH ART



- March 19 – April 25, 2024
- Self-Paced – open 24/7
- 15 In-Service Hours (no fee)
- Target Audience: Pre-K and VPK Teachers
- **This course qualifies for a \$225.00 stipend if teachers meet the ELC Requirements.**

Register at elcbigbend.org under Provider Resources: Professional Development

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

HADASSAH ISRAEL





**OVER 3,300
BIG BEND
HANDS!**



**THANK
YOU**



THEBLUETABLE

with Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region

12:30PM - 2:00PM

*6:30PM - 8:00PM

Meal Provided | Register Today!

5TH: LEON COUNTY

ELC Leon Service Center - Register by 3/1

7TH: LEON COUNTY

ELC Leon Service Center - Register by 3/1

12TH: WAKULLA COUNTY*

ELC Wakulla Service Center - Register by 3/8

14TH: GADSDEN/LIBERTY COUNTY

ELC Gadsden Service Center - Register by 3/9

19TH: TAYLOR COUNTY

Taylor Co. School Board Conference Room - Register by 3/14

21ST: JEFFERSON COUNTY

R.J. Bailar Public Library - Register by 3/15

28TH: MADISON COUNTY

North Florida College - Register by 3/22



THE NEW FRONTIER OF

PLAY

EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE

APRIL 13, 2024 | DONALD L. TUCKER CIVIC CENTER



PROVIDER RELATIONS

VINCENT PALMER

VPK CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

- Credentials for upcoming 24-25 Contract Year
- When making changes within VPK APP in your provider profile, please email Provider Relations immediately.



VPK DIRECTORS

VPK Providers must have a Director with a VPK Endorsement.

The training requirements for a VPK Director Credential are:

- Accredited High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- 30 Hour Part 1 Department of Children and Families' Introductory Child Care Training
- A minimum of eight hours in-service training regarding children with disabilities
- Active Staff Credential Verification (DCF form CF-FSP 5206)

Completion of the following courses:

- An approved "Overview of Child Care Management" course
- VPK Director Credential course
- **Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors**
- **Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten**
- Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners
- Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom

VPK LEAD

Acceptable Educational Credentials

- Completion of a 30-clock-hour Family Child Care Home training for an operator of a large family child care home or for an operator of a family child care home
- Completion of a 40-clock-hour Introductory Child Care training course for personnel of a child care facility
- Completion of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition
- Completion of a credential approved by DCF as being equivalent to or greater than the national CDA
- Completion of an associate's degree or higher in any field of study

VPK SUBSTITUTES

Acceptable Educational Credentials

- Completion of a 30-clock-hour Family Child Care Home training for an operator of a large family child care home or for an operator of a family child care home
- Completion of a 40-clock-hour Introductory Child Care training course for personnel of a child care facility
- Completion of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition
- Completion of a credential approved by DCF as being equivalent to or greater than the national CDA
- Completion of an associate's degree or higher in any field of study

VPK AIDES

Employment Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Aides are only required in VPK classrooms of 12-20 students
- Aides cannot substitute for the VPK instructor unless the aide has a verified appropriate credential and VPK ratio is maintained

VPK ATTENDANCE

- Upload **completed and signed** certificates into EFS Mod for children on your VPK roster
- Provider VPK Advance Reconciliation e-mail
 - If a provider has received this correspondence, please contact Christopher Rivera at crivera@elcbigbend.org or 850-508-1674



VPK FAST STAR EARLY LITERACY TEST ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE FOR PROGRESS MONITORING (PM)

Programs that have 83 or more instructional days follow the below test administration schedule:

PM1

Is the first thirty (30) instructional days of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.

PM2

Is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and no more than 60% of the instructional hours have been completed.

PM3

Is the last thirty (30) instructional days of the VPK class schedule ending on the last VPK instructional day

SUMMER VPK FAST STAR EARLY LITERACY TEST ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE FOR PROGRESS MONITORING

Programs that have 82 or fewer instructional days follow the below test administration schedule:

PM1

Is the first ten (10) instructional days of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.

PM2

Is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and no more than 60% of the instructional hours have been completed.

PM3

Is the last ten (10) instructional days of the VPK class schedule ending on the last VPK instructional day.

VPK TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY CLOSURES

During states of emergency declared by federal, state, or local officials, VPK providers may be paid for closures up to 5 days and not required to make up those hours.

- The 5 days are cumulative, meaning if only 3 of the 5 are used, the other 2 of the 5 days would still be available to use in a different state of emergency.
 - Example: Florida is under a state of emergency due to a hurricane. A provider closes for 3 days due to the storm. Two months later, a tornado hits the area and another state of emergency is declared. The provider closes for 3 days due to wind damage. 2 of those 3 days do not have to be made up.
- Must provide documentation for temporary closures.

This time period may be extended by the state based on the circumstances of the emergency. (i.e. after Hurricane Michael, providers were paid for up to 10 closure days due to the storm.)

- The ELC will communicate these situations to VPK providers if and when they occur.
- Providers have **14 days** after the occurrence to input temporary closures in order to be reimbursed by the ELC.



SR PROVIDER RATE TIPS

- Enter a rate for every care level you serve, even if you do not have current enrollments
- If you do not take a care level, but you may change your mind (as a favor to a currently enrolled family with a sibling, a teacher's child, etc.), enter a rate
- If you absolutely do not accept or have a rate for a child, you will not be reimbursed



PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Providers may operate child care facilities and homes without participating in the SR program. By contracting with the ELC to offer the SR program, providers agree to meet and maintain all requirements of the contract.

PROVIDER PORTAL

The Statewide Provider Portal is where providers complete all functions related to enrollment, payment, program information, and contracts.

PROVIDER PROFILE

Profiles contain all provider information. Providers must update their profile any time they make a program change. Annual updates are required by the contract. Contracts cannot be initiated until profiles are completed and approved.

DOCUMENTS

Supporting contract documents must be uploaded to the Provider Portal. Providers must keep these documents current and update them when they expire or change.

DIVISION OF Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Home VPK Program VPK SIS SR Program TAPP Provider Reimbursement Maintenance Reports CCR&R Grant Application Admin Functions Hello jsylvain@elcbigbend.org! Log Off

Provider ▾
Provider Profiles ▸
Local Contracts ▸
SR Contracts ▸
SR Amendments ▸
VPK Contracts ▸
VPK Amendments ▸
VPK Applications ▸
VPK SIS Contracts ▸
Temporary Closures ▸
External Service Users ▸
Search
Document Library Management

WELCOME TO FLORIDA'S EARLY LEARNING DIVISION SERVICES PORTAL

Applications Search SR Applications

DIVISION OF Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Home VPK Program VPK SIS SR Program TAPP Provider Reimbursement Maintenance Reports CCR&R Grant Application Admin Functions Hello jsylvain@elcbigbend.org! Log Off

Document Library Management

Add New Folder Rename Folder

Select Provider --select provider-- ▾
Select Folder ▾

View Files Move Files

This is NOT where you upload documents (attendance, COEs, etc)

ELC Test Center 2 Profile

2020 - 2021 Program Year

Current Sta

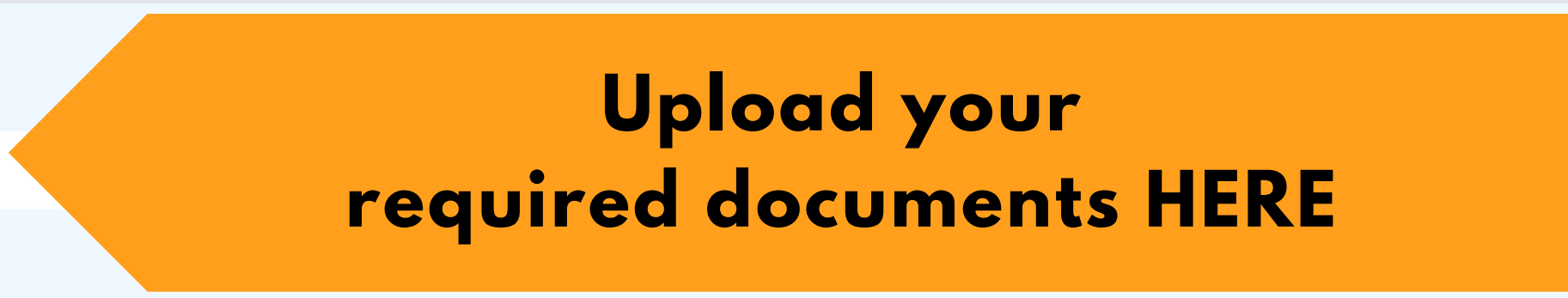
- General
- Facility
- Services
- Curriculum
- Fees & Discounts
- Hours of Operation
- Staffing & Capacity
- Private Pay Rates
- Closures Calendar
- Documents**
- Re

Supporting Documents

Certificate of Accreditation

Document(s)	Begin Date	Expiration Date	
Letterhead Template (Current).doc: View Remove Delete			<input type="checkbox"/> Verify Letterhead Template (Current).docx

Upload Another Document...



Letter of Confirmation (Exemption)

Document(s)	Begin Date	Expiration Date	
Letterhead Template (Current).doc: View Remove Delete			<input type="checkbox"/> Verify Letterhead Template (Current).docx

Upload Another Document...

Private Child Care Pay Rates

IMPORTANT LINKS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Provider Portal User Guide

- providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com/#

Mandatory VPK Contract Orientation

- April 29th, 2024 12:30-2:00

Mandatory SR Contract Orientation

- May 16th, 2024 12:30 – 2:00

Get a Head Start!



Provider Profiles for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are due by April 30, 2024!

Required documentation includes:

- Current License/Accreditation
- Private Pay rates
- E-verify form
- W9
- Liability Insurance
- Workers Compensation/Unemployment Insurance
- Automobile Insurance (if applicable)
- Sunbiz





QUESTIONS?

BUILDING A WORLD CLASS WORKFORCE 2.0

LASHUN MITCHELL



AVAILABLE GRANTS



For Providers

- Continuous Quality Improvement (up to \$19,800)
 - Providers w/Composite score of 5 and higher
- Child Success Training
 - Providers w/ Composite score of 4.99 and lower
- Equipment, Supplies, & Classroom Materials
- Increasing/ Building the Supply of Child Care
 - Newly Established Child Care Providers

For Directors and Educators

- Workforce Initiatives
 - Retain Bonuses, Distance Learning Stipends, CLASS Training, Educational Reimbursements, Recruitment, Health & Safety
- Training and Professional Learning Activities
 - Conference and Professional Development training reimbursements and/or advances

GRANT QUALIFICATIONS



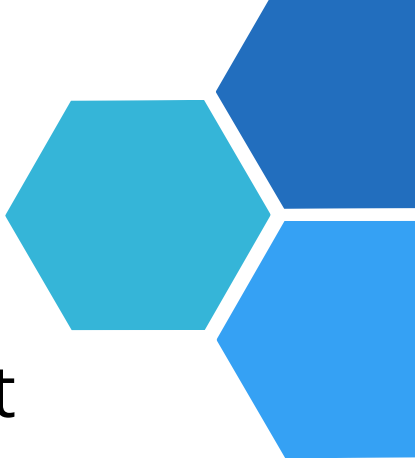
For Providers

- Be a licensed early child care provider with an active School Readiness or VPK Contract from ELC Big Bend
- Have not had a terminated contract and/or eligibility revoked within the past five years
- Not be under investigation or has been convicted of child care fraud
- Not be included on the Florida Child Care Food Program (CCFP) USDA Disqualified list
- Providers that contract with multiple coalitions will be paid by the coalition where the program is **physically located**
- Must have completed ARPA Surveys I and II

For Staff

- You must be employed with an ELC Big Bend contracted School Readiness and/or VPK child care provider
- You must show completion of Professional Development Course(s)
- You must provide an official transcript showing Early Childhood Educational courses being in progress or completed, starting as early as July 01, 2023
- Cannot be approved for bonuses received in prior funding year
- Must provide employment verification from current Child Care employer

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI)



- Contracted Providers w/Composite Score of **5 or higher** on the most recent CLASS Assessment
 - Providers will participate in 24 hours of Professional Development Training from an ELC-Approved Vendor (Ex: Frog Street, Teaching Strategies, Bertelsen Education, Childcare Lounge, & Teachstone)
- Prior Year Recipients are not eligible to apply for the CQI grant
- Payments are made directly to the Provider - the Provider pays staff after training is completed
- Director **MUST** participate throughout the entire training

Application Must Include:

- **Training Plan**
 - Detailed 24 Hours of training
 - List of Training Participants
- **Budget Plan (not to exceed \$19,800)**
 - Training Material
 - Identifies compensation for staff (up to \$3,500) for completing all 24 hours

- Deadline to Apply: **March 29, 2024**
- All training and Supporting Documents must be completed by **June 30, 2024**

CHILD SUCCESS GRANT

Eligibility Requirements

- Contracted SR/VPK Provider
- CLASS Score **below 4.99**
- No CLASS Score (Exempt Providers)
- Directors and staff must participate to receive a bonus
- Early Learning Directors employed by providers participating in the Upskill Director Bonus are ineligible for this bonus
- Limited Spots - 20 Participants

Professional Development: Segment 1 (\$1,200)

- Making the Most of Classroom Interactions – 24-hour/ Virtual

Training Dates

All training will be held virtually on Saturdays. Participants must be present at each class session to receive credit and a final certificate of completion for funding. **No makeup sessions will be available.**

- March 09, 2024
- March 23, 2024
- April 20, 2024
- May 04, 2024



EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, & CLASSROOM MATERIALS



Mini Grants are available to contracted child care programs for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and classroom materials. Each provider would have the opportunity to select equipment and resources that fit the needs of their child care program.

Categories from which providers can choose from include:

- Purchase of business administration software to help providers run operations (e.g. ProCare, Brightwheel)
- Educational Field Trip Experience (e.g., Tallahassee Museum or Challenger Learning Center. Includes on-site educational experiences.)
- Family Engagement Event
- Equipment to upgrade or replace outdoor play equipment
- Safety equipment and materials to prepare for natural disasters
- Purchase of developmentally appropriate software to support early learning and family engagement (e.g. MarcoPolo)

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
APRIL 30TH**

An orange starburst graphic with a scalloped edge, containing the text 'APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30TH' in bold, black, uppercase letters.

INCREASING/ BUILDING THE SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE



- Mini Grants available to NEW providers that start a child care program in the Big Bend Region
- Eligible Child Care Program was started:
 - On or after **July 1, 2023** *and*
 - Before **May 31, 2024**
- Funding Goal: 20 New Child Care Programs
- Please Note: There is a 90-day waiting period to apply. New Providers must have at least one SR or VPK enrollment.

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
MAY 31ST**

WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Funding is available to provide financial support for all child care providers to assist with recruiting and retaining Early Learning Educators (ELEs). ELEs include Infant, Toddler, Pre-K and VPK teachers, before and after-school teachers, assistants, and substitutes, and directors.

- New Educator/Director Recruitment Bonus hired after 07/01/2023
- Health and Safety Bonus course must be completed after 07/01/2023
- CLASS Infant/Toddler and PreK must be hired after 07/01/2023
- Upskill Director Bonus must be hired after 07/01/2023
- Retain Bonuses are based on longevity and education level
- ELC Distance Learning Course Stipends
- Completed courses from TCC and North Florida College
- Background Reimbursements
- First Aid & CPR Reimbursements



**APPLY BY
JUNE 30TH**

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Funding designed to reimburse or approve a Request for Payment for Early Learning Educators to attend early learning conferences.

- Early Learning Conferences must have been **on or after July 1, 2023**
 - Certification of completion or conference attendance certificates plus agenda and receipts must be returned by **June 7, 2024**

Funding Goal: 50 Early Learning Educators

Amount awarded: Not to exceed \$1,000 per educator (includes conference registration, travel, hotel, and meals)

Please Note: The approval and reimbursement of travel expenses are limited to those deemed reasonable and necessary by ELC Big Bend. Early Learning Educators (ELE) traveling for the ELC Big Bend Coalition will follow the policies and procedures for authorizing and obtaining reimbursement for official travel. Travel shall only be performed and reimbursed in accordance with section 112.061, Florida Statutes (F.S.); chapter 69I-42, Florida Administrative Code (FAC); and the DOE procedures.

REMINDERS



- Some bonuses require staff to participate in professional development training
- All recipients of the Curriculum Research Study must complete all professional development training by **June 30, 2024**
- Staff must receive a Letter of Employment or Verification of Employment
- Every submitted application is reviewed by ELC - applicants will be notified via system notification when status changes
- Applications in DRAFT status will not be reviewed until officially submitted
- All eligible purchases must be made **on or after July 1, 2023 and before May 31, 2024**
- Proof of Purchases must be uploaded by **June 7, 2024**
- Any **unused or unaccounted funds** will be required to be reimbursed to ELC Big Bend

Learn more on our homepage, elcbigbend.org

CONTACT US



Grants and Bonuses: funding@elcbigbend.org

Program Assessments, and Trainings: resources@elcbigbend.org

ELC Virtual Courses: distancelearning@elcbigbend.org

Attendance: finance@elcbigbend.org

Conference: outreach@elcbigbend.org

All Other Provider Concerns: providerrelations@elcbigbend.org



THEBLUETABLE

with Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region

12:30PM - 2:00PM

*6:30PM - 8:00PM

Meal Provided | Register Today!

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