All you need is faith, trust and pixie dust” Luckily, a little bit of all of those were available during the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year at the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard. The year presented some amazing successes as well as ongoing challenges when faced with our inability to meet the requests from families in need due to limited funds.

The ELC of Brevard provided services to 6,485 children participating in the School Readiness program. The program provides access to high quality early learning experiences for children whose parents were working or going to school, and many times both. Families served by the School Readiness program have the ability to select child care providers who excel at offering programs that are developmentally appropriate, contain vast opportunities for learning and character development and allow children to develop the skills that lead to future school success.

Local attendance in Voluntary Prekindergarten continued to grow during the fiscal year with 5,115 4-year-olds participating in the free educational program. VPK is provided by early learning programs that meet state standards related to class size, teacher credentials and curricula related to research based standards for learning.

Additional services were provided by well-informed ELC staff in the areas of Child Care Resource and Referral, developmental screenings and assessments, inclusion services, quality assurance and contract compliance, child care provider support, reimbursement and eligibility.

None of the accomplishments achieved during the year would be possible without the dedication and continued devotion displayed by the child care providers of Brevard County. They are the Fairy Godparents of our community and within their castle walls, the dreams of children become a reality each day.

The United Way of Brevard, the Cities of Titusville, Cocoa and Melbourne, Rockledge Rotary Club and other community partners helped ensure that families in need of child care assistance were supported. Continued collaborations with the Florida Children’s Forum and Brevard Public Schools provided additional services to child care providers and teenage parents through the Coalition’s support of their quality programs.

With the continued hard work of the ELC of Brevard staff, board members, child care providers, families served and community partners, children will continue to be our priority because it is never too late to live happily ever after.

- Sky Beard
Executive Director
Our Services for Children, Families, Child Care Providers and the Community

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)
Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK)
Professional Development and Technical Assistance
Higher Learning Stipend and Learn To Earn Programs
Developmental Screening and Assessments
Child Vision and Hearing Screenings
Behavior Support & Inclusion Services
Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)
Early Learning Initiatives
Community Resources

Our Mission:

To provide leadership and support for School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs so that children have the opportunity to benefit from the highest quality early learning environments.
Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, families of Brevard County were struggling to afford quality child care for their children. Knowing that early education was necessary to their children’s future success, parents looked far and wide for community support. The parents soon found the support needed at the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard. In addition to helping with the cost of quality child care, ELC provided developmental screenings for their children. These services helped the parents of Brevard County rest a little easier (children too) knowing they would receive the support needed to grow up healthy and equipped for future success.

**Screening & Assessments**

- Inclusion Observation & Resources
- Vision and Hearing Screenings
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3)
- Individual Learning Plans
- Referrals for further evaluation as needed

**Pre and Post Child Assessments:**

- **Learning Accomplishment Profile**
  - E-LAP - Birth to 3 years
  - LAP-3 - 3 - 6 years

- **Early Screening Inventory**
  - (ESI-P) 3 - 4 1/2 years
  - (ESI-K) 4 1/2 - 6 years

501 vision screenings were given with 120 children referred for further evaluation

492 hearing screenings were given with 212 children referred

4,747 total screenings administered

1,038 children received an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to help with specific needs

354 children received development assessments
Parents soon learned that help was just one phone call away through the ELC’s Child Care Resource and Referral program (CCR&R). The service offered free information and referral services to all families seeking quality early care and education, School Readiness programs and out of school time solutions. Parents called in and spoke directly to a trained CCR&R specialist who helped them identify area centers, family child care homes, after school programs, Head Start programs, child care, faith-based programs and summer camps that met the needs of their family! Parents received child care referrals based on their specific needs. In addition, if requested, parents were given a list of other local community resources created to assist the family. The services provided had parents and families rejoicing all over the land!

CCR&R services were provided at 27 local community events

1,613 CCR&R informational packets were mailed, emailed, faxed or picked up

28 out of 31 families felt their questions were fully answered by CCR&R staff

CCR&R services were given to 4,218 families

- Chapter 2 -

Supporting Families

- Chapter 3 -

The Importance of Quality

Providing a quality child care program continued to be of extreme importance to the Early Learning Coalition. With the many professional development opportunities offered to child care providers, ELC ensured Brevard County’s children were receiving the best quality of care.

Provider Assessments: Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessments were conducted on all child care programs before they became contracted as an ELC School Readiness Provider. The expectation was that providers obtain a 3.5 (1.0-7.0 scale) at minimum.

126 providers were assessed by the Children’s Forum

222 assessments were given with 197 receiving a 3.5 or higher

58 providers scored a 5.0 or higher

28 out of 31 families felt their questions were fully answered by CCR&R staff

CCR&R services were given to 4,218 families
Children and families were not the only ones who felt supported by the ELC and its services. Hundreds of local child care providers throughout Brevard County benefited from support and services provided by the ELC. The Coalition provided technical assistance and mentoring to those starting a new child care center and provided and organized many professional development opportunities to help providers give the best quality child care possible to children and families. The CCR&R program assisted providers as well. Many child care providers benefited from ELC’s Provider Store that awarded educational materials for exceeding expectations in quality and various other categories. With all the professional development programs offered, providers rejoiced at how much education/support they could receive to further their expertise in providing the best quality of care possible.
Chapter 5
The Dollars & Cents of 2011-12

School Readiness
Unduplicated Children Served: 6,485
School Readiness Budget: $17,008,969

Voluntary Prekindergarten
Unduplicated Children Served: 5,115
Voluntary Prekindergarten Budget: $11,672,593
Current Board of Directors

*Shannon Smithwick - Chair
*Nancy Grzesik - Vice Chair
*Marci Brilley - Secretary
*Myrna Shimei - Treasurer
  *Tom Peer
  *Althea Puzio
  *Priscilla DeNino
  *Michael Durante
  *Lori Duester
  *Cindy Leckey
  *Karen Street
  *Mona Potter

*Natalie Jackson
*Ian Golden
*Paul Hilburn
*Cathy Beam
*Mark Broms
*Susan Bragonje
*Jeffery Harrison
*Doug Workman
*Mildred Coyne
  Terri Barlow
  Bridget Chiuchiolo

*Board members who served during 2011/2012 Fiscal Year

Service Locations

Titusville
The Children’s Center
5650 S. Washington Ave.
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 264-0855

Rockledge
Main Office
1018 S. Florida Ave.
Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 637-1800

Brevard Workforce
295 Barnes Blvd.
Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 690-0535

Melbourne
2080 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Suite A
Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 752-3290

Palm Bay
Brevard Workforce
5275 Babcock St., Suite 8B
Palm Bay, FL 32905
(321) 984-4994

Please visit us on the web:
www.elcbrevard.org