

IN THE LOOP

February 2023

Issue No. 26

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



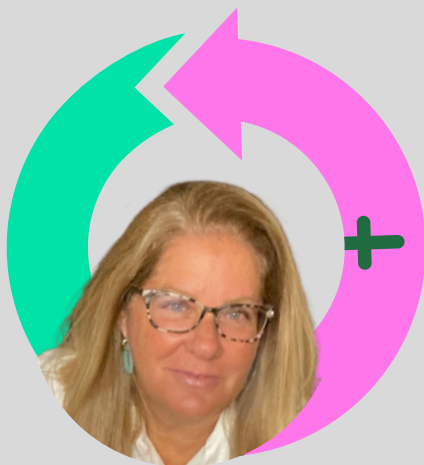
DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Presented by
Chiraka Grizzle

Professional Development Specialist
ELCB

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





Laura Gambino
MPA, CECD
Chief Executive Officer

Greetings

Welcome to **In The Loop!**

March is Women's month, with International Women's Day being celebrated globally on March 8th, ELC Brevard honors and acknowledges the endeavors and achievements of all women locally and world wide.

We continue to focus on Professional Development and growth with quality being the ultimate goal, and as such we are excited about the learning opportunities, incentives and bonuses currently available to Teachers & Providers to ensure Brevard's children have the the BEST early years experiences. With that in mind, our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Florida State University's Christine Chiricos and Terry Hoover for facilitating our recent 10 Components training, our staff were immersed in high-quality material and curriculum, with outstanding trainers and a unique and distinct "GROUP ENERGY" that far exceeded what we all expected. It was a positive and uplifting experience of learning and sharing our mission and the WHY of what we do each day!

Thanks to or Board members and Partners for your ongoing support and encouragement.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH

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World Class Workforce

ARPA WORLD CLASS WORKFORCE

The Division of Early Learning is investing its American Recover Plan (ARP) Act dollars in building a World Class Workforce.



BONUSES AVAILABLE NOW:

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.

2. 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.

3. CRRSA Bonuses:

Bonuses can be applied for in the WebAuthor platform, upon completion and approval of Eligibility Request Form

1. **Recruitment** -DCF Training Completed- \$15 per training hour completed, bonus maximum \$900. (Employed on/after April 1, 2022)

2. Upskilling-

- a. CDA Enrolled Instructor- \$425 (employed on/after April 1, 2022)
- b. CDA Certification - \$500

3. Retention- You may only apply for one Level.

a. **Level 1:** Three (3) years employed -\$500 Bonus.

b. **Level 2:** Three (3) years employed & Associate Degree- \$1000 Bonus

c. **Level 3:** Five (5) years and Bachelor's degree- \$2000 Bonus

d. **Level 4:** Seven (7) years and Bachelor's degree- \$3000 Bonus



- **CLASS® Bonus PreK**

Educators interested in applying for Bonuses listed above, must do the following steps to sign up:

Steps to Sign Up for Product Key(s) & Accessing the MyTeachstone Learning Resources Module:

Copy & paste **Link:**

https://elcbrevard.webauthor.com/go/frx_class_product_key_sign_up/default.tcfm

1. Complete CLASS Bonus Sign Up.
2. Each Educator interested in completing new CLASS bonuses, must complete – CLASS Bonus Sign Up.

Provider Services News, reminders & updates... Cont...

3. Receive email with personalized product key(s) from ELC staff.
4. Coalition will add your name and email to the MyTeachstone Platform so you can have access to the MyTeachstone Learn Abouts videos to complete your coursework.
5. Look out for a Welcome Email from contact@teachstone.com.
6. Activate your MyTeachstone account and set up a password.
7. Complete required coursework for the bonus you are applying for.
8. Apply for Bonus -complete funding request in Webauthor; upload certificates and financial documents into Webauthor.

There is a two-week timeframe for ELCB to coordinate with Teachstone and get you registered, and to allow for shipment of training products to be received.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!



3/31 Official Wear Blue Day!!!!

4/3 Pinwheel Planting will be held at 9:30 am at the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard, 1100 Rockledge Boulevard, Rockledge. Remember to Wear Blue!!

4/3 Pinwheel Planting with Sheriff Ivey and BCSO Special Victims unit at 340 Gus Hipp Blvd. in Rockledge at 10:30 am.

4/4 Pinwheel Planting at the State Attorney's Office, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building D in Viera at 10:30am.

4/4 Pinwheel Planting at the Brevard County School Board, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera at 11:00 am.

4/5 Join us at Texas Roadhouse for our Dine Out Event! Please join us for dinner at Texas Roadhouse, 1975 Viera Boulevard, Rockledge from 5-8pm. Proceeds go to the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force of Brevard.

4/18 Pinwheel Planting will be reading of the Proclamation by Judge Kelly McKibben at the Brevard County Courthouse at 12 noon.

Remember to Wear Blue!!

4/17 Pinwheel Planting at Agape Women's Center, 300 Magnolia Avenue in Merritt Island at 11:30am.

4/18 Pinwheel Planting will be reading of the Proclamation by Judge Kelly McKibben at the Brevard County Courthouse at 12 noon. Remember to Wear Blue!!

4/22 Superhero Run will be held Saturday, April 22nd starting at 7:30 am at The Avenue in Viera. This is a family friendly and chip-timed 5k race and 1 mile fun run. 100% of the proceeds benefit local abused and neglected children in Brevard and support the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

4/28 CAPTF Banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Viera at 12:00 pm to celebrate the wonderful prevention work being done around Brevard County. Please join us in celebrating your colleagues!!

Want a pinwheel? Email either Rhonda.Shoup@brevardcares.org or Jessica.miles@brevardcares.org to schedule

To our Wonderful Providers,
We hope you all are doing well.

The great lucky month of March has arrived with St. Patrick's Day, and we move our clocks forward on the 12th, which brings early morning sunrise and later sunsets.

CLASS Assessments are happening for both VPK and School Readiness, 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 assist with preparing you for your upcoming CLASS assessments. Be ready and prepared.

Our monthly director's chats have been amazing. Please join us the last Thursday of the month, check our ELC Brevard calendar for the ZOOM link. You will hear directly from our community partners, ELC staff, DEL facilitators, and accreditation agencies.

Just a couple of friendly reminders, when registering for our training if you cannot attend, please contact us so we can permit other participants to join our training, this also applies to



Priscilla Ramos
Provider Services Administrator

our face-to-face training, 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.

Teacher email addresses must be updated on QPS as it helps us to have their emails for the dissemination of information, training opportunities, and our monthly newsletter distribution.

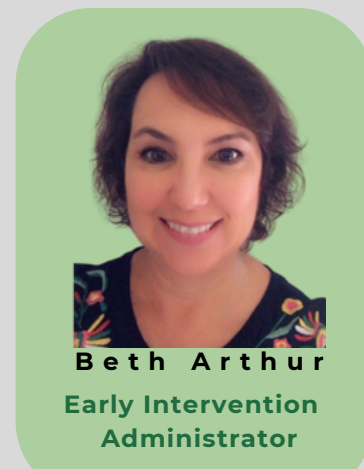
As always feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes to you all,
Professional Development team

Early Intervention Services

Dear Providers,

This month we focus on the important partnership with Space Coast Early Steps. The following is a list of what to expect when a Space Coast Early Steps therapy provider comes to your site.



Teamwork!!

- They are there to observe and offer suggestions that can help you better integrate that child as part of your classroom. Any suggestions that are given can also support all the children within the classroom.

No Judgement Zone!!

- The service providers are not there to judge or critique your skills as a teacher. They are there to work with you in coming up with ideas that can help the child, which will benefit the other children as well.

Collaboration is key!!

- It is a collaborative effort so ask yourself; How we can come together and be on the same page, so that the child can get all the support they need and allow our day to run smoothly.

Natural environment!

- Unless the service provider asks for a separate space to do evaluations etc. the session should be held in the child's natural classroom environment to build relationships with both the teacher and classmates.

Building a bridge between Home and school!!

- Activities that are discussed within the classroom; share them with the parent! This consistency is great so the skills can be applied no matter where the child is. Include the parents to see what the goals are for their child, remember parents know their child best.

Same Goal: The Children!

- It's okay if other children want to join in play with the service provider and that child! It's a great opportunity to encourage peer to peer interaction in the child's natural environment. The child is our number one priority, let's all help each other.

Working in partnership with the therapy provider will help twofold! They will show you strategies to solve concerns you have in the classroom, and ultimately help the child meet their IFSP goals. It is important to note that while all therapy providers have been fingerprinted and background checked to be in classrooms they are never counted in the ratio of teachers to students. If you have any questions regarding partnering with Space Coast Early Steps or want to invite them to a staff meeting, please contact your Early Intervention Specialist or Lori Duester, Training & Development Coordinator for Space Coast Early Steps, directly at Lori.Duester@Spacecoastes.org.

Early Intervention Services cont...

Did You Know? Space Coast Early Steps now has a local website!

Check it out at www.spacecoastes.org Information for families, providers, and ability to make referrals to the program.



ALSO – grab your popcorn and watch the ELCB/SCES Collaborative Video with our very own actors – presenting the “Road Map of Services” for Early Steps AND the coaching model within early care and education settings. Follow this link to the video:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/744337889?h=0d4be7ffcf>

Resources



Family Child Care landing page. It has a lot of great resources for FCC's or general providers.

Copy and paste link:

<https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/expanded-learning/>



Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: Time for Self-Care & Wellness! . After registering, you will...

Join us for a joy-filled, self-care webinar to lift your spirits and bring you peace. Learn that caring for yourself is a selfless act. You deser...



https://shopbecker.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QWVtBAYwTPmYhIk_tDJYQA?utm_source=delivra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=23_February_Self_Care_Webinar-new%20date&utm_id=4890187&utm_term=Self+Care+Webinar+Hero+Image&dlv-emuid=f16da9cd-748f-4615-ae64-d07f3e931429&dlv-mlid=4890187

Monitoring & Compliance



**Margaret
Leddin**
Provider Services
Administrator



Tips/Reminders for FAST using Star Early Literacy:

- Start assessments early in progress monitoring window to allow time for practice attempts or child absences.
- If a child is no longer attending your VPK program, terminate enrollment in the portal.
- Students should be given three attempts to pass the practice items. If after three attempts, the student continues to fail the practice items, the student should receive a non-participation status of "Failed Practice."
- VPK Program Administrators will use Non-Participation Status for students unable to pass the practice test items or for another reason why the student did not test. The Non-Participation Status options are described below:
 - **Assessment Inappropriate-** For students that are Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Medical Exemption Accommodation that can't be met with computer-based test (IEP/504 requiring Paper Based Test). The Star Early Literacy Assessment may not be appropriate for all VPK students. If you have a student with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan and the VPK Program Administrator determines this assessment will not meet the student's needs, the student should receive a Non-Participation Status of "Assessment Inappropriate."
 - **Not Present During Testing Window-** For students absent during the entire Progress Monitoring period. The Star Early Literacy Assessment dates should be provided to VPK student families, to ensure their child's attendance on testing days.

- **Non-English Speaker-** For students with a first language other than English who are unable to pass the practice items after three attempts.

The Star Early Literacy Assessment is only administered in English. All students with a first language other than English should be given the opportunity to complete the practice items, if they pass, they continue and complete the assessment. They should be given two additional attempts to pass the practice items. If the student fails the practice items, then the student should receive a Non-Participation Status of "Non-English Speaker."

- From DEL regarding children who refuse to take assessment: It is important to get to know your student and see what motivates them to do their best. In the required training, the below image was provided to use when motivating your students. We know that some children will have difficulty engaging in the computer-adaptive assessment. You can try engaging them in an educational activity using the device, so they associate the device with fun learning or even reading a story and not just an assessment. If still unable to complete assessment after three attempts, then mark child with a Non-Participation Status.

- Information regarding FAST using Star Early Literacy can be found on VPK Guide to FAST.

- For more information regarding FAST using Star Early Literacy can be found on DEL's website:
<https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/fast>

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact:

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March 2023

Teacher of the Month

Rebecca Price - Junior Bears (Melbourne)

Mrs Insaf Delboccio, the Owner & Director of **Junior Bears in Melbourne** wrote to ELC stating:

Rebecca Price is an EXCEPTIONAL Teacher! who we love & appreciate!

Throughout my career, I have had the honor of working with many distinguished Teachers who have inspired me to continue my path to lifelong learning. When one of those I supervise causes me to reflect on my own practice, inspire me and stimulate new ideas, I realize that I have been given a gift.

From the first time I met **Ms. Rebecca**, she impressed me with her enthusiasm and her genuine desire to determine the best way to meet each every child's unique learning needs in her classroom. When we met for the first time, she told me "I know that every student who comes through this door is very important and unique!"



Ms. Rebecca surprises me and she makes me so happy and proud ! Mrs Rebecca finished all the requirement from ELC and DCF training before she even started her first day with us .

Ms. Rebecca is an amazing loving teacher an outstanding teacher because she can work with any age group. She loves kids a lot, and is always the first one to show up & on time always. She consistently takes the initiative, in fact she often asks for more work beyond her regular duties.

Ms. Rebecca is one of those teachers you come a cross once in a great while. The Kids Love her because she is kind, caring and fun, she strives to know each student as a whole person.

I have other staff that are hard workers too but **Ms. Rebecca** is the epitome of a **WONDERFUL TEACHER!**

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
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

Professional Development

BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE IS AS EASY AS PB&J

January 17 2023
by Sherilyn Crump

How do you make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? I posed that question to a random selection of contacts via text message. What did I discover? Everyone in my sample group spreads on the PB first, then the J. There are a variety of ways though to apply the jelly, but in my random group, the jelly always comes second.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches make me think about Behavior Guidance, a dimension in the CLASS® toddler observation tool. Especially the first two indicators of behavior guidance: proactive and supporting positive behavior. Proactive is the peanut butter! It goes first. That layer of peanut butter is the base for the jelly, which promotes positive behavior. Effective toddler teachers spread the foundation for young children to begin to understand what behaviors are acceptable. This foundation is the indicator "proactive." They do this work in a co-regulation relationship model, one steeped in a continuous circle of acknowledging and labeling emotions, responding to toddler's needs, and providing lots of comfort!

PROACTIVE: PEANUTBUTTER GOES FIRST

Let's set ourselves and the children up for success.

Toddler teachers sometimes feel like they are running around all day putting out behavior "fires." But, with a little bit of advanced planning, toddler teachers can move from reactive (putting out fires) to proactive guidance. Does your daily schedule look a little too much like a Pre-K classroom's routine? Consider a daily schedule that reduces waiting times, long group times, and those really big full-group transitions. Do children lose interest in activities quickly? Provide lots of choices, be ready to switch it up, and always have novel items at the ready to hold interest. And finally, think through some toddler-appropriate behavior expectations.

- **Be near and aware** of all the children in the room. "I see you, Samia; you are going to the book area."
- **Keep rules positive.** "We paint the paper on the easel."
- **Keep rules simple.** "Walking feet inside keeps you safe."
- **Use lots of rule reminders.** "Playdough stays at the table."



BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE IS AS EASY AS PB&J cont...

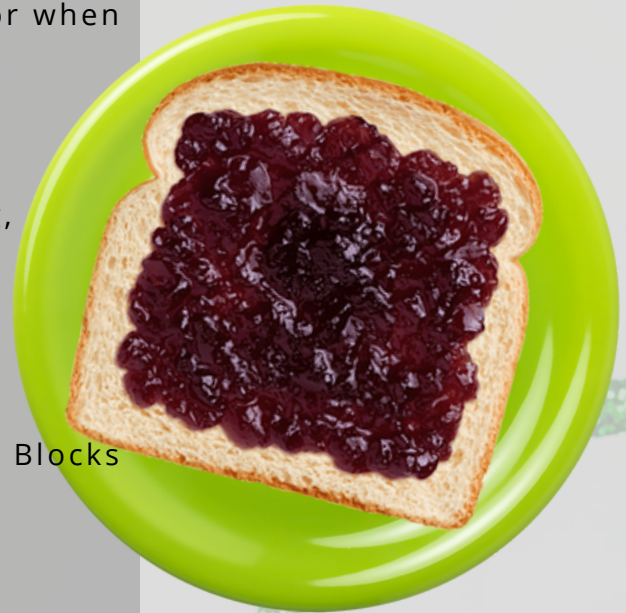
SUPPORTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR: NEXT COMES THE JELLY

Okay, we know toddlers are in the process of learning how to self-regulate and manage their behavior. They are taking their cues from adults. Toddlers still need adults to co-regulate with them; adults help children manage and recover from emotionally charged experiences. And toddlers are learning all about appropriate behavior when adults intentionally point out those well-behaved moments over and over again!

Spreading the jelly on the peanut butter is not for the faint at heart! It takes a lot of watching, talking, and tending to toddler's behavior every day!

- **Point of desired behavior often.** "Thomas, you are sitting at the table to eat your snack."
- **Redirect misbehavior.** "You want to throw blocks. Blocks are for building. Balls are for throwing. Let's build together."
- **Give simple directions that are easy to follow.** "Throw your cup in the trash, please."

I hope you are excited to use the **peanut butter and jelly analogy as you guide children's behavior in your toddler or family childcare setting.** How we manage the transition from infancy to preschool sets a child up for success as they move towards self-regulation. The reward, of course, is watching the older toddlers and young preschoolers manage rules and routines, all resulting from the adult's hard and diligent work in those tender toddler months!



Presented by
Lisa Diggs
Professional
Development Specialist



Quality Mission Moments

In February ELC Brevard's Leadership team were delighted to host the **FSU t10 Components of Quality Care training**, which was attended by numerous Brevard staff members as well as colleagues from several other coalitions.

The three day training was delivered by **Christine Chiricos & Terry Hoover** from **FSU** and they did an AMAZING job in facilitating an insightful learning experience which reinforced our commitment to building greater Quality Care across Brevard's Early Years Centers .

Going forward we are eager to roll this training out to our Providers in Brevard so that we can better support you in cultivating & maintaining **QUALITY** in your establishments, for the benefit of local children.



Tawana Parham & Priscilla Ramos



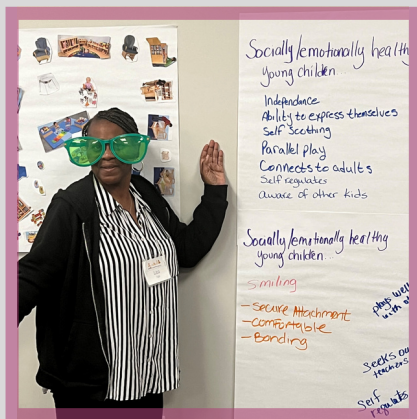
Margaret, Ridhi, Lakia & Lisa



All attendees



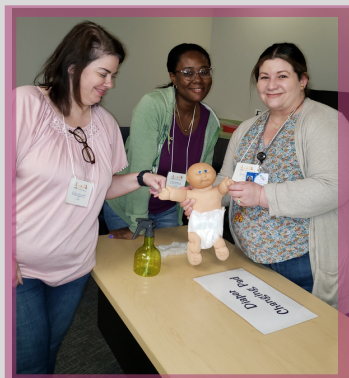
Laura Gambino (CEO) & Sonia Montalvo



Lisa Diggs



Christine Chiricos & Terry Hoover



Margaret, Christina & Priscilla



Chinaka, Sonia, Tawana, guests Angela & Justine



Priscilla, Christine, Laura & Terry

CRAFTY CORNER

Celebrating St. **Patrick's Day**?... Here are a few CRAFTY ideas to help bring a little Irish inspiration into your Classroom.



1

There is always a pot of gold at the end of the **RAINBOW**!

1. Paper plates, colored yarn/wool, pompoms (Happy threading)

2. Fingerprints, Black construction paper, gold paper or foil for coins.

SHAMROCK Shenanigans!

3. Shamrock beads - Pasta, paper, string for threading.

4. Shamrock collage - glue and tissue paper for sticking on templates.

5. Bubble wrap & rock - Shamrock template - bubble wrap buttons, glitter, beads and textured paper for sticking



3



4



5



6

6. Chalk shamrocks in the playground



7



8

Leprechauns on the loose!

7. Paperplate puppets

8. Handy happy Leprechaun - get sticking

9. St. Patty lost his tie...

10. Printing Patty - use cork or stamps for printing

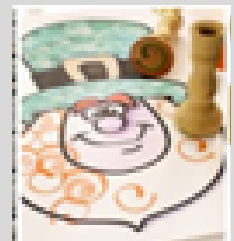


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March/ April Calendar Dates

March 8th, 2023: International Women's Day

Observed annually on March 8, all around the world. It is a day to reflect on and celebrate the social, political, economic, and cultural accomplishments of women.

March 12th, 2023: Daylight Saving Time begins. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD!**

March 14th, 2023: National Children's Craft Day

A great day to get extra crafty in the classroom...

March 17th, 2023: Saint Patrick's Day

Honor the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. He played a significant role in introducing and celebrating the Irish culture across the world. It is not a national holiday so schools and holidays work per normal but it is a day to celebrate Irish heritage & all that is Irish!

March 19th, 2023: International Read to Me Day

Every book is special for a child... lets get reading!

March 20th, 2023: World Oral Health Day

A day to discuss teeth and oral health! How much do your kiddo's know? Talk to them about the importance of good oral hygiene.

March 22nd, 2023: World Water Day

An international United Nations holiday, observed every year on March 22. Clean and safe water is something that is still not accessible to many people around the globe, and even in some parts of the United States! World Water Day brings awareness to this issue and to how important it is to make freshwater accessible to everyone, for drinking and sanitation purposes.

March 23rd, 2023: National Puppy Day

The purpose of this day is not only to celebrate puppies but to shed light on the cruelty that happens in puppy mills and encourage adoption from overcrowded shelters.

March 19th, 2023: Wear A Hat Day!

Whose got the most interesting hat? ... Why not?



When: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Location: 301 Tucker Lane Cocoa, FL.
Cost: FREE
Health and wellness providers, free screenings, presentations, give-aways, door prizes and more!
Website: www.mysuncoastbusiness.com



Melbourne Police Department's annual Kids Fishing Clinic

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Location: Ballard Park, 924 Thomas Barbour Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935
Cost: FREE, but pre-registration is required MPD Officers for their 3rd Annual Kid's Fishing Clinic.
Registered participants ages 5-15 must complete the education stations and will receive a free fishing pole and bait. Then spend the afternoon fishing with Officers and learn about our eco-system.

Website: www.facebook.com
Contact Phone: 321-608-6336



Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Staff Contacts

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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/>

