

Early Learning Coalition

OF PINELLAS COUNTY

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County is a nonprofit agency working with families and childcare providers to prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed. We work with families and with childcare providers to create high-quality early learning opportunities throughout Pinellas County.

**We engage with 579 providers
who care for 14,176 children
in our community.**



Who We Are

Advocating for children, supporting providers, and serving families, the ELC exists to help ensure quality, accountable, and equitable early education programs and opportunities throughout Pinellas County and beyond.

Our Mission

To revolutionize early learning to inspire children, engage families and elevate educators.

What we believe is reflected not just in the work we do but in the way we relate to our families, childcare providers, and community at large:

- Children first.
- Parents are a child's most important teacher.
- When we work together, we create a stronger community.
- We respect all cultures, backgrounds and belief systems.
- Equity + Opportunity = Success for All

Why We Do It

Early care and education is directly and critically determinative to the rest of a person's life.

The human brain is wired for visual & auditory learning. Reading & writing must be taught and brains must develop in language-rich environments to optimize these communication skills critical throughout life.

PARENTING IS CHALLENGING

Society is more complex than ever - we want you to know that you are not alone. Various resources are available for different circumstances - let us find proper support for you and your family.

TEACHING PRESCHOOL IS COMPLEX

Numerous supports and professional development opportunities are available to help strengthen the capabilities of early care and education providers. The professional betterment of our community's providers directly improves the development of the children in their care.

We're working to increase community understanding of and investment in local early childhood programs.

EARLY LEARNING AFFECTS US ALL

Early learning and readiness has a profound impact on our whole community. Access to quality care in early years reduces both juvenile arrests and future crime victimization.

Investing in early childhood ensures healthy development and strong futures for young children, and allows parents to continue in their careers and in the workforce. Educated and skillful citizens create stronger economies, alongside strengthening neighborhoods.

LEADING FLORIDA ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

While Pinellas children lead Florida in kindergarten readiness testing, we must continually improve to help ensure quality and accessible programs for our next generation of neighbors, colleagues and community leaders.

What We Do - For Families

VPK

Florida's free Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is designed to prepare all four-year-olds for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. Children who turn 4 years old on or before September 1st and reside in the state of Florida are eligible.

PKAD

PreK All Day (PKAD) is a scholarship program offered to families with children enrolled in VPK, but ineligible for ELC's SR program. PKAD allows families to cover the expenses for additional hours of wrap-around care needed before and after the VPK day.

SCHOOL READINESS

School Readiness (SR) programs serve disadvantaged families with children ages 0-12 years. SR provides tuition assistance for early learning and school age care to support kindergarten readiness and academic success.

SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTION SERVICES (SIS)

SIS offers providers intense support for children struggling developmentally or behaviorally. ELC provides technical assistance and classroom coaching to build the skills and confidence teachers need to provide high-quality care to children.

WARMLINE INCLUSION SERVICE

Ensures children are able to maximize their potential in the least restrictive environment, including Inclusion Warmline. Free to the community, Warmline provides information and referral services for children with special needs/disabilities in Pinellas County.

TEENAGE PARENT PROGRAM (TAPP)

This program helps meet the special needs of teenage parents (and their children), supporting them as they complete their high school diploma through ELC-administered childcare scholarships.

HEAD START

Head Start is designed to facilitate child development and promote school readiness by enhancing social and cognitive development through the provision of health, educational, nutrition, social and other services to meet the comprehensive needs of families.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Federally funded program for children from birth to age three with a developmental disability or an established condition that is associated with a developmental delay.

PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

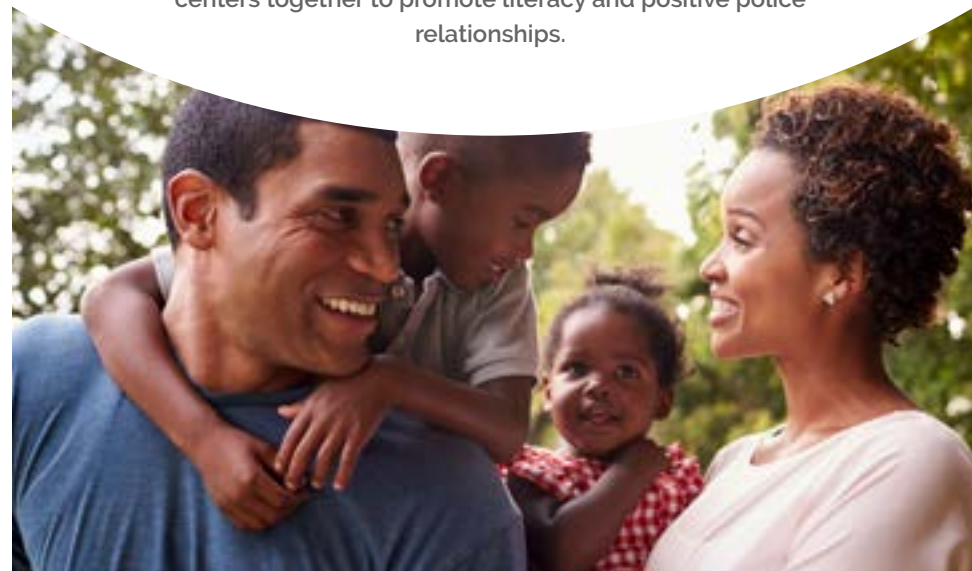
Federally funded program for children from age three to age five with a developmental disability.

HELP ME LEARN

Hands-on literacy program, where age-appropriate materials, books, and activities are provided to Family Childcare Homes. Families are encouraged to check-out the materials and bring them home to engage in the activities with their children. Coalition staff provide technical assistance and monitor progress.

OFFICER FRIENDLY'S BOOK CLUB

Pairs local law enforcement officers and early learning centers together to promote literacy and positive police relationships.



What We Do - For Providers

PDI

The Professional Development Institute (PDI) equips early educators with knowledge, support, and resources to implement best practices to improve child outcomes. Programming includes individualized coaching, specialized training, formal education scholarships, conferences, and Early Childhood Educator INCENTIVE\$.

CHILD CARE WAGE\$

Child Care WAGE\$® Florida Program provides education-based salary supplements for low to moderate wage earners who work with young children ages birth to five.

GOLD SEAL

Gold Seal Quality Care program acknowledges child care facilities and family day care homes that are accredited by nationally recognized agencies and whose standards reflect quality in the level of care and supervision provided to children. Gold Seal providers are eligible for an increase in school readiness reimbursement of up to 20%.

CLASS

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NEMOURS READING

BrightStart! Program for Literacy Success puts teachers on the cutting edge of early literacy best practices with an exciting new approach to building reading readiness skills for struggling learners.

QUEST (INFANT/TODDLER/TWOS TEACHERS) AND PRESCHOOL CDA

Training programs created to assist teachers with obtaining the professional education requirements for the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program with an Infant Toddler or Preschool endorsement. The training programs infuse a hands-on approach for participants to learn concepts through learning stations. Teachers also use tablets to access the Internet to explore relevant resources, with Smart Board technology to collaborate and review training materials. In addition, all participants receive coaching visits to support their implementation of the training content and navigation through the credentialing process.

CAN THIS BE SHORTENED?

LEADERSHIP FOR EARLY EDUCATORS IN PINELLAS (LEEP)

LEEP is an early learning professional development program designed to provide directors and their staff with a suite of supports, including one-to-one coaching, online coursework, and in-person professional development focusing on a variety of topics that matter to early learning professionals.

CONNECTING THE DOTS (CHILD ASSESSMENT)

Connecting the Dots is a training coaching program to support the implementation of child assessment in the center/family child care home and in the classroom. This program will provide the necessary tools to conduct child assessments, complete required certification, and support children's growth and development. Training content will provide strategies to gather quality data and observations to inform planning and classroom activities.

LOOKING BEYOND BEHAVIOR

Specialized training program for child care centers with the emphasis on the crucial relationship between the brain and the social emotional development of young children. This training series focuses on trauma informed care and the importance of nurturing relationships to enable teachers to respond to trauma based behaviors using a multitude of techniques.

PERFORMANCE FUNDING PROJECT (PFP)

Rewards School Readiness providers with additional funds for meeting increased quality standards. Childcare centers teachers and family childcare home providers participate in quality improvement strategies such as specialized training, professional development, coaching, and child assessment practices. The ELC also assists in achievement of Gold Seal Accreditation.

TEACHER EDUCATION AND COMPENSATION HELPS (T.E.A.C.H.)

Early childhood scholarship program with a primary goal to help change negative trends in the childcare workforce. T.E.A.C.H. accomplishes its goal by providing direct support to early childhood caregivers and center directors to enable them to work toward earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalency, an A.S. degree in Child Development and Education or a Director's Credential.

Donate

There is still more to be done to ensure that every child in Pinellas County enters kindergarten ready to succeed. Your gift will support young children during crucial formative years, as well as the families and providers who help mold them.

TO MAKE A SECURE, ONLINE DONATION, VISIT US AT:

www.elcpinellas.org/donate

TO MAIL YOUR GIFT, PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS TO:

Pinellas Community Foundation
attn. Bette Anthony
17755 US Hwy 19 N #150
Clearwater, FL 33764

Engage

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas makes deliberate efforts to promote, participate in, and support activities with various community organizations helping children and their families. Join us in bringing awareness of the early education needs of our youngest neighbors to our Pinellas community.

ADVOCATE

Become an advocate for local, state, and federal issues impacting children.

EDUCATE

Learn about relevant early childhood legislation in your local area.

VOLUNTEER

Support the Early Learning Coalition during special events in the community.

Visit ELCPinellas.org to learn more and get involved
@ELCPinellas on Facebook for news, tips & updates