

# IN THE LOOP



The ELC Brevard Coalition publication and go-to resource  
for Teachers and Early Learning Partners

February 2023

Issue No. 26

*Celebrating  
Black History Month*



*Valentine's Day*

***It's Open Enrollment***

***Don't forget to continually update your slot vacancy information!***

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



**Presented by**  
*Chinaka Grizzle*  
Professional Development Specialist  
ELCB



**Foreword - Laura Gambino**

Chief Executive Officer - page 2

**News, reminders & updates**

Harriet Paredes - page 3

Director of Provider Services

**Program Assessment & Professional Development**

Priscilla Ramos - Administrator - page 4

**Early Intervention - page 5**

Beth Arthur - Administrator

**Monitoring & Compliance - page 6**

Margaret Leddin - Administrator

**CCR&R Updates - page 6**

**Teacher of The Month - page 7**

**Mrs. Paige Duguay - Kid City USA Melbourne**

**Using Open-Ended Prompts to Deepen Language**

**Modeling Interactions- pages 8**

Lisa Diggs - Professional Development

**Celebration of Hands - Page 9**

**Crafty Corner - Page 10**

Valentines Crafts

**Black History Month Crafts - Page 11**

**Calendar Dates - Page 12**

**Staff Contacts- page 13**



**Laura Gambino**

**MPA, CECD**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**It's February and that means it's Black History Month!**

**We recognize and celebrate the contributions**

**and achievements of Black and African American**

**individuals and communities. In the spirit of LOVE, we**

**celebrate and acknowledge all of our Black and**

**African American individuals and communities.**

**Here at ELC Brevard, we are fortunate to be able to do**

**what we LOVE every day - that is to support our**

**Providers in developing and sustaining the BEST Early**

**Learning facilities for Brevard's children and families.**

**As such we are delighted and excited to roll out the**

**new Professional Development initiatives and**

**retention incentives for our Providers and Teachers.**

**We strive to be a part of your success! For the latest**

**updates and training opportunities please check our**

**ELCB website at [www.elcbrevard.org](http://www.elcbrevard.org) and our**

**Facebook page.**

**Thank you to our Providers and Families who make**

**Early Learning truly special!**

## Good day Brevard providers-

- ARPA Round 2- deadline to apply by February 28th, 2023.
- The Division of Early Learning is investing its American Recover Plan (ARP) Act dollars in building a World Class Workforce.

ELCB is working on coordinating the facilitation of this program.

Please follow outlined steps 1 & 2 below.



**Step 1: View video below for an overview of Bonus & stipend Program:**

[ELC ARPA Module Overview - YouTube](#)

**Step 2: Join ELCB on one of several Information Sessions:**

### ARPA Workforce Trainings & Workshops

#### Information Sessions

Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	1:00pm- 2:00pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	3:30pm- 4:30pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
Thursday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023	1:00pm- 2:00pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
Thursday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023	3:30pm- 4:30pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>

## News, reminders & updates



**Harriet H. Paredes**  
Director of Provider Services

### Grants currently available:

**Stage 1: Monday, February 6th- ELCB will launch platform for providers to complete Eligibility Request(s), once Reviewed by ELCB, and if Approved, Provider may then submit request for the two bonuses below:**

#### 1. **Recruitment Bonus \$500:**

- Early Learning Educators (ELEs), employed on/after July 1, 2022,
- Background screening (dated on/after July 1, 2022)
- Worked at least 120 hours.

#### 1. **Health and Safety Bonus \$700:**

- Early Learning Educators (ELEs), employed on/after July 1, 2022,
- Completion of the Department of Children & Family (DCF) 45 Hour Introductory Training.
- Exams and courses completed on/after July 1, 2022.

**CLASS Bonus Sign Up - Coming Soon!**



# Program Assessment & Professional Development



**Priscilla Ramos**  
**Provider Services Administrator**

## Program Assessment & Professional Development Team:-

**Priscilla Ramos - Provider Services Administrator**  
[pramos@elcbrevard.org](mailto:pramos@elcbrevard.org)  
321 423-7439

**Lisa Diggs**  
Professional Development  
Specialist  
[ldiggs@elcbrevard.org](mailto:ldiggs@elcbrevard.org)  
321 210-6188

**Chinaka Grizzle**  
Professional Development  
Specialist  
[cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org](mailto:cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org)  
321 210-6629

**Hayden Epstein**  
VPK Behavioral Coach  
[hepstein@elcbrevard.org](mailto:hepstein@elcbrevard.org)

**Lauren Detweiler -**  
Provider Services Coordinator  
[ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org](mailto:ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org)  
321 358-4002

Dear Wonderful Providers,

We hope you all are doing well. **February** is here and lots of events are happening this month from Valentine's Day to honoring our Presidents. We hope you all have a wonderful month.

Just a couple of friendly reminders, when registering for our trainings if you cannot attend, please contact us so we can permit other participants to join our trainings, this also applies to our face-to-face trainings please notify us if you are unable to attend.

QPS monthly rosters are due the last day of each month, with the exception if you are currently on a Quality Improvement Plan you will not be able to complete the roster until your plan has been completed. With regards to **Teacher emails, please update your teacher email addresses on QPS** as it helps us to contact them personally with training information and newsletter distribution.

As always feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes to you all,  
Professional Development team



## Certified Coaching Hour - REMINDER

Effective on **February 7th**, next scheduled **Tuesday Certified Coaching Hour** and all Tuesdays moving forward will have a maximum capacity of **twenty five (25) participants**.

Spaces will be allocated on a **first come first served basis**.  
Only the first twenty-five (25) to sign into the session will be admitted.

The intent of these sessions is for our coaches to facilitate quality learning and sharing experiences for all participants, and although we would like to accommodate additional participants, anything greater than 25 detracts from that intent.



# Early Intervention Services

## Hello Providers,

As we enter the Valentine's month filled with hearts and love, we want to remind you of the wonderful saying from Russell Barkley:

**"The kid that needs the most love will ask for it in the most un-loving ways."**

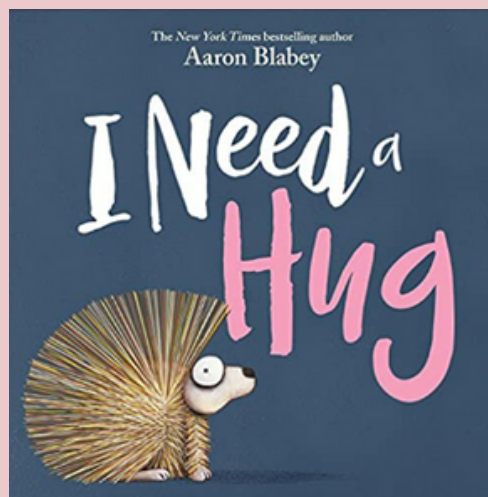
Keep this quote in your heart and mind when dealing with children who are presenting you with challenging behaviors. Remember that children are trying to communicate their needs with their behavior when their words and minds cannot.

Ask yourself :

- "What is this child trying to tell me?"
- "What need is this child trying to have met with this behavior?"
- "Is my response to this behavior filling this child's needs?"
- "As this child's teacher, am I teaching him or her another, better, way to communicate this need to me or their friends?"
- "Am I giving love to the child who is asking for it in an un-loving way?"

Please contact your Early Intervention Specialist right away when you need help with challenging behavior. You may just need help decoding what the child is trying to say to you with the behavior, or figuring out a need that is asking to be met.

**Do not expel! Give us a yell!**



<https://youtu.be/l5h5u6DOpSQ>



<https://youtu.be/encEFoFdqCg>



[https://youtu.be/nYAKk-X\\_T\\_o](https://youtu.be/nYAKk-X_T_o) 5



**Beth Arthur**

**Early Intervention Administrator**

## Early Intervention Team:-

**Beth Arthur -**  
[barthur@elcbrevard.org](mailto:barthur@elcbrevard.org)  
Early Intervention Administrator

**Tammy Giest -**  
[tgiest@elcbrevard.org](mailto:tgiest@elcbrevard.org)  
Early Intervention Specialist

**Lakia King -**  
[lking@elcbrevard.org](mailto:lking@elcbrevard.org)  
Early Intervention Specialist

**Kim Kohler -**  
[kkohler@elcbrevard.org](mailto:kkohler@elcbrevard.org)  
Early Intervention Specialist

# Monitoring & Compliance

Some reminders from the compliance team:

- Upload quarter 4 for proof of unemployment insurance to the center's profile (document tab).
- Ensure all other documents are current on profile and VPK application (license, insurances, background screening, VPK teacher credentials).
- The PM2 administration dates in Renaissance are default dates. If you need assistance figuring out the administration dates for PM2 please email me, my contact information is Margaret Leddin, [mleddin@elcbrevard.org](mailto:mleddin@elcbrevard.org).

**Margaret Leddin,**  
Provider Services Administrator  
[mleddin@elcbrevard.org](mailto:mleddin@elcbrevard.org)  
321 604-1583

**Ridhi Uppal,**  
Compliance Specialist  
[rupal@elcbrevard.org](mailto:rupal@elcbrevard.org)  
321 604-1586

**Christina Clicquot,**  
Compliance Specialist  
[cclicquot@elcbrevard.org](mailto:cclicquot@elcbrevard.org)  
321 626-3179

**Yesenia Boris,**  
Compliance Specialist  
[yboris@elcbrevard.org](mailto:yboris@elcbrevard.org)  
321 446-4771

## CCR&R - Updates



Are you a parent with questions about child care services available to your child? The statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network can help. The Division of Early Learning partners with 30 early learning coalitions. Each coalition has a local CCR&R team that provides services to families, child care providers and communities. To find a CCR&R program in your area contact 1-866-357-3239 or contact your local [early learning coalition](#).

### VPK Program Highlights

- High-quality educational program with an early literacy focus.
- Free for all 4-year-olds who reside in the state of Florida.
- Participating children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1.
- Parents whose children are born from February 2 through September 1 of a calendar year may choose to enroll their child either that year or the next when the child is 5, prior to being enrolled in kindergarten.
- Parent choice is a priority. Both private and public child care providers participate.



If you would like to learn more about Florida's VPK program, contact your local [early learning coalition](#).

To register for the 2023-2024 VPK Program year, visit the [Family Portal](#).



Florida's School Readiness Program (SR) offers financial assistance to help children receive high-quality childcare and education so their parents can work or participate in job training. The program recognizes parents and caregivers as their child's first teacher. To apply for the SR Program, visit the [Family Portal](#).



# Teacher of the Month

February 2023

## Paige Duguay Kid City USA Melbourne

Ms Paige Duguay was nominated for ELC's **Teacher of The Month** feature by Michelle Wood, the Director at Kid City USA, who stated:

Paige Duguay is an **EXCEPTIONAL Teacher!** who we love & appreciate!

Mrs. Paige Started working with us in the childcare field in 2013, she is a very dedicated worker, always punctual, organized and clean. Paige is always there, she never calls out, she's consistently early for every shift, and we know that we can rely on her.

Mrs. Paige has been a VPK teacher for many years, however she she is multi talented and highly skilled because she can work with any age group.

Most of all Ms. Paige is an amazing Teacher because she takes the time to build relationships with her students and parents, She goes **above and beyond** all expectations. **Teamwork makes the dream work!** We are BEEyond blessed to have her!

**Fun Fact:** Mrs. Paige just recently got married! Congratulations Paige and Jimmy!



We want to recognize the amazing Teachers in your centers who have gone above and beyond.

Email your nominations with a photo and biography to [ldiggs@elcbrevard.org](mailto:ldiggs@elcbrevard.org) before the 20th of each month.

Tell us how and why your Teacher is a **SHINING STAR!** who has earned his or her place in the

**TEACHER OF THE MONTH  
HALL OF FAME**



## Using Open-Ended Prompts to Deepen Language Modeling Interactions

20 Dec 2022 by Marla Read Capper

### What are open-ended prompts?

Open-ended prompts are questions or statements that support children's verbal and nonverbal communication. The purpose of open-ended prompts is to encourage extended responses, which promote children's language development by meeting children where they are. To encourage optimal language growth for all children, educators tailor open-ended prompts to meet individual needs. For example, educators may need to provide more time and support for children to process information and then respond as they are able. The complexity of prompts should be based on children's readiness levels and communication skills.

### Why is it important to use open-ended prompts with children?

It's important for educators to ask children open-ended questions and statements like, "Tell me more about your drawing" or "What are you doing this weekend?" because they invite children to use more than one word in their response. Open-ended prompts are an important strategy that educators can use with children to open the dialogue and extend conversation, providing opportunities for children to practice language. Effective questions such as, "What is your favorite...?" or "Tell me about...?" not only encourage back-and-forth exchanges and develop communication skills, but they can also offer valuable information about children.

### How can educators grow their Language Modeling interactions by using ended prompts?

- Consider the frequency, depth, and duration of the educator-child interactions.

- Frequency—the number of times the behaviors or interactions occur.
  - Depth—the impact of the interaction on the child.
  - Duration—the length of an interaction and whether it is short-lived or sustained.
- Meet students where they are and individualize prompts.
    - Promote language by asking open-ended questions that are differentiated based on children's language abilities and communication skills.
    - Use verbal and nonverbal cues
    - Communicate in the home language, if possible.
  - Consider the wait time so that children can fully respond before moving on.
  - Use strategies to encourage children to engage in conversations with one another as they answer the open-ended prompts.

### When should educators ask open-ended prompts?

**All day long! Ideally, educators and children should participate in back-and-forth conversations all day.**

Open-ended questions or statements can lead to longer conversations while children are arriving in the morning and getting settled. It also can lead to dialogues between students, which can be helpful during arrival when there are only a few students in the room and teachers juggle managerial tasks.



# Crafty Corner

## VALENTINES CRAFTS



### Tree of LOVE!

The tree trunk is a hand shaped stencil cut out of brown paper. Students have creative freedom to stick their heart shapes on their tree! Can be a picture or a greeting card for a friend or family member



### Ladybug Craft

The only thing cuter than a ladybug craft is one that features your child's cherubic face front and center. Kids of all ages can help with this cardstock-and-glue stick craft and the end result is sweet enough to post in the mail.

## PRESCHOOL



### Roll Love Bugs

Super fun and easy Toilet Roll Love Bugs for Preschoolers to make! These adorable crafts ideas for Valentine's are very simple to put together, and the sky is the limit to how they can be designed and decorated. Too cute!

### Watercolor fun:-

This easy craft idea for Valentine's will be a hit! Use a silhouette machine to cut some vinyl heart shapes out. The vinyl would be easy to take off once the painting was finished. It was the most straightforward process! Simply stick, paint & peel



## TODDLER CRAFTS



This Valentine's craft is super simple for toddlers, try making heart stamps out of toilet paper rolls—no need to run out to the store and buy a bunch of supplies

### Fruit Loop Heart Bird Feeder - Sweet And Simple Living

So simple and easy and perfect to do at snack time. The kiddos can snack and craft at the same time. Just grab a chenille stem (pipe cleaner) and Fruit Loops. Then let the kiddos have fun stringing this cute heart-shaped craft



# Black History Month Craft

## INVENTORS



### Traffic Light Craft

This activity was inspired by African American inventor, Garrett Morgan. He invented a three-position traffic signal. Supplies

Construction paper or cardstock (green, red, yellow, black), Pencil, Scissors, Glue.

#### Directions

Draw three circles on a piece of black paper. Kids either cut or tear pieces of red, green and yellow paper.

Finally, glue them on the circles in the correct order to finish your traffic light



### Paper Clock Craft

Inspired by Benjamin Banneker. He created a striking clock completely made out of wood. Benjamin was also credited for making the first clock in America.

Most children are not familiar with analog clocks so this was a great learning activity!

Use this activity to talk about TIME and routines, show children various pictures of clock faces, digital and analog.

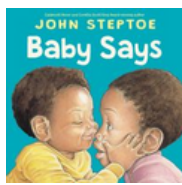
## AFRICAN MASKS

Celebrate the MOST WONDERFUL month of the year by making your very own African Mask

Supplies: \*Multiple Colors of Construction Paper, pipe cleaners, glue & creativity



## BOOKS CELEBRATING BLACK JOY



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month was created to bring attention on the contributions of people of African heritage to the United States, Canada and the UK.

Black History Month celebrates the contributions of all Black people from all periods of history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to people of African decent living in the United States, Canada and the UK today.







# Celebration of Hands



Each year, Children's Week Florida™ partners and volunteers come together to hang a larger than life visual inside the Capitol Rotunda. The display is constructed from thousands of pieces of vibrant and beautiful children's hand artwork from across the state. This incredible work of art serves as a daily reminder to legislators, advocates and visitors that the future of our children rests in their hands.

We invite you to join in on the fun and be a part of the 2023 display! Decorate and submit hands with colorful artwork, words, stories and/or pictures to share with legislators and Capitol visitors – there is no limit to your creativity!

The 2023 Celebration of the Hands will take place March 26-31, 2023, in the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee, FL. Below are helpful tips for creating hand artwork to be included in the upcoming Celebration of the Hands display:

- Your hand artwork pieces should be connected using items that will easily adhere to the large ropes used during the week-long display. This includes twine, string, yarn or wide ribbon (please do not send individual hands).

- Staple, tape and secure artwork vertically onto string or ribbon in lengths of no more than 8 feet to create the “hanging” effect.
- If you have many hands of art, please separate them and string together before mailing (no more than 8 feet per string of hands).
- You may also use the hands to create small posters to be included in the display. These should be no larger than 11” x 17”. Vertical or horizontal orientation is acceptable.
- If using glue, glitter or other embellishments, please allow 2-3 days of drying time before packaging your artwork.

Artwork must be mailed by Friday, March 10, 2023, to be included in the large display. Please mail your packages to our 2023 Partner and Community Artwork Host at the address below:

Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region  
Attn: Community Relations - Children's Week  
2639 N. Monroe Street, Bldg. C, Ste. 200,  
Tallahassee, FL 32303



# February Calendar Dates

## February Monthly Celebrations

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- National Bird Feeding Month
- National Children's Dental Health Month

### February 2

- Groundhog Day

### February 3

- National Wear Red Day
- National Women Physicians Day

### February 4

- Sweater Day

### February 9

- National Pizza Day
- Read in the Bathtub Day

### February 11

- National Make a Friend Day

### February 14

- Valentines Day

### February 15

- National Gumdrops Day
- World Hippo Day

### February 19

- Whale Day

### February 20

- Clean Out Your Bookcase Day
- National Cherry Pie Day
- National Comfy Day

### February 22

- National Walking the Dog Day

### February 26

- Tell a Fairy Tale Day

### February 27

- International Polar Bear Day



## Strawberry Fest Wickham Park



- When: Saturday, February 18, 2023, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
  - Location: 2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935
  - Cost: \$6, Kids 2 and under FREE
- Family Fun & Festivities, Plant City Strawberries, Art & Crafts, Delicious Food, Free Bounce Houses, Strawberry Shortcake, Live Entertainment, Free Rock Painting, Chocolate Covered Strawberries, Free Strawberry Relay, Strawberry Fudge, Pony Rides, Strawberry Wine Slush Mixes, Face Painting, Free Hula Hoop Contest, Strawberry Ice Cream, Free Petting Farm, Berry Cute Baby Contest, Free Sack Races, Train Rides, Free Bean Bag Toss, Yummy Treats & Much More!

## saint katherine + GREEK FESTIVAL

When: Sunday, February 26, 2023 - All Day Event  
Location: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church,  
5965 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940  
Cost: FREE  
Greek food, Greek Pastries, Live Greek Music and  
Dancing! Greek Beer & Wine. Church Tours  
Friday: 4pm-10pm Saturday: 12 pm - 10 pm  
Sunday: 12 pm - 5 pm



## AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN AT FLORIDA TECH

FLORIDA TECH, 150 W. UNIVERSITY BLVD.,  
MELBOURNE,

WILL HOST "WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED" IN THE  
EVANS LIBRARY ON FRIDAY, FEB. 10 AT 6:30  
P.M. FACULTY, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF  
THE COMMUNITY WILL HONOR THE VOICES OF  
BLACK RESISTANCE THROUGH MUSIC,  
LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.  
VISIT FIT.EDU.





# Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Staff Contacts

Melbourne Fax (321) 752-3294 Rockledge Fax (321) 637-1897  
Reception/ Main telephone: (321) 637-1800



Name	Work Cell	Email Address	Title	Assistance with
Laura Gambino	321 432-4268 x 8567	lgambino@elcbrevard.org	Chief Executive Officer	
Harriet Paredes	321 210-6595 x 2515	hparedes@elcbrevard.org	Director of Provider Services	
Amaris Rosario	321 408-8110 x 8542	arosario@elcbrevard.org	Director of Finance	
Jodi Ammons	321 626-7313 x 8541	jammons@elcbrevard.org	Director of Quality Assurance	
Eneida Colon	321 626-4485 x 8572	ecolon@elcbrevard.org	Director of Community Outreach	
Michelle Dockery	321 626-2878 x 8550	mdockery@elcbrevard.org	Director of Family Services	
Jeannie Williams	321-474-4115 x 8568	jwilliams@elcbrevard.org	Director of Executive Administration	
Priscilla Ramos	321 423-7439 x 8551	pramos@elcbrevard.org	Provider Services Administrator	Professional Development / Program Assessment
Chinaka Grizzle	321 210-6629 x 2525	cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org	Professional Development Specialist	Professional Development / Program Assessment
Lisa Diggs	321 210-6188 x 2526	ldiggs@elcbrevard.org	Professional Development Specialist	Professional Development / Program Assessment
Hayden Epstein	x 7272	hepstein@elcbrevard.org	VPK Behavioral Coach	
Lauren Detweiler	321 358-4002 x 8559	ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org	Provider Services Coordinator	Program Assessments / Contract assistance BPS
Dallas Michaud	321 626-4935 x 8562	dmichaud@elcbrevard.org	Provider Relations Coordinator	Contract - Providers A-K
Shivani Veerasami	321-408-7445 x 8574	sveerasami@elcbrevard.org	Provider Relations Coordinator	Contracts - Providers L-Z
Margaret Leddin	321 604-1583 x 2523	mleddin@elcbrevard.org	Provider Services Administrator	Monitoring & Compliance
Ridhi Uppal	321 604-1586 x 8571	ruppal@elcbrevard.org	Compliance Specialist	Monitoring & Compliance
Christina Clicquot	321 626-3179 x 2510	cclicquot@elcbrevard.org	Compliance Specialist	Monitoring & Compliance
Yesenia Boris	321 446-4771 x 2516	yboris@elcbrevard.org	Compliance Specialist	Monitoring & Compliance
Beth Arthur	321 482-3445 x 8564	barthur@elcbrevard.org	Early Intervention Administrator	Early Intervention / screening
Tammy Giest	321 626-8096 x 2514	tgiest@elcbrevard.org	Early Intervention Specialist	Early Intervention / screening
Lakia King	321 626-7424 x 2534	lking@elcbrevard.org	Early Intervention Specialist	Early Intervention / screening
Kim Kohler	321 626-8354 x 2529	kkohler@elcbrevard.org	Early Intervention Specialist	Early Intervention / screening
Kathleen Strooband	321-626-3992 x 2531	kstrooband@elcbrevard.org	Lead Family Services Specialist - Melbourne	
Paige Hoskins	321-626-6825 x 2519	phoskins@elcbrevard.org	Family Services Administrator	
Kathy filgueiras	321 626-4996 x 8543	kfilgueiras@elcbrevard.org	Lead Family Family Services Specialist - Rockledge	
Beverley Brown	321 456-8545 321 626-0376 ext. 8545	bbrown@elcbrevard.org	Reimbursement Specialist	A-K Providers
Melissa Streb	321 626-0285 ext. 8548	mstreb@elcbrevard.org	Reimbursement Specialist	L-Z Providers
Sonia Montalvo	321 626-7195 ext. 2530	smontalvo@elcbrevard.org	CCR&R Administrator	

Please check our ELC Brevard website for information, updates and trainings:-

<https://www.elcbrevard.org/p/90/calendar>

You can also find and follow Early Learning Coalition of Brevard on

<https://www.facebook.com/ELCBC>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/elcbrevard>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/elcbrevard/>

