

2011 – 2012 Annual Highlights

School Readiness (SR)

- Served 3,573 children from over 2,000 working families
- Partnered with more than 230 providers (faith-based, private centers and family childcare homes)
- Payments to providers totaled \$5,910,125
- 2011-2012 administrative costs were 4.90% with a cap of 5%
- 2135 children are currently on the waiting list for financial assistance
- Implemented a physical education program called SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) to promote healthy habits for a lifetime
- Disney grant funds help to expand training in outdoor science and math training

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

- Served 4,304 children
- Partnered with more than 160 providers (faith-based, private centers and family childcare homes)
- Payments to providers totaled \$9,634,586
- Indirect and administrative cost percentage totaled 3.62% (capped at 4.5%)

Coming in 2013

- No longer subcontracting with 4C, all administrative services in house at new location beginning January 2, 2013
- New office centrally located in Seminole County at 280 Hunt Park Cove Longwood FL
- Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony February 28, 2013 at 10:00 am, Open House until 3:00 pm
- April 2013 introducing the Early Learning Information System (ELIS) a new centralized technology system to better support coalitions by modernizing data collection and program administration





EARLY LEARNING MEANS BUSINESS

The Real Impacts & Why We Should Care

A The story of a successful community and economy starts at the very beginning with our early learners. After all, it takes the first step to reach the top. When we give our 0-5 year-olds in Seminole County high quality learning resources and support, great things happen ... resulting in a complete circle of success for the child, family, education system, economy and community. Early learning support does much more than child placement. We improve educational quality ... and provide comprehensive and holistic family referral sources. Without the latter, families would be lost and left without critical support services.

B Brain research proves the invaluable development that takes place during these early years and in actual classroom settings – from emergent literacy skills, to early math and science exposure, to social and emotional skill-building.

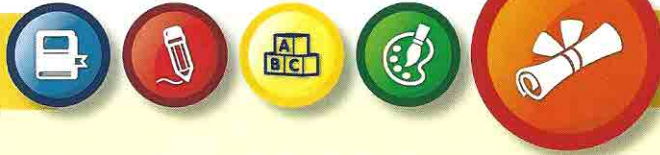
C Early learning is both proactive and preventative. (1) Studies show for every \$1 invested in high quality early education, more than \$7 is saved in future academic remediation, welfare, unemployment and incarceration costs. And, for every \$1 invested, nearly \$17 is returned. (2) Early learning care is often the first identifier of learning disabilities and issues and, as such, is tremendously beneficial in terms of establishing the appropriate plans for a child for future success. (3) President Obama has proposed important initiatives for child care ... nearly doubling the child and dependent care tax credit for middle class families making under \$85,000 a year. Additionally, for lower income families, the administration would provide a \$1.6 billion increase in child care funding, the largest one-year increase in 20 years, to help an additional 235,000 children.

D Early learning is a K-12 accelerator and jump-starter for economic and workforce development. As the United States continues to struggle with and debate about having a globally competitive, technology and science-savvy workforce, early learning is *the* place to start planting the seeds. Even before important K-12 initiatives, early learning is:

- Building intellectual capital and motivating lifelong learning
- An antidote for under-qualified and unskilled workers ... and a primer for a successful future in school and life
- A part of creating a smart city and Creative Class
- Enabling parents to be a successful part of the workforce while receiving support to ensure the well-being of their children

Army Major General James A. Kelley, a member of the D.C.-based nonprofit *Mission Readiness*, issued a report on the state of military enlistees called “*Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve*.” In the report, he said, “**You can’t wait until high school in order to change a young person. It has to be done at a very early age, and that’s why the need for high quality early learning is so vital.**”





INVEST IN ME ... Here's How You Can Help Our Early Learners

Birth-to-5 Books.

Child development centers are always in need of more birth-to-five books to help build letter and sound recognition, reading, fluency and critical thinking skills in young learners. Consider organizing a book drive with colleagues, friends, neighbors or groups with which you're involved.

Computers and other tech equipment.

As K-12 schools continue to ramp up their technological capabilities, we want to present the same technology-based exposure and opportunities to our early learners. The multiple modalities used in computer-based play and games are excellent learning and skill-building tools and will give them a head start for the technology they will use throughout the rest of their lives. Needs include computers, headsets, speakers and educational CDs and DVDs.

Your Expertise!

One of the main priorities of the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole is to help train child care providers and teachers on best practices that ultimately enhance efficiencies and keep a sharp focus on the quality of learning. We are always looking to expand access and resources to knowledgeable experts who can connect with providers and help them in various areas. Whether you're an expert in human resources, marketing, accounting, information technology, operations or landscaping, your expertise and volunteer time would be invaluable to providers.

Your Thanks!

Recognition of our early care and education providers is so important. They often spend more time with our children each week than parents. Your colleagues, friends, neighbors or groups you're involved in can help give our early learning experts the support and recognition they deserve ... whether it's a simple 'thank you' card, engaging in a volunteer project or providing treats or a surprise.

Your Imagination!

Get your creative juices flowing. The Early Learning Coalition invites you to tell us about any creative ideas you may have to help build up our early learners, present them with new and interactive experiences, and prepare them for Kindergarten ready and eager to learn. Whether it may be field-trip-type opportunities, a creative classroom lesson or a visit from a famous local artist, the more creative and interactive we can be with our early learners, the better!

A financial contribution to support program-based expansion and classroom innovation, especially in the areas of math and science, would go a long way in getting our early learners more ready and willing to learn.



For more information, contact the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole at 407.871.1101.