

PROVIDER'S

# FOCUS

October/November/December 2016  
Magazine

a quarterly publication for early childhood care and education professionals

**NEW**  
BIGGER & BETTER!

In His Own Words **Pg 04**  
Meet **NEW CEO Dr. Steve Knobl**

**RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT** **Pg 10**  
**Special Needs Services in Hillsborough**

**ELCHC Has a New LOOK!** **Pg 05**  
**ELCHC Unveils a NEW Logo along with a NEW attitude!**

See The Real Me **Pg 16**  
**Local Project Shines at National Conference**



**EARLY LEARNING**  
COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

# Contents

## NEW ELCHC CEO

Hear from new ELCHC CEO...In His Own Words



04

## PHOTO GALLERY

A few places we've been lately...



12

## NEW ELCHC LOGO

We're ready to flaunt our new look



05

## 10 THINGS

To Remember About Inclusion



06

## NEW HOME FOR IECP

Institute to relocate to new space



22

**04** **NEW ELCHC CEO**  
A message from new CEO  
Dr. Steve Knobl

**10** **RESOURCE**  
Know your special needs  
resources & services

**16** **THE REAL ME**  
ELCHC staffers raise the bar  
at 2016 NAEYC conference

**05** **A NEW LOOK**  
We've got a new look and  
we're ready to flaunt it!

**12** **PHOTO GALLERY**  
We're in the community  
advocating for early learning

**18** **4 WAYS TO ...**  
Foster cultural sensitivity in  
your classroom

**06** **10 THINGS**  
...to remember about  
Inclusion

**14** **ELCHC NEWS**  
A few brief things we think  
you should know about

**20** **DAY OF PLAY**  
We're hosting the biggest  
play date in town!

**08** **EFFECTIVE**  
Communications can be key  
to reducing complaints

**15** **HANGIN' HANDS**  
The tradition continues as  
part of Children's Week

**22** **IECP MOVING**  
The Institute is moving to a  
new location soon.

**SEE THE REAL ME**

ELCHC team takes local project to national conference



**INTRODUCTION**

The Provider's Focus Magazine is a quarterly publication of the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC). The ELCHC is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization with its main offices located in Tampa, Florida. The Provider's Focus is printed in limited quantity and distributed across Hillsborough County, Florida. It is also available in digital format at [www.elchc.org](http://www.elchc.org) in the Publications area of the website.

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**SUBMISSION INFO**

If you would like to submit an article to be included in the Provider's Focus, listed below are the submission deadlines and requirements for the 2017 publication year.

Articles should include the author's name, affiliation and title and be typed, double spaced in 11 or 12 point Arial, Calibri or Times Roman font. Any accompanying photos or artwork should be in high resolution JPEG format (at least 300 dpi) and sent as a separate attachment along with the article (not inserted in the article). Photo releases should accompany any photo submissions. Submit all to [twhite@elchc.org](mailto:twhite@elchc.org) by noted deadlines. Please note that submission does not guarantee publication.

Submission Deadline	For Issue	Will Hit Mailboxes:
January 11, 2017	Spring 2017 (Jan/Feb/Mar)	Mid-February 2017
April 12, 2017	Summer 2017 (Apr/May/June)	Mid-May 2017
July 12, 2017	Fall 2017 (July/Aug/Sept)	Mid-August 2017
October 11, 2017	Winter 2017 (Oct/Nov/Dec)	Mid-November 2017



# The CEO

in his own words

I'm Dr. Steve Knobl, the new CEO at the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County. I arrived at the ELCHC in mid-September and by the time this issue of the Provider's Focus Magazine goes to print I will have been on the job for several months — and a lot will have happened in that short time!

I'm excited to come on board during this time of change and renewal. In this issue and in the coming months the Coalition is launching its new brand! We will have unveiled a new logo, tagline and a new paradigm of service delivery, all aimed at modernizing our organization and fine tuning our internal and external service delivery. I sincerely hope that you have felt the effect of these positive changes that are happening at the Coalition.

Since my first day, I have been making a concerted effort to reach out to our provider community. I have had the privilege of visiting with many of our providers and touring their programs and I will continue to touch base with programs throughout the year. I look forward to meeting as many of our providers as possible. If you're at our office feel free to stop in and say hello.

We have wonderful plans in store for you and I, and the rest of the ELCHC team, look forward to serving you.



Top-goal: **connecting**  
with our providers



< Dr. Knobl visiting HCC Child Development Center in Ybor City. Pictured: Dr. Steve Knobl, Marni Fuentes, Eunice Lopez, and Sandra Show.



^ Dr. Knobl visiting SeeSaw Junction Learning Center. Pictured: Lissette Godwin, Stacey Francois, Dr. Steve Knobl, Janice Albury and Dr. Daphne Fudge.



# WE'VE GOT A NEW LOOK!

AND WE'RE READY TO FLAUNT IT!



**Above:** The new ELCHC logo is bright, vibrant and places emphasis on the words early learning. The new logo icon is an abstract representation of a brain that also has its own symbolism.

**B**y now you've seen our new logo here and there, but not everywhere. But in this issue we are ecstatic to officially unveil our new logo to our provider community! We're excited because this new logo is more than just a visual makeover! We've got a new attitude to match!

It's hard to believe, but the Coalition has been in existence for just over 15 years and like any organization, periodically we take a look within and sometimes discover that we need to make some changes for the better. And that's what we're doing. You all have seen some technology upgrades over the last several months that were put in place to improve your overall experience in doing business with the Coalition. You've seen some job titles change and our overall service delivery model change to ensure that our services to you, our parents and our community are 'top notch' and personalized.

See **'New Look'**, continued on Page 7

“**POTENTIAL  
STARTS HERE**”



# 10 Things to Remember About Inclusion

by Shabel Santiago, M.S., Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, Inc.

**1** A child has special needs, they are not a special needs child. Use “person first” language and avoid labels. A disability does not define someone, it is a small part of who they are and what they have to offer.

**2** It’s the law! The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990 to ensure persons with a disability receive equal civil rights and protection. This means that providers must make reasonable accommodations to support those with a disability to be able to participate in their program.

**3** Inclusion is easier than you think and you

may already be doing it. Using accommodations in your classroom such as visuals, rearranging space, using different materials, and allowing extra time to complete an activity are all types of strategies to support inclusion.

**4** Inclusion strategies benefit all children in your classroom—not just one. You may start off with an accommodation for one child and find that your whole class benefits.

**5** Inclusion promotes individual development, confidence, and self-esteem in children.

**6** Families benefit from inclusion by seeing their

child interact with peers. It decreases a sense of isolation and increases a sense of belonging.

**7** Inclusion can be used as a learning opportunity to teach children about diversity and empathy.

**8** It increases knowledge about child development, accommodations, and inclusion strategies. This benefits providers, families, and children.

**9** Inclusion is an opportunity for collaboration and relationship building between providers and families. Families and providers can work together as a team to best meet a child’s needs.

**10** By providing support, a child with special needs has access to participate in all activities and doesn’t miss out on any learning opportunities and fun in your classroom!

References:

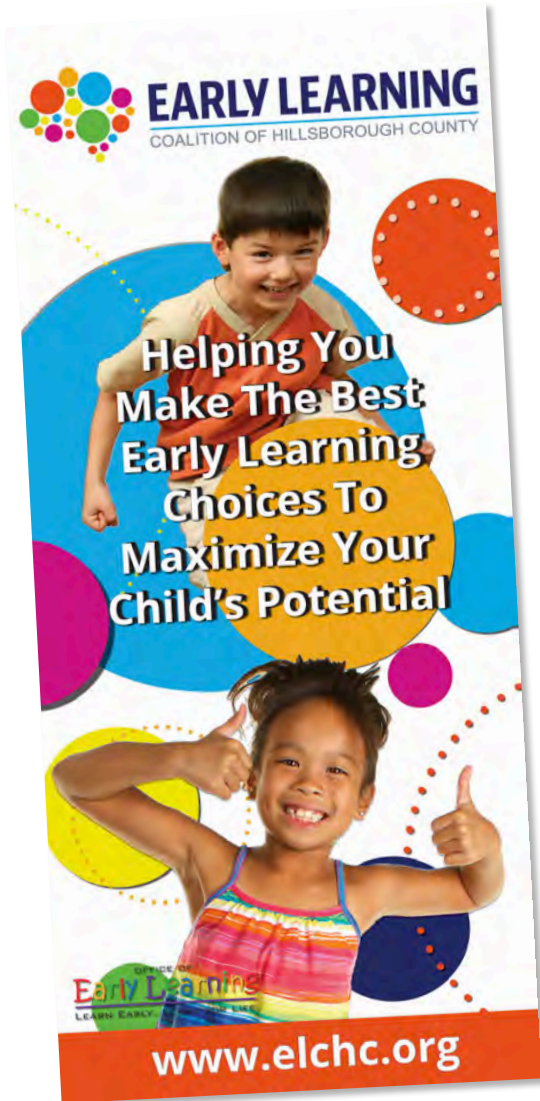
Wood, Karren Ikeda & Youcha Victoria; 2009 *The ABC’s of the ADA: Your Early Childhood Program’s Guide to the American’s with Disabilities Act*, Baltimore, Maryland; Brookes Publishing

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; U.S. Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division; *Commonly Asked Questions About Child Care Center and The Americans with Disabilities Act* <http://www.ada.gov/childq%26a.htm>

*Early Childhood Inclusion: A Joint Position Statement of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* [https://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/DEC\\_NAEYC\\_EC\\_updatedKS.pdf](https://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/DEC_NAEYC_EC_updatedKS.pdf)



'New Look', continued from Page 5



Little by little we have revealed the new logo and tagline through our newly designed brochures and give-away items (as seen here on this page). We hope that you embrace our new look and continue to work with us as we grow and change for the BETTER! Like our new tagline says, Potential Starts Here!

Not only do we see endless potential for the families and children that we serve, but for ourselves as well. Our provider community is important to us. In many ways, you are our co-workers — caring for and serving our most important citizens!

As you continue to read through this issue of the Focus magazine you will see a difference as well as new features and changes!



*On this page you see some of our new display items and give-aways. Top left: the ELCHC retractable stand banner used at community events. Top right: the new ELCHC blue tote bag. Lower left: our signature crayons which are handed out to little ones at community events. These are just a few of our new collateral items. Stay tuned for more.*





# EFFECTIVE Communication

## REDUCING THOSE PESKY COMPLAINTS

by Angela Chowning, Manager, Hillsborough Child Care Licensing

### 318 Complaints in FY15-16

In FY 2015/2016, the Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing Office investigated 318 complaint allegations against child care facilities and family child care homes. In the first quarter of FY 2016/2017, the agency has already investigated 109. If the current pace continues, we will exceed last year's numbers in no time flat!

Interestingly enough, child care providers can spot a complaint form in the hands of a Licensing Inspector with the vision of an eagle before the representative gets into the front door! At that point, the provider's anxiety is on high alert wondering who could have called to complain. Was it a parent? A staff member? An ex staff member? However, providers may also need to look within to see what part they play in this puzzle.



### Assessing the Real Issue



Consider this. There will always be people out there who purposely call in false complaints and set out to cause providers heartache. However, we have found that regardless of the source, the majority of the complaints reported are due to two huge factors: Poor customer service and/or poor communication.

Let's tackle the first one: Customer Service. A wise person once said, "Good customer service may not be remembered, but a business that exhibits bad customer service will never live it down." With that in mind, take a good look at the staff dynamics of your business. Is the first person that a parent encounters in the morning and in the evening, the face of your business? Are they the type of person that can be friendly even when they don't feel like it? Do your teachers know to greet each child in the morning when they arrive in their classroom? Is the person answering the business phone trained on what to say and how to say it? All of these instances play a key role in how parents and others determine how well your business is doing, and whether or not they feel comfortable leaving their children in your care.

The second factor, Poor Communication, can not only be illustrated through our conversations, but through your written documents as noted on the following page.





## PARENT HANDBOOKS

The handbook should be given to and reviewed with the parents upon enrollment. It's best to start off your new relationship with each family with everyone understanding the expectations regarding payment, medication, health forms, food service, transportation, etc.



## ACCIDENT REPORTS

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this one factor leads to more complaints than all other factors combined! Generally, this plays out with the parent taking the child home and noticing an injury and no one from the facility or family child care home mentioning it to them verbally or otherwise. That's when the wheels start turning. How did this happen? Was my child being supervised? Why did the teacher not bring it to my attention? It is essential that providers document all injuries on an accident report to avoid this type of speculation. Remember, injuries must be documented on the day of the occurrence and signed by the parent or guardian that same day.



## STAFF HANDBOOKS

Following the same premise as the parent handbook, this should be reviewed with new staff members upon employment. An orientation to your requirements for dress code, attendance, your policy for disciplining children, lesson plan expectations, etc. is crucial!

*Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing regulates the operations of child care centers and family child care homes in Hillsborough County. We conduct periodic inspections, investigate complaints filed against these facilities, and take enforcement action as deemed necessary. Information packets and classes on starting child care facilities and family day care homes are provided to local residents.*

Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing  
3152 Clay Mangum Lane  
Tampa, FL 33618  
Phone: (813) 264-3925 ext.53565

Angela Chowning, Manager



**Hillsborough  
County Florida**



## Knowing Your Local Resources Makes You a Better Teacher

# Resource: Special Needs Services

*By Joanne S. Manwaring, Ph.D., Supervisor of Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Education Hillsborough County Public Schools*

The Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) Early Childhood Program comprised of School Readiness, Head Start and Pre-K Exceptional Education, embraces inclusive opportunities for all children. Whenever possible and appropriate, the program seeks to educate children together in their natural environments. The Program encourages preschool teachers and childcare providers to learn instructional strategies to teach and support all children through many professional development opportunities.

As part of the Early Childhood Program, the Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Program provides instruction to approximately 3,000 children ages three to five identified with developmental delays or disabilities through a continuum of services. The services range from weekly to a full school day based on the needs of the individual child.

Children are identified for services through an evaluation process. If a family has developmental concerns about their child,



and a screening is requested. Children are screened by an assessment team member and interventions are offered to support the child at the child care center as well as at home. When children have significant delays, they are referred for further evaluation by a HCPS Speech/Language Pathologist and a HCPS Curriculum Specialist. Again, after the evaluation, a meeting will be held to determine eligibility for special education services and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be written if the child is found eligible. The first priority is to determine if the child can receive the services in his preschool/child care setting.

For many children, part-time, specially designed instruction is provided at their preschool or child care center in locations throughout the county. This level of service, known as Community Primary Exceptional Education Preschool Services (cPEEPS), is an inclusive, collaborative model in which the Pre-K ESE teacher works closely with the private preschool/childcare teacher to meet the child's needs on a weekly basis. The cPEEPS teacher works in the classroom with the identified child, sometimes individually, sometimes in a small group or in the large group. The private preschool/childcare teacher and the cPEEPS teacher plan activities and instruction that support the young child with special needs within the context of this inclusive classroom. The cPEEPS teacher is available for consultation to share special education strategies and interventions. There are now eight (8) cPEEPS teachers working across the school district.

Additionally, developmentally appropriate classrooms designed to meet the needs of young children are located in 108 elementary schools and three exceptional centers. Children may

receive services in part-time (PEEPS) or full-time (iPEEPS or iPEEPS/VPK) settings depending on their individual level of need. Teaching staff include a certified teacher and a paraprofessional. Our newest level of service is available twice weekly in a two-hour format for our very youngest learners in regionally placed classrooms across the school district. We now have 32 fully inclusive classrooms identified as iPEEPS/VPK classrooms in which there are 8 children with disabilities and 8 typically developing children. These classrooms are staffed with one certified teacher and two paraprofessionals.

Across the continuum, the educational environment offers many opportunities for active learning experiences in key developmental areas that include language, fine and gross motor, socialization, self-help, and readiness skills. Intervention for individual special needs is interwoven into the Scholastic's Big Day for Pre-K curriculum as appropriate for each child. Each level of service incorporates Baby Doll Circle Time/Conscious Discipline™, the Pyramid model™ for social-emotional competence and the Teaching Strategies Gold comprehensive assessment which blends performance and portfolio assessments into the daily routine.

The goal of the Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Education Program across its continuum of services is to provide early intervention to improve each child's level of functioning, promote full engagement and enjoyment of a child's preschool experience and enhance successful entry into Kindergarten, with appropriate support based on individual need.

they can make an appointment for a developmental screening sponsored by the Early Childhood Council (ECC) and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS) by calling (813) 837-7723. After the screening, the child may be referred for a complete evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation, a meeting will be held to determine eligibility for special education services and an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be written if the child is found eligible.

The School Readiness Program provides screening and evaluation services. Here, children may be identified as having suspected developmental delays by their parent/guardian or child care provider





# ELCHC Photo Gallery

ELCHC is THE trusted early learning resource in Hillsborough County! Our Board and staff are in the community highlighting the benefits, importance and power of quality early learning!

**01** ELCHC Dir. of Organizational Development, Bobbi Davis at Oct. 20th Annual Lights on Afterschool at USF.

**02** ELCHC CEO Steve Knobl at HCC Dale Mabry Child Development Center with Marni Lebowitz-Fuente and staff.

**03** Shabel Santiago of Early Childhood Council & Abby Perez of ELCHC's Family Services at Mental Health Summit

**04** ELCHC Board Member Dr. Daphne Fudge visits King's Kids Christian School with Dr. Knobl and Stacey Francois.

**05** Dr. Knobl with community activist and supporter Liz Kennedy at Dr. Knobl's welcome reception.

**06** ELCHC CEO Dr. Steve Knobl visits Layla's House & the Community Garden in the Sulphur Springs neighborhood.

**07** ELCHC's COO Karen Perkins, Stacey Francois, Hannah Goble & CEO Steve Knobl at 2016 NAEYC conference.

**08** A happy prize winner from ELCHC's table at the Tampa Bay Mom's Fall Fest at Brandon Mall!

**9** ELCHC Board Chair Aakash Patel & CEO Steve Knobl on ABC's Morning Blend to talk about responsible kids.

**10** ELCHC Board Chair Aakash Patel & Steve Knobl at Lightning Foundation breakfast with team owner, Jeff Vinick.

**11** CEO Steve Knobl met with Sam Reiner of the Tampa Bay Lightning to discuss partnership opportunities.



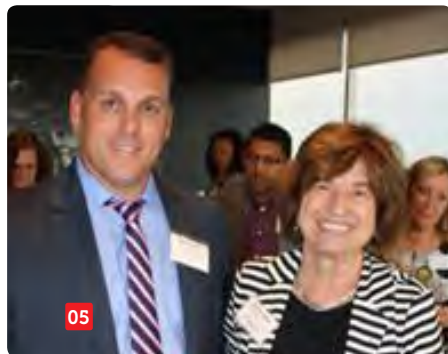
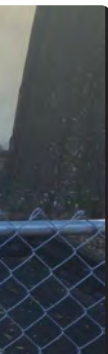
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04



08





# elchcnews

latest ideas • what's up • keep up to date • in the know



## A Few Things You Really Need to Know

*Things change quickly, make sure you're in the know*

by Tracie White

As early learning professionals, there is much to do and much to know! This section of our magazine attempts to give you snippets of things that are happening in the early childhood arena! We're helping you keep your ear to the ground!

### NOVEMBER IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MONTH

Did you know that November is Family Engagement Month? During the month of November, and beyond, we challenge you to celebrate the important role parents and families play in their children's education. When school and families work together to support learning, children are more motivated to succeed in school and in life. If you're having trouble incorporating creative and productive ways to engage parents in

your program, the ELCHC has trainings devoted to the topic and we can direct you to resources, like our VROOM initiative which can be used in the classroom and as a parent engagement tool!

### HEALTH & SAFETY CHECKLISTS

In late October 2016, Florida's new Health and Safety Checklists and inspections rules became final. It requires at least one inspection each year for all child care providers offering the School Readiness

Program. The inspections will begin in mid-November. To learn more about the changes, providers can visit the main provider page on the ELCHC website. We have links to all the details.

### ARE YOU GETTING PROVIDER NOTES?

Provider Notes is ELCHC's email alerts and notices publication for our provider community. It provides you will real-time notifications about things that impact you as an early learning professional and/or a contracted program with the Early Learning Coalition of

Hillsborough County. Signing up to receive Provider Notes is easy — just go to the main provider page on elchc.org and enter your name and email address! Don't be the last to know - SIGN UP TODAY! It's FREE.

### WE HAVE EXTENDED HOURS!

To better assist families and providers, we offer extended hours every Tuesday at our Dale Mabry and IECP locations. Family and Provider Services staff are available until 7:30 pm to assist you and your families however you need. Call or visit.



# HANGING OF THE HANDS

THE TRADITION CONTINUES AS PART OF 2017 CHILDREN'S WEEK EVENTS

## Artwork Instructions

Please follow the artwork instructions exactly to ensure that your hand art is displayed!

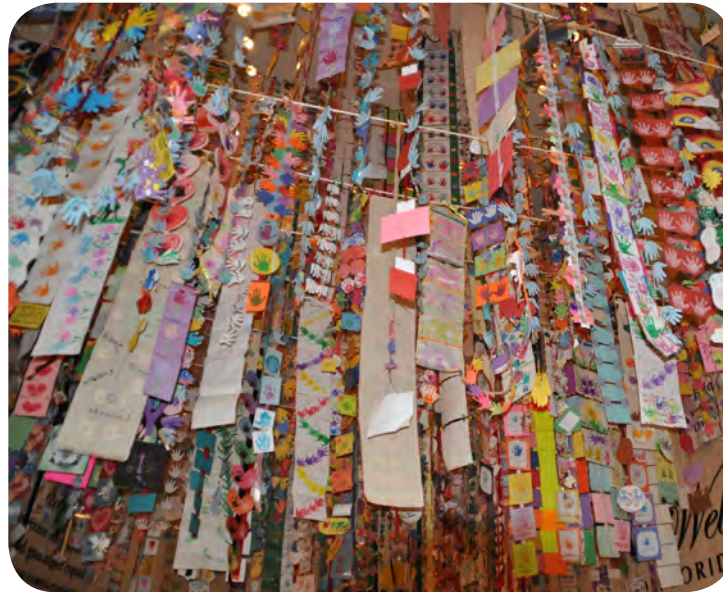
- Artwork is to be stapled onto string or ribbon vertically.
- String or ribbon must be in lengths of eight (8) to ten (10) feet. If longer, it will be cut.
- Hand art must be strung together and secured.

### Please Note:

- Do NOT send individual hands.
- Do NOT send large signs (larger than 11x14).
- Please ensure hands are secured firmly to string/ribbon.

Tens of thousands of paper cut-outs of children's hands are hung in the Florida State Capitol Rotunda annually during Children's Week as an amazing display of advocacy for early childhood care and education. The hand art is decorated by children and their teachers, and collected at child care centers and school across the state - each piece of art as unique and individual as each child that made them.

This vivid display hangs in the Rotunda as reminder to legislators and advocates that we must take care of our most precious commodity – our children.



Schools, child care centers and individuals from across the state have been submitting hands to hang at the Capitol for many years, and we encourage everyone to participate in this time honored tradition. Besides, Hillsborough turns in some of the most awesome hands of all the Coalitions thanks to our provider community!

## Give Us a Hand

From January 23, 2017 to March 24, 2017 Children's Week staff invites you to share your hand artwork photos via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #GiveUsAHand. All who participate will be entered to win one of many wonderful prizes.

### How to Participate

1. **Design Hand Art**  
Get crafty and involve parents!
2. **Take a photo**  
Snap pics of the art
3. **Share your photo**  
Get on social media and share those pics
4. **Win Prizes**  
Enter by tagging - #GiveUsAHand and @Childrensweek

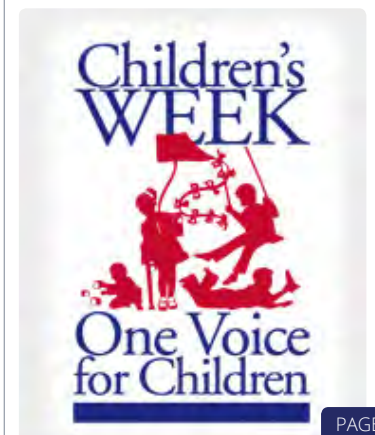
**Sunday, March 26 to  
Friday, March 31, 2017**

## DEADLINE TO SUBMIT HANDS

If you would like to support this effort, please have your hands submitted by **4:00 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017**. Deliver or mail the hands to:

The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County  
Attention: Brittany Burke  
6800 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 158  
Tampa, FL 33614

WE WILL MAKE SURE THEY GET TO TALLAHASSEE ON TIME!





# SEE

ELCHC staff set a new standard at the 2016 NAEYC National Conference in LA! Their poster board depicting their work with a local center received countless rave reviews.

STORY BY **Stacey Francois & Hannah G**  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Brittany Burke**





# THE REAL ME

## Using Loose Parts from Nature to Create Self-Portraits

Goble

**C**oalition team members Stacey Francois and Hannah Goble, two of our professional development specialists that work in the Institute, created an incredible presentation which made its national debut at this year's 2016 NAEYC Conference. The duo worked with the overall concept of the project was to engage children focused on strategies and skills that promoted experimentation with self-esteem, self concept, and self-identity. The children used loose parts found within their environment to express their artistic creativity as they developed their self-portraits. Over the course of a week, the pair worked closely with center staff and documented the process with over 600 photos!

**T**he purpose of the project was to demonstrate how self-portraits provide children with a sense of identity, awareness of who they are in the world, and how they change over time. The activity of creating an image of themselves prompts the realization of self-concept. Self-concept refers to likenesses and differences between themselves and other." (Marsh, Craven, & Debus, 1998) In order for children to define and appreciate the traits that make others unique, and Goble first have the ability to define their own. Francois and Goble worked closely with center staff and the children's parents during the project. "This was an exciting process that took on a life of its own," said Francois. "Everyone involved, adults and children, walked away with some new insights. We're very pleased with the results."

See "Real Me" continued on page 19



# CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

ELCHC Professional Development Specialist, **Annie Brown** offers you 4 easy ways to foster cultural sensitivity in your early learning classroom.



Early childhood educators usually find themselves working with multiple family cultures within the same classroom. *Culture* refers to the “traditions, values, beliefs, and rituals, shared amongst a group of people. Because early childhood programs work with families from a range of diverse backgrounds, teachers are tasked with being culturally sensitive or increasing their sensitivity to various family dynamics, languages, and customs.

“Cultural sensitivity” is being aware that cultural differences and similarities between people exist without judging or placing them in categories of either positive or negative, better or worse, right or wrong. Together with families, teachers of young children play a critical role in providing the framework for supporting the development of respect and inclusion of differences among people. Below are four ways that may assist early childhood educators in nurturing cultural sensitivity in the classroom.

**Express an interest in the ethnic background of the children.** A teacher’s knowledge of different cultures plays an important role in their ability to be sensitive to the beliefs, values, and customs of families. Teachers should learn about the various cultures in the geographic regions of the school including those of each child in the classroom. Taking the time to learn about family traditions builds relationships and

provides opportunities for families to become involved in the classroom community and activities. Some things that may help one understand about different cultures includes attending in-service professional development training that supports your intentions, reading books, searching the Internet, inviting families for show-and-tell, story-telling and exploring different foods and dancing. Remember to always respect the wishes of the families and their willingness or not to embrace your efforts.

**Become more aware of their own biases that may influence their teaching practices.** If the classroom is to function as a culturally sensitive community, the teacher must demonstrate and model sensitivity, inclusiveness and respect, regardless of how the children and families values, beliefs, etc., differs from their own family or traditions. The teacher’s willingness to examine their own possible biases is an important step that will allow them to develop a better understanding of the children’s backgrounds and perspective, and provide insight in understanding the roots of stereotypes and prejudice in our society. Take time to reflect on what hidden bias you bring to the classroom that may affect your instructional leadership and interaction with children, families and program staff.

See "**Sensitivity**" continued on page 24



"Real Me" continued from page 17



**M**ethodology: The inspiration for the self-portrait project came from Kamna Raj's quote related to how children develop their identities, "Art is a medium through which a child expresses his/her thoughts, feelings and fantasies. A child's artwork depicts her/her perception of the world around him/her." To promote the topic of how children view themselves, various situations were presented to the children throughout a multi-day project. They were intended to help children identify the features that are unique to themselves. In order for children to understand those unique features, discussions prompted children to think about differences in skin tones, textures, shapes and contours. Once the children defined their own features, the children gathered materials from nature to use as a representation of their faces in a self-portrait.

**A**bout the Program: Alphabet Learning Center is a licensed child care center in Tampa, FL. The program has been operating for over 25 years with director/owner, Shirley Grimaldo. Originally from Columbia, Shirley holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, as well as an Advanced Director's Credential recognized by the state of Florida. The program currently maintains a STAR Level 5 with the local quality initiative program sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County.



**A**bout the Teacher: Abeliks (Abby) Sorino is the VPK (Voluntary PreKindergarten) lead teacher at Alphabet Learning Center. She has been employed at the program for 18 years. Abby has worked with children of all ages and holds a Child Development Associates certificate. She also participates in local professional development coaching initiative using the Creative Curriculum.

For details regarding the methodology used for this project, programs may contact Stacey Francois and/or Hannah Goble at (813) 280-0800. Our special thanks to the parents, children and staff at Alphabet Learning Center.





# QUARTERLY PROVIDER MEETINGS

We are very excited to announce the beginning of what we hope will be a valuable and anticipated event for our provider community.

The first of regular Quarterly Provider Meetings will begin on **Saturday, January 7, 2017 at the HCC Dale Mabry Campus Auditorium, 9 am to Noon.** While the agenda for the meeting is still being arranged,

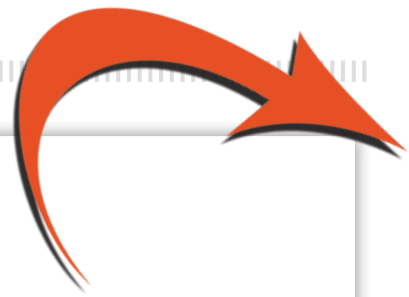
we can tell you that you will walk away with valuable and usable information on topics like contracting and the Provider Portal.

Providers will also have an opportunity to connect with ELCHC Provider Services staff as well as pick up some resources that you may share with your staff and the families.

The meetings aren't mandatory, but we hope that you will join us. Most of the details about the meetings will come out via our provider email updates called *Provider Notes*. If you are not signed up to receive Provider Notes, you should sign up today! Simply go to the ELCHC website at [www.elchc.org](http://www.elchc.org) and click on the main provider page. You'll see an area for you to enter your information to begin getting the email alerts! We will also post short notices about the meetings on the ELCHC Provider Portal. Be a part of the conversation!



DOWNLOAD EVENT  
FLYER TO SHARE



## YEP! WE'RE HOSTING THE BIGGEST PLAY DATE IN TOWN!

The Coalition is hosting a **Day of Play** for our entire community on Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 10 am to 3pm in Al Lopez Park! This free event is devoted to highlighting the benefits and value of play in early learning.

This free family centered event will have entertainment, prize drawings, food trucks and outdoor games.

Hillsborough early learning programs will be invited to have a table at this event. Programs will not have to pay for tables, but they will be required to conduct a play activity for the

families in attendance. This will also be an opportunity for programs to present their quality early learning programs and services to parents as well as connect with one another!

Programs interested in having a table simply have to complete a Booth Application. Keep an eye on your mailbox for the application or download it from the main Provider page of the the ELCHC website ([www.elchc.org](http://www.elchc.org)).

Don't miss out on this epic event! Submit your booth application soon!

SAVE  
THE  
DATE



**EARLY LEARNING**  
COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



MARCH 12

AL LOPEZ  
PARK

10 AM to  
3 PM

# DAY of PLAY

HILLSBOROUGH'S BIGGEST PLAY DATE

**PLAY IS LEARNING! LEARNING IS FUN!**  
Bring your family out for a glorious day of play and learn how the simple act of playing can help your child grow and learn. Families with young children will enjoy a day of live entertainment, prize drawings and plenty of outdoor games. Come and learn about the value of play!

**FREE**

**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**PRIZES**  
**OUTDOOR GAMES**





## NEW DIGS

It's an empty shell now, but we have a vision for IECP and it will take shape as contractors begin to revamp the space! Stay tuned! Stay connected!



## HOT STORY IECP relocating to Dale Mabry



### < Reconstruction on the new site for the IECP is just beginning,

As construction crews clean and clear out the new space, ELCHC is putting the final touches on the move and getting excited about a brand new IECP.

# A NEW HOME FOR THE INSTITUTE



We're giving providers a heads up – the Institute for Early Childhood Professionals (IECP), or as its widely known, "*The Institute*," will be moving to a brand new space with a brand new look and feel.

**J**anuary 17, 2017 is the target date for the new IECP space to be completed and opened for business.

This relocation comes as a result of the Coalition's phenomenal growth over the past year, as well as the redesign of the ELCHC service delivery paradigm.

The Institute will be closed December 26, 2016 thru January 6, 2017 for all services except LiveScan and family VPK enrollment.

However, the IECP will close fully from January 9 - 13, 2017 for the actual move of the staff and facility.

Providers should plan their visits to the IECP accordingly and advise their parents of this change.

The new location for the IECP will be next to the Dale Mabry administrative offices at 6800 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33614. The entrance to the IECP will be at suite 134. Stay tuned for details about the grand reopening event.

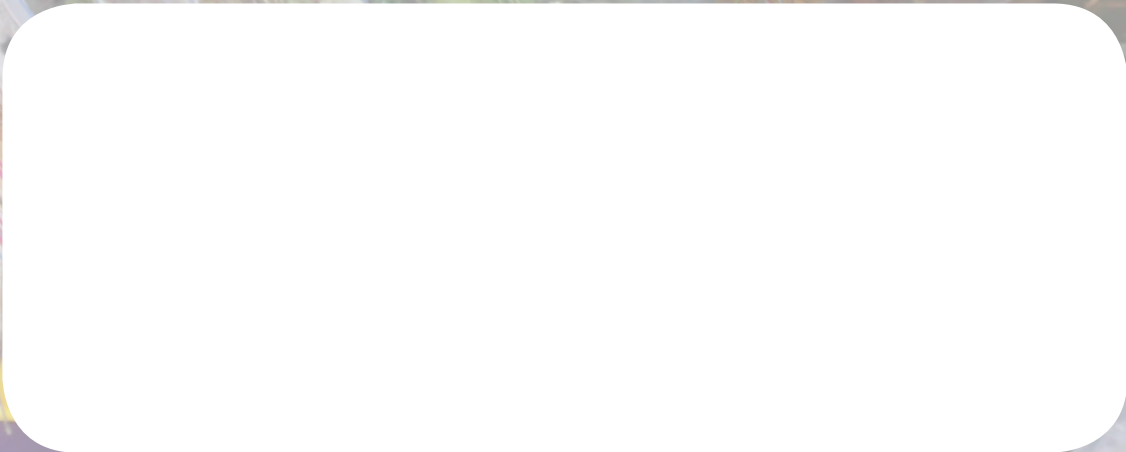




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COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

6800 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 158, Tampa, FL 33614

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*"Sensitivity," continued from page 18*

**Assist children with recognizing differences and some similarities.** Allow children to explore different cultures and create opportunities for them to explore how people with different customs often share some common similarities. Use those “teachable moments” to discuss differences and similarities as they arise during classroom large group time. Make sure that the cultures of families represented in the classroom are part of the discussions. Incorporate activities such as various culture dress wear, foods, music, books and stories that represent different cultures within the classroom community. Avoid making assumptions of groups because they share a culture or racial background. It is important that we learn to accept and respect other culture differences just as we expect others to respect our traditions and customs.

**Maintain a curriculum that promotes inclusion and respect for differences.** Children are not born with prejudices; it is a practice that they develop. If children are exposed to stereotyping, prejudices and discrimination, they will embrace these practices in their world. As early as toddlerhood young children have developed a sense of self, of belonging, gender and racial identity (Ramsey, 2004). The core of an effective inclusive curriculum is that it represents, accepts and respects the differences of all cultures. A curriculum that promotes inclusion assist in the development of children’s identity and self- esteem and empowers and equips them with the tools needed to respond appropriately to bias.

As educators we can introduce children to differences and teach them to respect and value people regardless of the color of their skin, their physical abilities, the language they speak, or the clothes they wear. These differences make us special and are the reasons we celebrate each other. It is the world that we live in—a multicultural one and we should utilize every possible opportunity to teach children love and acceptance of all. 