

# In The Loop

The ELC of Brevard's go-to resource for Teachers and Early Learning Partners



**“**  
*It's Open Enrollment  
Don't forget to  
continually update  
your slot vacancy  
information!*  
**”**

## News & Updates

PRE K  
ACTIVITIES

QUALITY

TEACHER  
RESOURCES

MONITORING  
&  
COMPLIANCE

CCR&R

PROGRAM  
ASSESSMENT

PROVIDER  
SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



DIVISION OF  
**Early Learning**  
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Presented by  
*Chinaka Grizzle*  
Professional  
Development Specialist  
ELCB

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# Welcome to June 2023

## HELLO PROVIDERS,

School is out for the summer so for those Teachers and children who are on Summer Break , enjoy...do something memorable, and meaningful during this invaluable time.

However, the majority of our Providers do not stop over the summer , you are still open and delivering quality services to our children and families, we appreciate you and look forward to seeing and hearing about the wonderful summer activities taking place in you Centers over the summer months!

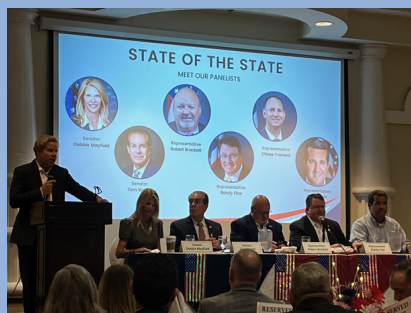
I was fortunate to attend the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce "State of the State" Brevard County Legislative update meeting on the 1st June, 23 and it was very informative as discussions at this level continue to shape and guide our work.

Happy Fathers day to all Dads' on the 18th June, we celebrate you!

Best wishes to all our Providers, Board Members and Staff Team



On Thursday, June 1st 2023, Laura Gambino (CEO), attended the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce "State of the State" Brevard County Legislative update breakfast meeting



On behalf of the entire Staff Team at the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard, we **extend well wishes** to Chief Executive Officer, **Laura Gambino**, wishing you health, strength and a very **Happy Work Anniversary !!**

Laura has diligently led our agency for four years now!! She continues to impact the agency and the community as a voice for early learning! **CONGRATULATIONS!!** Here's to many more years of service and success!!

**Provider Services Team**





# Provider Services News & Updates



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

## Greeting Providers-

It is that time in the year to renew your SR and/or VPK Contract for 23-24.

A few reminders:

- All required documents must be up to date; meet requirements (i.e., Liability Insurance lists ELCB as additional certificate holder) and verified by your Provider Relations Coordinator (PRC).
- Remember to update the closure calendar with accurate information for the upcoming program year. Some holidays move from year to year, so be sure to verify the dates of national holidays. Please note: the closure calendar is meant to capture the days your program will not accept children at all; this is different from your VPK calendar as well as your School Readiness holidays. If the closure calendar does not accurately reflect the dates your program is closed, it may cause errors on your attendance in the future.

## For School Readiness Providers

- Be sure to indicate that you have a Character Development program, as this is a requirement for SR providers (many curricula include a character development program).
- When entering your private pay rates, please do not enter “monthly” rates. Doing so will affect the weekly and daily rates and may cause confusion on your SR contract.

- Make sure the rates you entered match those on the private pay rate sheet you upload to the “Documents” tab and update the year on the rate sheet to reflect 2022-2023.
- DO NOT use “SR daily rate helper” button to calculate your SR reimbursement rates it isn’t always accurate.
- If you serve preschoolers, you must enter a Preschool 5 rate for all 5-year-olds to ensure that you will continue to receive payment for any School Readiness child in your program when their care level changes upon their 5th birthday.
- Enter part time rates if you intend to accept School Readiness children who may only be authorized for part time care or if their care level changes from Full time to Part time (Before/After school) due to starting kindergarten.

## For VPK Providers

The VPK App is not your contract. Once your VPK App is certified, then your VPK Contract will be initiated. You will need to review the VPK Contract and sign and submit.

## Contacts:

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# Program Assessment & Professional Development



Greetings Providers!

We have finally made it to the month of June. Time to enjoy fun in the sun. Remember to take time for self-care and that we're only a phone call away. We are here to help assist you with any coaching needs and summer is the best time to practice the strategies you learned throughout the school year.

The following are **two amazing summer conferences** scheduled for this month. Please take some time to attend with your staff.

## Florida Family Child Care Home Association Annual Conference

June 21st – 25, 2023  
Sheraton Sand Key Resort  
Clearwater Beach, FL

<https://familychildcare.org/annual-conference/>

## One Goal Summer Conference

July 19-21, 2023  
Hilton Tampa Downtown  
211 North Tampa Street  
Tampa, Florida

<https://www.onegoalsummerconference.org/>

**CLASS Assessments** are wrapping up for School readiness. As you are all aware the Children's Forum is conducting the observations, please make sure that any changes in your instructional staff or even Director changes have been notified to your contract specialist and our Provider Services coordinator, this will help our assessors tremendously when

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observations are taking place. If you are a Summer VPK program you will be notified by the **Children's Forum** about your upcoming Summer VPK CLASS observation, please be on the lookout for an email from them.

If you have not attended Tuesday's **Certified Coaching Hour** or our certified coaching courses, please reach out to our professional development team. Our certified coaches can also assist you with preparing for your upcoming CLASS assessments. **Be ready and prepared.**

Just a couple of **friendly reminders**, when registering for our training if you cannot attend, please advise us of your non-attendance so that the place can be allocated to someone else, this requirement also applies to our face-to-face trainings.

**QPS monthly rosters** are due the last day of each month, with the exception of providers who are on Quality Improvement Plans, you will not be able to complete the roster until your plan has been completed. **Teacher email addresses** need to be consistently updated on QPS, it helps us and benefits them for us to have their correct information for the dissemination of information such as training and our newsletter distribution.

Don't forget to join us on our **Monthly Directors Chat**, the **last Thursday** of each month - **1 pm - 2 pm**. Be a part of this growing **"Networking Community"**.

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

## Monitoring & Compliance



**M a r g a r e t   L e d d i n**  
Provider Services Administrator

### SUMMER IS HERE!

This year has gone by so fast. I know this fiscal year has been stressful!

To all Early Childhood Educators and owners thank you for all you do for the children of Brevard County.

If you didn't hear this from anyone today.....

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# THANKS

for **ALL** that you did today in your classroom...

For making a million little split second

**DECISIONS** for the benefit of your students. \*

For putting your own needs on hold and  
keeping them the **FOCUS** of your day.

For **PLANNING** for them long before today  
ever got rolling. \*

For **CHANGING** those plans because they didn't  
fit someone who needed a little extra.

For smiling, **LAUGHING WITH THEM** and reassuring  
their efforts, trials and mistakes. \*

For placing your hand on a shoulder that  
was **EXACTLY** what someone needed.

For getting down on the physical level of  
your students because **IT MATTERS.**

For thinking of a new way to reach  
someone who wasn't getting it.

You matter.

Yes — **YOU MATTER.**

KindergartenWo

## Early Intervention Services



**Beth Arthur**

Provider Services Administrator

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Early Intervention Specialist

As we come to the end of the school year and move into summer mode, now is the time to **reflect on the successes and challenges of the past exceptionally busy year.**

### What were your successes?

How can you build on those successes to make the next school year even better?

Have you celebrated your successes?

### What were your challenges?

What can you learn from those challenges?

What will you change to avoid carrying the same challenges into the new school year?

Use the quote contributed to Albert Einstein (but really should be attributed to a mystery writer Jane Fulton) **“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results”** to help guide you through as you create plans.

The **ELCB Early Intervention Department** wants your input as we look forward to the new fiscal year. Please complete the Behavior Battles survey at the following link or QR code. Your answers and thoughts will guide us as we plan new and helpful opportunities for teachers to change challenging behaviors in their classrooms.

### Behavior Battles Survey QR



### Behavior Battles Survey Web Link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F7G2ZFS>



# TEACHER OF THE MONTH

June 2023

Kelly Aleknavich

Director at La Petite Academy FMIC7386

stated "I would love to nominate Mrs. Zaida for ELCB  
**Teacher of the Month!"**

Mrs. Zaida has worked for La Petite Academy for 11 years at both our Rockledge and Merritt Island locations. She is such an asset to our school and specifically our preschool program as she prepares them to advance into our VPK classes.

Mrs. Zaida is such a ray of sunshine when she enters a room, and she always maintains a positive outlook even when presented with obstacles or change. You can always expect that Mrs. Zaida will have new and exciting experiences for her students with lots of opportunities to express their own style and creativity. Her classroom is colorful and inviting while peaceful and safe.

Mrs. Zaida is a passionate educator who is dedicated to helping all of her students reach their goals, and she utilizes creative strategies to aid them in overcoming any roadblocks.

We are beyond blessed to have her on our team and thankful for her dedication and commitment to teaching her students each and every day!

**Mrs. Zaida Hood**  
**La Petite Academy**  
**Merritt Island**

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**



# CLASS® AND LITERACY: IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 5 2023 BY ALLIE KALLMANN

RESEARCH / CLASS IN PRACTICE

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 8, 2021

Presented by

*Lisa Diggs*

Professional

Development Specialist

The foundations for language and literacy success are built in the early years. Trajectories for reading proficiency in third grade and beyond are set in birth to five early learning environments. Knowing this, preschool and early elementary educators work hard to provide literacy-rich environments and interactions, but the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into the plans of even the most veteran teachers. These disruptions have changed learning across the board, including in the critical area of early literacy.

For example, every year, nearly every K-3 student across Virginia is given the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), giving educators and policymakers an annual snapshot of children's incoming language and literacy skills. **Results from Fall 2020** show that kindergarten and first-grade students were significantly more likely to be identified as high-risk for reading failure than in previous years. What's more, this increase was most significant for Black, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, and Dual-Language Learner (DLL) students, all of whom face compounded systematic disadvantages as they progress through elementary school. This data for Virginia is echoed by teacher anecdotes from across the country. After a year of virtual, blended, and occasionally face-to-face instruction, it's hard to know exactly how children's language and literacy development has been affected or how lasting those effects may be. But the challenges posed to literacy learning by the COVID-19

pandemic and the equity issues that have shown to be further exacerbated make it even more important to pinpoint practices that best support student learning.

That's why we are excited to share our newest research summary on the links between the Pre-K CLASS tool and children's language and literacy outcomes. Pre-K CLASS measures adult-child interactions in three key domains. Emotional Support (ES) describes how teachers create warm, supportive environments for learning. Classroom Organization (CO) captures how teachers manage children's behavior, time, and attention. And Instructional Support (IS) measures how teachers promote higher-order thinking skills and language.

**So, how does CLASS relate to language and literacy? Here are some key takeaways from this research summary:**

**All three Pre-K CLASS domains are related to children's language and literacy outcomes.**

Studies found that emotionally supportive, well-organized classrooms were linked to stronger student performance on measures of phonological awareness, print awareness, letter-word recognition, alphabet knowledge, and more, particularly when scores on Emotional Support and Classroom Organization were in the high range of 6 or above. On the other hand, students in classrooms that lacked these supportive relationships (i.e., scored low in Emotional Support) tended to have lower receptive language skills.



# CLASS® AND LITERACY: IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS ... cont

**Instructional Support just might be the most important lever.** It makes logical sense for the Instructional Support domain, which explicitly measures Language Modeling, to be positively related to children's language and literacy outcomes. However, the research shows that IS is particularly important for children from less privileged backgrounds. These kinds of intellectually stimulating interactions can serve as a buffer for children who come from families with lower income or levels of education.

**Dual-language learners stand to benefit from CLASS-based interactions in multiple languages.** Just like monolingual students, children who are DLLs showed growth in their English expressive and receptive language skills in classrooms with higher levels of Emotional Support and Instructional Support. In fact, DLL students who scored lowest on vocabulary assessments at the beginning of the year benefited the most from stronger Instructional Support.

**Children continue to benefit from supportive Pre-K classrooms into elementary school, but more is better.** Research shows that the language and literacy advantages from having a warm, organized, and appropriately challenging pre-K classroom can extend at least through the end of third grade. Several studies also showed that having multiple consecutive years of strong instruction compounded these effects. While it's wonderful - and academically beneficial - to have a great preschool teacher, supportive interactions in kindergarten and beyond continue to build children's strengths and avoid the potential for these gains to fade out.

## Professional Development

The graphic features a chalkboard background with the text "CLASS Group Coaching (NMCI)" in the center. A hand is shown writing on the board with a piece of white chalk. Surrounding the central text are several boxes containing information about the CLASS domains and logos for Teachstone and Brevard County.

**Emotional Support**  
Positive Climate,  
Negative Climate,  
Teacher sensitivity,  
Regard for Student  
Perspectives

**Responsive Caregiving**  
Relational Climate  
Teacher Sensitivity  
Facilitated  
Exploration  
Early Language  
Support

**Engaged Support for Learning**  
Facilitation of  
Learning  
& Development  
Quality Feedback  
Language Modelling

**Emotional & Behavioral Support**  
Positive Climate  
Negative Climate  
Teacher Sensitivity  
Regard for Child /  
Student Perspectives  
Behavior Guidance

**Classroom Organization**  
Behavior  
Management  
Productivity  
Instructional  
Learning Formats

**Instructional Support**  
Concept  
Development  
Quality of Feedback  
Language Modeling

**Teachstone**  
Every student deserves life-changing teachers

**BREVARD COUNTY**  
FLORIDA LEARNING COUNTY

**CLASS**  
*Group Coaching*  
*(NMCI)*

**INFANT / TODDLER  
AND PRE K COHORTS  
STARTING IN THE  
SUMMER - DATES TO BE  
ANNOUNCED**

For more information and to  
register go to:-

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

Or contact :

Lisa Diggs or Chinaka Grizzle



## How to Make DIY Bubble Wands



How to Make DIY Bubble Wands  
with cookie cutter shapes  
Cookie Cutter Bubble Wands –  
Supplies:

- pipe cleaners
- colorful beads
- cookie cutters shapes
- scissors



Making your own homemade  
bubble solution  
1 Liter (1/5 gallon) of (hot) tap  
water,  
250ml (1 cup) of GOOD quality  
washing up liquid/ dish soap /  
dishwashing liquid.  
2-4 tablespoons glycerin



### Summer Themed Crafts

As the temperatures rise, you may need to find some indoor things for your preschoolers to do. Try one or more of these summer themed crafts!



## Father's Day craft



### To make these Puzzle Cards you will need:

- Color Paper
  - Scissors • Drawing tools: Pencils, Erasers, Markers, or Crayons
  - Gluing tools: Masking tape, White glue, or glue sticks
- How to make a Puzzle Card for Dad with preschoolers

#### Step 1:

Draw and cut out paper father dolls. (Ours happened to look like giant gingerbread men.)

#### Step 2:

Color and decorate your paper dad dolls. We used markers, paint sticks, and scraps of paper to decorate our dolls.

#### Step 3:

Once you're done decorating and your glue is dry, cut the paper dolls up to create a fun puzzle for dad to put together. (My eldest tried to create a trickier puzzler while my youngest just enjoyed using the scissors.)



# MISSION MOMENTS

"Because a picture speaks a thousand words"



ELC's CEO **Laura Gambino** with local **Providers** and ELCs' **Provider Services Team** at the **Providers appreciation Luncheon 5/11/23**



**Insaf DelBoccio - Junior Bears**  
**ELC's Director of the Year**  
with **Lisa Diggs & Laura Gambino**



**Tracy Flemming**  
**Park Avenue Christian Academy**  
**ELC's VPK Teacher of the Year**  
with **Lisa Diggs & Laura Gambino**



**Attendees at ELC Brevard's**  
**Provider's Appreciation Luncheon**  
**May 11th 2023**



**Ms. Young Cadieu**  
**Berri Patch - Malabar**  
**ELC's SR Teacher of the Year**  
with **Chinaka Grizzle & Lisa Diggs**



**ELC's Family Services Team meeting held at**  
**Family Promise of Brevard**  
**Featuring the living wall!**



Administrator **Priscilla Ramos** at  
**ELC's CincoDeMayo Team Meeting**  
**/ Luncheon / Fundraiser auction**  
**for United Way**



**ELC Director Jody Ammons & staff members Randy, Elizabeth, Sylvia,**  
**Gigi, Angel & Michael celebrating CincoDeMayo,**  
**and supporting our United Way Fundraising drive**



**Dorothy Wright from our Finance**  
**Team and the lovely "Genesis"**  
**a visiting ES dog in our**  
**Melbourne office**



# Meetings and Events...

**IS ACCREDITATION  
FOR YOU?**

**APPLE**

**PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITATION  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
APPLE ACCREDITATION**

CHILDCARE BUSINESS  
OWNERS & OPERATORS

**TEAMS Meeting  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023  
1:00pm**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

Meeting ID: 240 751 343 730

Passcode: ksee6V

**Looking forward to seeing you for an informal chat about how  
APPLE Accreditation may benefit your early learning program!**

**Let us bust the myths about accreditation with  
facts and real answers to your questions  
so you can make a sound business decision.**

**Accreditation is not intimidating if you are prepared with tips!**

**June  
24TH  
1-3PM**



**LET'S  
PLAY!**

**Come discover Play with items from the Reusable  
Resources Adventure Center! Explore play and  
make a book to take home!**



**FREE  
EVENT**

**FUN AND CREATIVE PLAY**

**Eau Gallie Library  
1521 Pineapple Ave, Melbourne, FL**



**Let's Play then engage in Storytelling and Bookmaking!**

Date: June 24, 2023 1pm-3pm

Location: Eau Gallie Library

1521 Pineapple Ave, Melbourne, FL

**Description:**

Join us for an interactive play session at the library, promoting emergent literacy and strengthening parent-child relationships. Through open-ended materials, storytelling, and journaling, we'll foster creativity, language skills, and the joy of learning.

**Activities:**

- Open-ended Play: Explore various materials, fostering imagination, problem-solving, and language development.
- Storytelling: Engage in interactive stories, encouraging conversation and active listening.
- Journaling and Drawing: Transcribe comments, doodle, and reflect on the play experience together.
- Parent-Child Bonding: Connect through shared play, fostering a nurturing environment.

**Benefits:**

- Promote emergent literacy through engaging activities.
- Enhance parent-child relationships and communication skills.
- Develop language abilities and vocabulary.
- Introduce the concept of written language through journaling.
- Create lasting memories of your child's growth.

**Note:**

This event offers recurring sessions for ongoing literacy development. Join us for a fun and supportive Play Day at the library!

**For more information contact Walter Drew at 321-223-0165**



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF MELBOURNE





# Attention providers!!

Visit our website:  
[www.elcbrevard.org](http://www.elcbrevard.org)



VISIT OUR  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
PLATFORMS



LIKE  
FOLLOW  
SHARE

Make sure you're following us on ALL Social Media platforms.

This is a great way to stay on top of what's happening with our programs and events as well as staying informed of **news**, celebrations, **trainings**, **grants** or other **funding** opportunities or **incentives** etc.

**Share** our links with your staff and parents so everyone can **stay on top** of all things **ELC Brevard!**

Facebook

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

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/elcbrevard>

Instagram

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

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/early-learning-coalition-of-brevard-county>

## ELC Brevard's Providers Conference 2023!!

SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday September 30th 2023**

**Coy Bowles  
&  
Dr. Drew**



# Calendar Dates June 2023



Announcing the lineup for Cinemaworld's Summer KidFest 2023 - free films, seven days a week, all summer long! Every day at 10:30am, Cinemaworld features a Family-Friendly G or PG rated film for your kids to enjoy, Children are FREE. Adults are just \$2 or FREE with the donation of a non-perishable pet-food item to benefit the Brevard Humane Society.

**SCHEDULE:**  
 Paddington 2 June 9-15  
 Mummies June 16-22  
 Lyle, Lyle Crocodile June 23-29  
 DC League of Super Pets June 30-July 6  
 Sonic the Hedgehog 2 July 7-13  
 The Bad Guys July 14-20  
 Clifford July 21-27  
 Puss in Boots: The Last Wish July 28-Aug 3

**Monday, 12 June 2023: World Day Against Child Labor** Commemorated annually on June 12. The day observed to raise awareness of child labor, a significant issue of concern.

## Sunday 18th June 2023: World Father's Day

The third Sunday in June designated each year as World Fathers' Day. Father's Day a celebration of paternity, paternal ties, and the contribution of dads to families & society a whole, hence around the world, the day is enthusiastically observed.

## Sunday 18th June 2023: International Picnic Day

Well why not soak up the summer rays and take your meal outside with a picnic. Whether it's a date, solo outing, or gathering with friends and family, a picnic is the perfect opportunity to try out new recipes, visit your favorite park, beach or simply set up camp in the backyard with some lawn games and water fun— **whilst celebrating DAD!**

## Monday 19th June 2023: Juneteenth

**Juneteenth** is the oldest-known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States, first recognized by the state of Texas. It is also known as **"Freedom Day,"**

**"Juneteenth Independence Day,"** or **"Emancipation Day."**

**"Every year, we must remind successive generations that this event triggered a series of events that one by one define the challenges and responsibilities of successive generations. That's why we need the holiday."**

Texas Rep. Albert Ely Edwards (1937–2020), sponsor of Texas House Bill 1016 (1979), which made Emancipation Day ("Juneteenth") a statewide paid holiday.

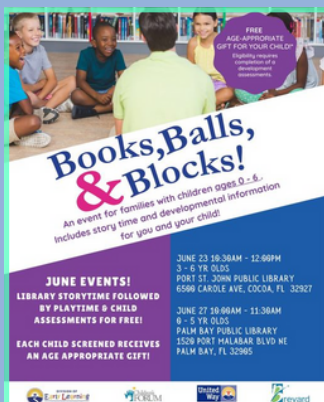


## Wednesday, 21st June: Summer Solstice

The Summer Solstice is the day with the most extended amount of daylight, it is the longest day in India and is one of the Important dates in June 2023.

## Saturday, 24th June: SUMMERSGIVING

The Saturday after the Summer Solstice, gather your friends and family to celebrate Summersgiving! This day is designed to combine all the fun of summer with America's favorite Thanksgiving food. It's a celebration of life, rooted in gratitude, to be shared with the friends and food that make life fun



When: Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10:00 am  
 Location: 1800 W Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL, 32901  
 Cost: FREE  
 Doors open at 10:00 am, arrive early! Offer is limited to seating capacity. Movie starts at 10:30 am.

There are \$4 concessions during the kids show including: popcorn, drinks, and dipping dots.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

May 30-June 1 Lyle, Lyle Crocodile June 6-8 Sonic the Hedgehog 2 June 13-15 Mummies June 20-22 DC League of Super Pets June 27-29 Paws of Fury July 4-6 Shrek Forever After July 11-13 Kung Fu Panda 3 July 18-20 How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World July 25-27 Puss and Boots: The Last Wish August 1-3 Minions: The Rise of Gru

**Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Staff Contacts**  
**Melbourne Fax (321) 752-3294 Rockledge Fax (321) 637-1897**  
**Reception/ Main telephone: (321) 637-1800**

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Work Cell</b>                    | <b>Email Address</b>       | <b>Title</b>                                       | <b>Assistance with</b>                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
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| Harriet Paredes    | 321 210-6595 x 2515                 | hparedes@elcbrevard.org    | Director of Provider Services                      |  |
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