



# Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. 2008 - 2009 Annual Report

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. is to provide leadership and oversight for School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Programs ensuring children have the opportunity to benefit from the quality of early learning environments.

**Vision Statement:**

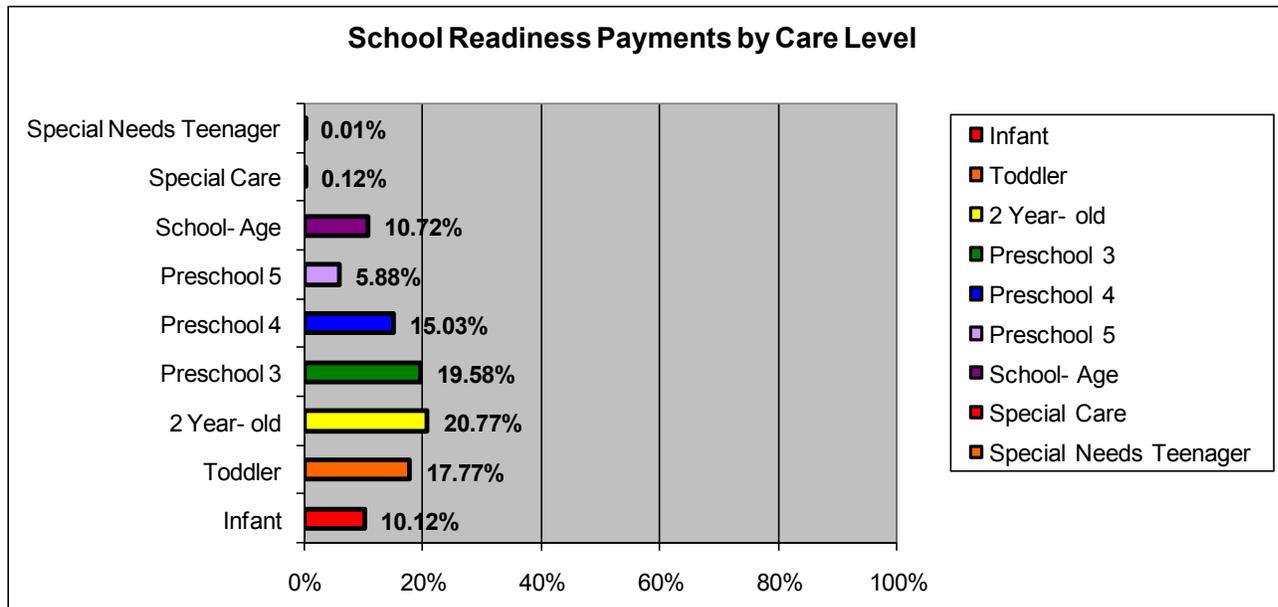
Brevard children will enter school prepared to experience educational success.

**Data Summary:** The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009.

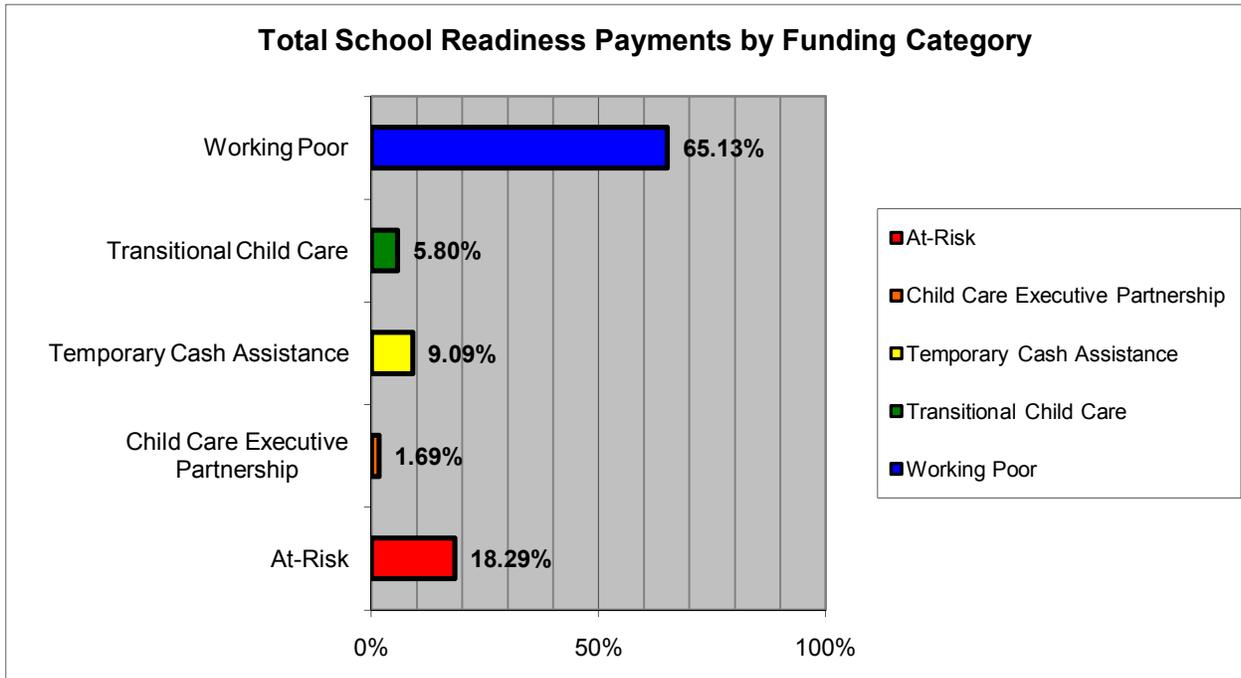
**Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:**

SR Children	SR Families
6,157	3,854

**School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:**



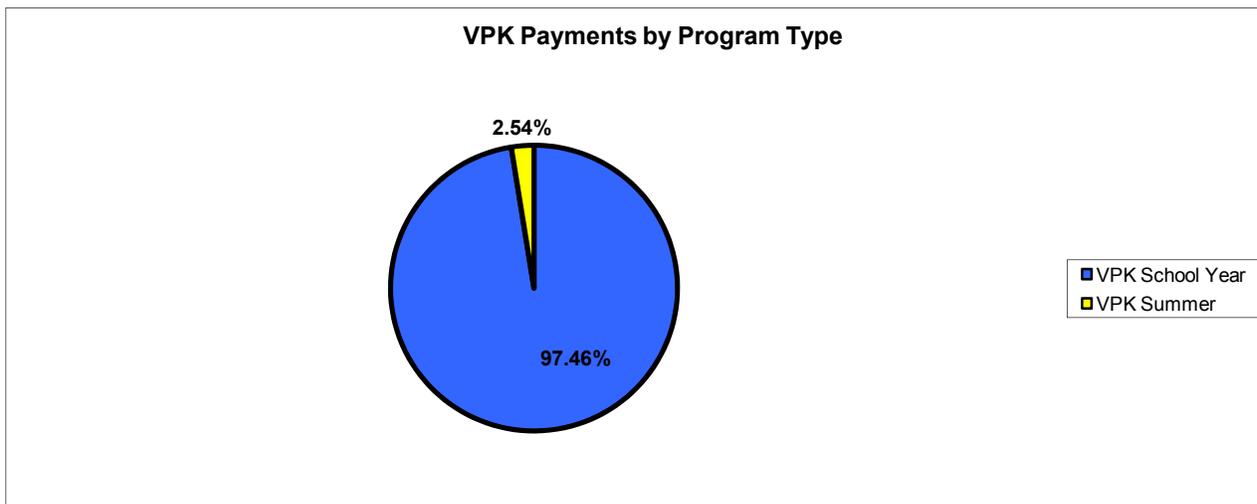
**School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:**



**Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:**

VPK Children	VPK Families
4,444	4,359

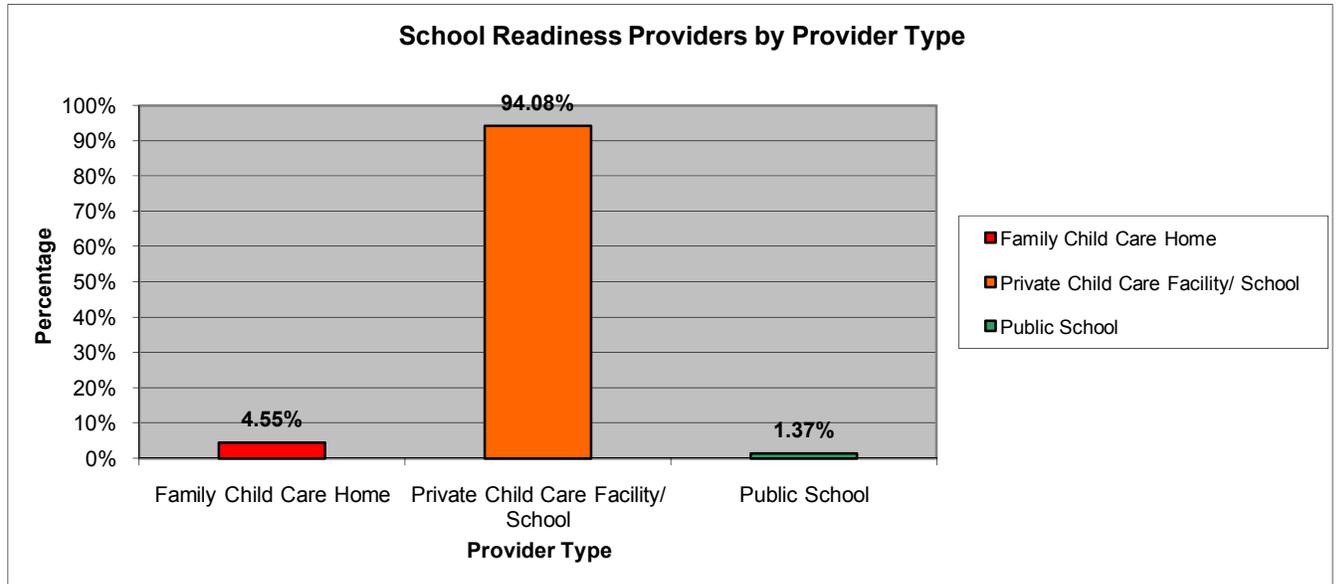
**Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:**



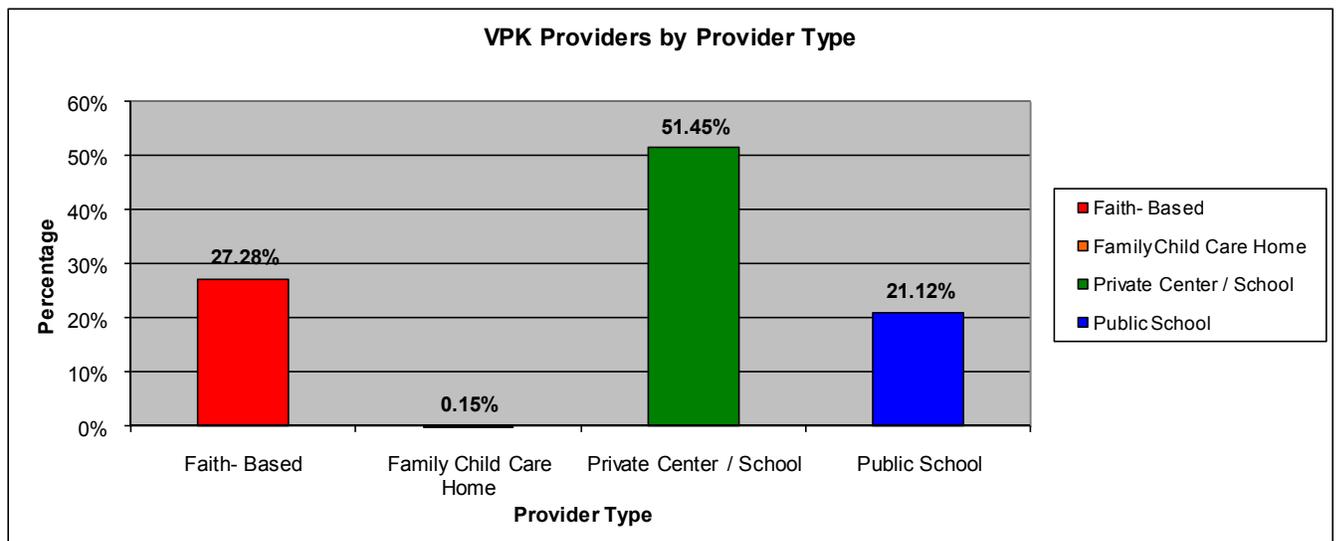
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
223	178

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating VPK providers by provider type:



## **Service Delivery Summary:**

**Public / Private Partnerships:** The Coalition continued to build on existing partnerships this fiscal year. These include, but are not limited to:

- Brevard Community College Foundation
- Brevard County School District
- Brevard County Together in Partnership
- Brevard Workforce Development Board provides office space at their Palm Bay and Cocoa Job Links for eligibility staff.
- Chambers of Commerce: Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Palm Bay and Titusville
- Child Abuse Prevention Task Force
- Children's Forum – WAGE\$
- City of Titusville provides office space at the Harry T. Moore Center for eligibility staff.
- Community Based Care of Brevard
- Devereux Florida
- Early Steps
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Multiple child care providers, faith based and public schools
- Whole Child Connection Brevard

**Funding Sources:** The Coalition receives support from multiple sources allowing us to secure match funding to draw down federal dollars earmarked for subsidized child care in Brevard. The following partners provided financial support this fiscal year:

- United Way of Brevard
- City of Melbourne, FL
- City of Palm Bay, FL
- City of Titusville, FL
- Boeing Company and their Employee Community Fund
- Community Foundation of Brevard
- United Space Alliance Employee Fund
- Margaret Heins Foundation
- Individual donors

In addition, many in-kind donations were received from vendors providing substantial discounts for services rendered.

The Coalition has begun a campaign for raising match dollars entitled “Launching a Child’s Future”. Collection boxes have been placed at local businesses and community partners are helping raise awareness of how every \$1 donated locally draws down \$16 in matching funds for school readiness services. A video ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_a1JA\\_zGQo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_a1JA_zGQo)) outlines our services and the impact one can make by supporting the Coalition.



Changes in Service Delivery: The Coalition began providing Inclusion services in house on July 1, 2008. This allowed the Screening and Assessment Staff to work more closely with the Inclusion Specialist in referring child care providers in need of assistance in working with children with special needs or behavior concerns.

In addition, Child Care Resource and Referral Services were brought in house during November 2008. This allowed a more streamlined approach to handling the waiting list and simplified point of entry.

During FY 08.09 the Coalition procured services for assessment of child care providers, provider training and technical assistance and home visiting services via a Request for Proposal. This resulted in a change in Contractor for FY 09.10. Assessment of child care providers, previously conducted by Devereux Florida will be conducted by the Children’s Forum beginning in FY 09.10. A smooth transition is expected as many staff previously employed with Devereux will be performing services under the Children’s Forum.

**Quality Activity Summary:**

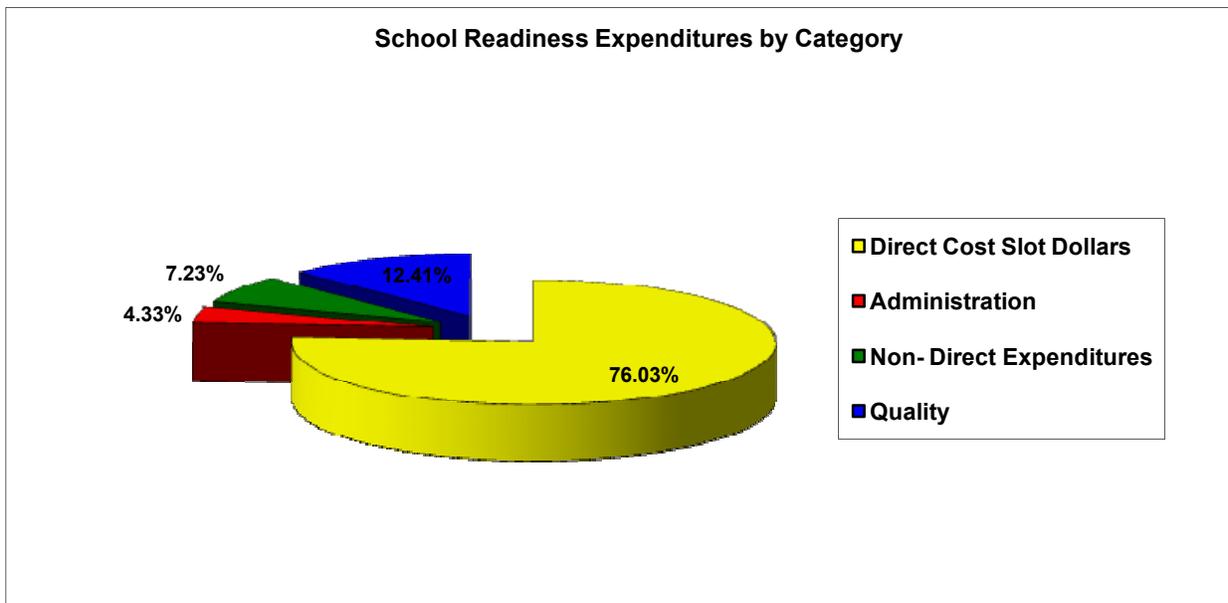
Activity	Narrative
<p>What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?</p>	<p>The Coalition website (<a href="http://www.elcbrevard.org">www.elcbrevard.org</a>) continues to generate traffic and provides resources for parents and providers on services available both at the Coalition and countywide.</p> <p>The Coalition participated in the development of Whole Child Brevard – an online needs assessment for families with referrals to local agencies. This site launched July 1, 2009.</p> <p>A Family Expo was held on May 9, 2009 in which over 2,500 people attended to obtain VPK certificates and meet with local child care providers, schools and family friendly businesses.</p> <p>Resource and Referral services are advertised on local buses, magazines, websites and radio. An online referral system was developed this fiscal year allowing families to request referrals for child care online at <a href="http://www.elcbrevard.org">www.elcbrevard.org</a>.</p>
<p>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</p>	<p>The Coalition partners with Brevard Community College in providing scholarships for child care teachers. Scholarships were provided to teachers this year to obtain their Florida Child Care Professional Certificate (FCCPC), attend early childhood courses and earn CEU's towards their FCCPC renewal or Director's Credential.</p> <p>Additionally, the Coalition provided Directors and Assistant Directors with scholarships to attend the National Association of Child Care Professional's Director's Conference in Orlando.</p> <p>Providers were given the opportunity to "shop" at the Provider Store with vouchers earned throughout the year for submitting child assessments, attendance, etc on time as well as for attending trainings and meetings. Items</p>

	<p>available for “purchase” in the Provider Store include developmentally appropriate books, infant items, fine and gross motor items, art supplies, items for dramatic play and many other items that would enhance the learning opportunities for children.</p> <p>Playground and safety materials were also offered to providers to enhance the quality and safety of their center.</p>
<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>The Coalition continued to meet and communicate regularly with Brevard’s local licensing agency, the Department of Health/Environmental Health. Regular communication ensures that information is shared about provider observations and all agencies involved are kept up to date.</p> <p>The Coalition conducted regular monitoring of child care providers to review attendance documentation for School Readiness providers. In addition, a sample of VPK providers was monitored to evaluate their continued compliance with state and local program and contractual requirements.</p>
<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>Professional opportunities were made available to providers this year via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarships to conferences</li> <li>• Scholarships to attend college level courses</li> <li>• Local provider conference titled “Kids Are My Business” held in June 2009</li> <li>• Ongoing trainings were offered on various subjects including: curriculum and character development programs, classroom management, lesson planning, performance standards, health and safety, child screening and assessment, etc.</li> <li>• Ongoing technical assistance upon request Coaching / mentoring upon request</li> </ul>
<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>The Coalition contracts with the Children’s Forum to provide the WAGE\$ program to child care teachers. This program provides stipends based on education level and length of employment. This stipend promotes staff</p>

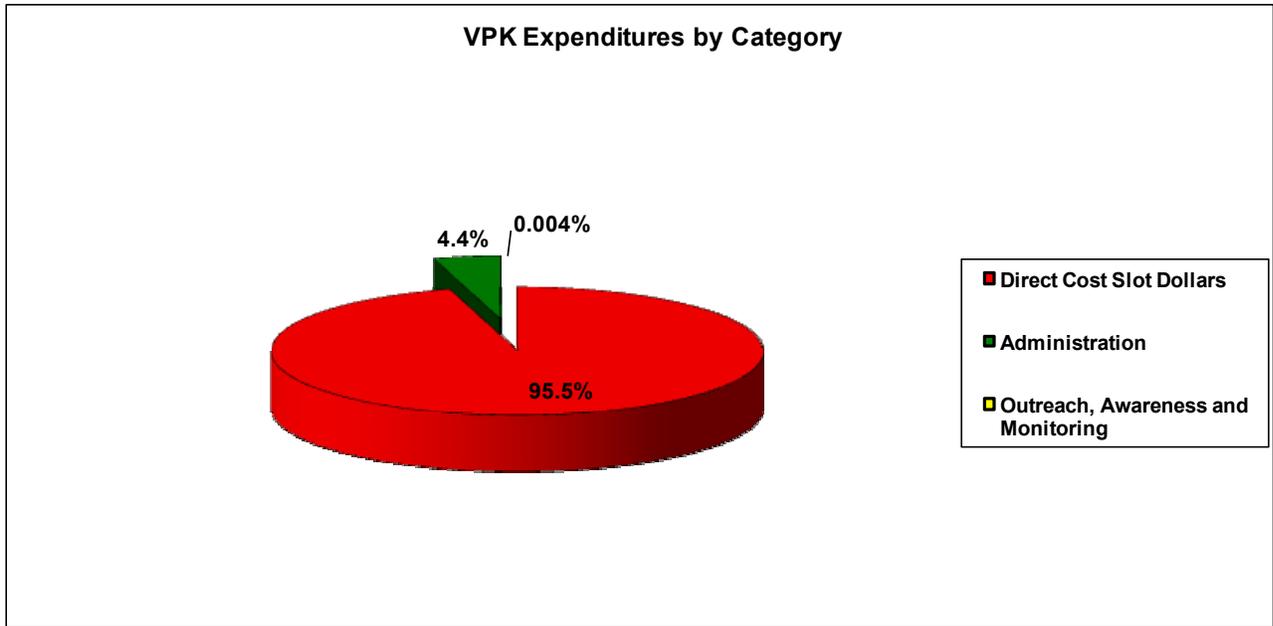
	retention and continued professional development.
Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.	N/A
Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.	<p>The Coalition contracts with the Brevard County School District to provide the Florida First Start program. This program targets teenage parents in high school. Home visiting services provide guidance and activities supporting early literacy, language development and parent education.</p> <p>Parent newsletters were distributed to child care providers and posted on the website. Newsletters focused on reading readiness, language development, and character development and provided activities for parents and their children.</p> <p>Provider training was offered on topics such as: story time, language and math awareness for child care providers, dramatic play, family literacy, using manipulatives in the classroom and other related subjects.</p>
What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?	<p>The Coalition collaborates with Early Steps and Child Find in referring children for further assessment. Both agencies accept the Coalition assessments as the first step in the process thereby reducing the amount of time spent in accessing services.</p> <p>Trainings were offered to child care providers on topics such as: autism spectrum disorders, the effects of trauma on young children, instruction to inclusion and ADA, speech/language/communication skills to use with children, how to have a quality inclusive environment and other related subjects.</p>
How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including	During the year, the Coalition continued its partnership with the Florida Covering Kids and Families/KidCare program. Coalition staff discussed the importance of having health insurance and preventative medical care for

<p>those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</p>	<p>children and provided families informational materials about KidCare services.</p> <p>Trainings were made available to child care providers on health (physical, social, emotional) related topics such as: hand washing, music and movement, diversity in the classroom, character development and other related subjects.</p>
<p>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</p>	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral provides families with information regarding the selection of quality child care. This includes providing families with information over the phone or via email. Families also receive written materials such as the Quality Checklist that assist families with conducting observations of child care facilities that will assist them in making informed decisions.</p>

**Fiscal Summary:** During the 2008- 2009 fiscal year the coalition’s total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$17,805,020.00. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2008- 2009 fiscal year the coalition’s total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$10,845,175.00. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



**Program Year Summary:**

*Making a Difference in the Lives of Children and Early Education and Child Care Providers*

The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County strives to ensure that children have access to quality care and that Early Education and Child Care Providers have the education, tools and resources needed for their profession. As a result, ongoing trainings, mentoring, resource materials and scholarships were available to providers. The Coalition website ([www.elcbrevard.org](http://www.elcbrevard.org)) continues to be a useful tool acting as a one-stop resource for both parents and providers. Board membership expanded. Lastly, the Coalition is proud to have continued building community partnerships to assist parents in locating affordable childcare.

*“Childcare assistance made it possible for me to graduate high school.” Parent – Florida First Start*

The Coalition worked with Brevard Community College to offer scholarships allowing teachers to complete their Florida Child Care Professional Certificate and renew Director’s Credentials.

*“Thank you for the scholarship award you gave me and six other staff members at Space Coast Christian Academy and Childcare. Your encouragement to higher education and*

professionalism in the work place was just what we all needed. The award made higher education possible for women, who had dedicated their life work to other's children during the day; however, through the committed goals of the ELC, we were all able to set higher levels for benefiting the children of our community...." *Space Coast Christian Childcare*

The Coalition funded the Child Care WAGE\$® FLORIDA Project, which aims to improve child care quality by reducing turnover and encouraging the continued education of early childhood teachers. \$100,000 was expensed during FY 09.10 to provide education-based salary supplements to over 90 early childhood teachers working with children ages birth to five.

"The Florida First Start program helped me a lot with my parenting skills and getting my daughter ready for VPK." *Parent – Florida First Start*

"Thank you for making our daycare home a little more successful and making it possible for us to have more safe and fun toys making it possible for us to grow and learn more happily." *Lewis Family Child Care Home*

The Coalition hosted a Family Expo on May 9, 2009. The Expo was designed as an opportunity for families and their children to register for VPK and meet local child care providers and community agencies. Over 2,500 people attended the event.