

## What You Need To Know About Sensory Integration

Do you have:

A child who covers his/her ears when children are singing or at loud noises  
A child who rolls all over the floor while other are sitting at circle time  
A child who refuses to touch play dough or paint and does not like to be hugged  
A child who does not play on outdoor playground equipment  
A child who appears lazy, because he/she moves slowly and is uncoordinated  
All these children are demonstrating possible signs of problems with Sensory Integration.

**The Sensory Seeker** craves excessive stimulation from one or more senses. This child's brain needs more input in order to register information.

**The Sensory Under-Responder** does not seem to notice inputs. They are less responsive to sensory stimulation.

**What Can You Do To Help These Children?**

**A Sensory Avoider** (auditory) Certain sounds may be painful. You can decrease the noise level in the room by adding, carpet, pillows and rugs.

**What is Sensory Integration?**

Sensory Integration is the neurological process of organizing sensory inputs to function in daily life. Our bodies take in information and send it to our brains. Our brains interpret that input so we can make sense of our world.

**How Many Senses Are There?**

In addition to the five senses there are two additional senses: vestibular and proprioceptive. Our sense of movement and balance (vestibular) interprets information through our inner ears to determine if our bodies are moving or standing still. Our sense of body position (proprioceptive) provides our brains with information about the parts of our bodies and where they are in space. People who have difficulty in using information that is collected through the senses are described as having a Sensory Processing Disorder.

**How Do Children Who Have Sensory Processing Disorder Behave In The Classroom?**

The Sensory Avoider is under responsive to sensations. This child avoids certain sensory experiences because the brain is unable to process information.

**A Sensory Seeker** (vestibular/movement and balance) His brain is saying "I need to move to learn". Allow child to wiggle within boundaries and incorporate participation activities such as songs or stories with motion into circle time.

**A Sensory Avoider** (touch) Her brain is registering touch input as painful. Give the child the opportunity to "watch first and touch later". Allow child to touch materials at her own rate.

**An Under Responder** (proprioceptive/body position) This child needs more input to his muscles and joints. Give the child heavy work activities such as carrying books, moving chairs, pushing or pulling a wagon full of blocks.

-Joanne Nelson, Inclusion Specialist

## Point 2 Ponder

A life-style of learning doesn't feel like school because it is just learning about life...  
...And these are the lessons that stick with us the rest of our lives.  
-Anonymous

## Trivia Challenge

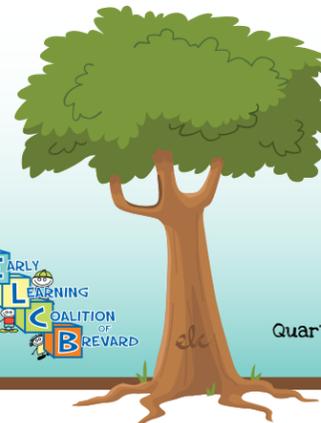
### Trivia Challenge Question

What is happening on May 9, 2015?

- A) ELC Provider Conference
- B) Provider Appreciation Day
- C) Mandatory Provider Meeting



Please submit entries to [coalitionconnection@elcbrevard.org](mailto:coalitionconnection@elcbrevard.org). The winner will be announced in the next edition.



April-June 2015

# Coalition Connection

Quarterly Newsletter presented by the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County to promote quality services, professional development and awareness within the child care and early childhood education community.

## Welcome

Early Learning Providers,

As we begin to think about winding down the school year, it is a good time to reflect on all the fantastic work that you provided to our littlest learners. I'm sure you had some challenges but know that you also made tremendous progress, some of which you have been able to see and some which haven't shown themselves yet. It is proving to also be the time to already start looking ahead and what is to come.

Thank you for all your emails and phone calls related to your questions about next year's budget and children to be served, pending legislation that would impact our

work, VPK assessments and other important topics. We continue to watch these items closely and will communicate any updates with you as we get them. The Early Learning Coalition continues to admire your dedication to serve children with the highest level of quality early childhood education. Keep up the great work!

Sky Beard,  
Executive Director

*Sky Beard*

## Provider Services Update

Hello Early Childhood Educators,

I think we can all agree, whether we have been in Early Childhood Education for a long time, or we are brand new to the field, lately our world is spinning at a fast pace! New statewide contracts, innovative professional development opportunities, and evolving compliance requirements are just a few topics that have been hot buttons for all of us. Through all of these changes, transparency is key. The Coalition makes it a

priority to distribute the latest updates to all of our providers. Please ensure that you are doing your best to stay abreast of the information we furnish by ensuring all contact information is current, regularly attending meetings, checking and responding to ELC emails, and speaking to Coalition staff when you have a question. Together, we can make certain that Brevard Early Childhood Educators are well-informed and proactive.

-Jennifer Shields,  
Provider Services Administrator

## Dates to Remember

**Provider Appreciation Brunch & Learn**  
Saturday May 9, 2015  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Space Coast Convention Center  
301 Tucker Lane, Cocoa

**Terrific Teacher Celebration**  
Saturday May 30, 2015  
Barnes & Noble  
1955 W New Haven Ave,  
West Melbourne, FL 32904

Contact Mariel Hicks for additional information at 321-637-1800 ext.2047 or [mhicks@elcbrevard.org](mailto:mhicks@elcbrevard.org)



## Try This!

### Make a Water Blob!!!

How do you make one? All you need is one big roll of plastic sheeting and duct tape.



**Step 1:** Fold the plastic sheeting in half and tape the three open sides with duct tape (it helps to have assistance) but leave open a small hole for the water hose. Optional: add some bright blue food coloring just for that wow factor.

**Step 2:** Add glitter (you could also add confetti or small gummy items like worms or fish for a theme party, just make sure the items are very soft with no pointy edges).

**Step 3:** Put the water hose in it and let it fill. When it's totally full, tape the small opening shut and let the kids loose!



# To Report or Not to Report? *There is no question!*

All of us involved in childcare know and understand the importance of reporting any suspected child abuse or neglect. Yet we often get calls from providers who are concerned for the well-being of a child. Of course, we will share and listen to your concern, but the rule of thumb is: if you suspect it, report it!

We are all mandated reporters and cannot hesitate over concern that we might "get someone in trouble" or "lose a client." It is often difficult to determine if abuse is taking place, but that is not our job. If you suspect it, err on the side of caution and report your concerns directly to the Abuse Hotline. Once the report is made, the Hotline counselor will determine if the information you provided meets the legal requirements to accept a report for investigation. We need to ask ourselves in each instance what is the worst that can happen? Our reports are confidential and if the case is accepted an investigation will be initiated. If nothing is found that puts the child in harm's way you can breathe a sigh of relief. But if the investigation uncovers abuse or neglect, you have protected a vulnerable child.

It is important to remember that abuse takes many forms the obvious physical as well as the less

obvious mental or sexual. All abuse may result in damage to a child's physical, mental or emotional health and must be reported. In addition to abuse, there is the issue of neglect. If you suspect the child is not being fed properly, does not have sufficient clothing, or is not receiving necessary medical attention, pick up the phone and call the Abuse Hotline.

If you suspect it report it!

-Grace Doughtie, Eligibility Specialists ELC

**FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE**  
 report online at  
<https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>  
 call 1-800-962-2873 (1-800-96Abuse)  
 fax report to 1-800-914-0004

## BREVARD ZOO



### We've Earned Our Stripes

Come See our Grevy's Zebra girls now on exhibit in Expedition Africa with our white rhinos! And, come explore the new expanded boardwalk with a covered pavilion that gets you close to lemurs and provides new views of the giraffe! Here are some fun ideas to bring the excitement at the Zoo to your classroom:

**Sensory Exploration:** Try shaving cream marbling! Spread a thin layer of shaving cream on a tray with some black food coloring or finger paint. Use plastic zebra toys to mix the stripes if you have them in your classroom.

**Turn it into an art project:** A piece of paper over the top of your shaving cream mixture can make a fun striped print. You could even use a horse shape to create your own zebras.  
 BrevardZoo.org

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: An Effective way to Reach Our Parents



When we have a child that is displaying consistent discipline issues we send a note home stating that we need to have a parent- teacher/ director meeting and that the *child cannot return* until the meeting has taken place. Most parents will come to this meeting very quickly because they need childcare.

At the meeting, the parents are informed of the behavior and what steps we have taken as a center in an effort to redirect and nip the behavior before it becomes any worse. We also will have some printed information for the parents on steps they can take at home to aid the child in more appropriate behavior.

After this appointment, the child will be placed on probation. During this probation period they will be given 2 chances and after that they will be expelled from the center. However, the child many times is able to display appropriate behavior due to the parents partnering with the school in addressing the behavior.

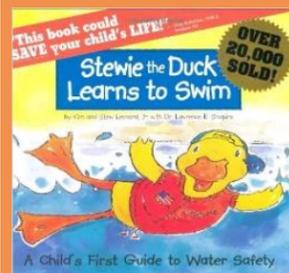
- Rockledge Christian Daycare

## Got Books...

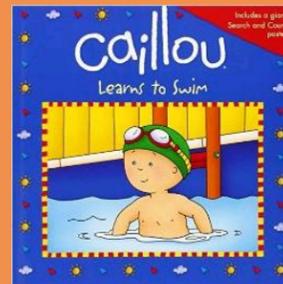
### On Water Safety?



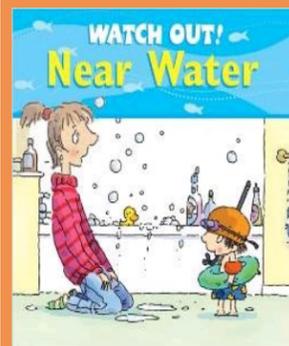
**Kids Don't Float**  
 By: Sherrie Giddens



**Stewie Duck the Duck Learns to Swim**  
 By: Leonard/Shapiro



**Caillou Learns to Swim**  
 By: Sarah Margaret, Johanson Eric Sevigny



**Watch Out! Near Water**  
 By: Claire Llewellyn, Mike Gordon

The process of identifying risks, assessing risks and developing strategies to manage risks is known as **risk management**. A risk management plan and a business impact analysis are important parts of your business continuity plan. By understanding potential risks to your business and finding ways to minimize their impacts, you will help your business recover quickly if an incident occurs.

### What is Risk?

Risk is the chance that your business will lose money because of injury, damage, destruction or theft, loss of net income, or anything that adversely affects the way you do business. Risk is anything that threatens the ability of your business to accomplish its mission. Any single incident can cause multiple problems. Strategies to avoid risks can include: communication, setting expectations, support systems, staff training, insurance, risk assessment, and contingency planning.

Regardless of whether you are large or small, center-based or a family child care home, as an owner of a childcare center you should have plans in place to protect yourself and your business against unforeseen hazards as well as the routine risks that your employees face every day. This is accomplished through the development of a **Risk Management Plan**.

**Components of a Risk Management Plan (RMP)** Adapted from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Division of Licensing Child Care Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Plan

In the child care sector we look after children who are vulnerable. We therefore have a responsibility to protect not only our own health and safety and that of our colleagues, but also the health and safety of children. Child care center owners should develop a Risk Management Plan that identifies policies and procedures to address the general risks or harm factors to children served by their center. It should address factors that you can control such as facilities, operations, materials and employees.

A Risk Management Plan documents the processes, tools and procedures that will be used to manage and control those events that could have a negative impact on your business. A good risk management plan with appropriate risk management strategies can minimize costly and stressful problems, and may also reduce insurance claims and premiums.

### Sample Risk Assessment Chart:

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Control Measures what measures or actions are you already doing to remove or reduce the risk?	What further action is necessary?	Action to be taken by whom?	Action to be completed by when?	Date of completion

