In The Loop
April 2023 Issue No. 28
The ELC Brevard Coalition publication and go-to resource for Teachers and Early Learning Partners

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

“Get EGG-CITED for EASTER
Happy Easter to our Early Years Community.”

• Provider Services
• ELC News & Update
• Program Assessment
• Professional Development
• Early Intervention
• Monitoring & Compliance
• CLASS Group Coaching
• Crafty Corner
• Pre K Activities
• Teacher Resources
• ELC Brevard Updates

Presented by
Chinaka Grizzle
Professional Development Specialist
ELCB
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Happy Easter and welcome to our April 2023 edition of In The Loop!

On behalf of ELC Brevard, I was able to attend the Celebration of the Hands March 26-31, 2023 in our State’s Capitol.

Each year, Children’s Week Florida partners and volunteers come together to hang a larger than life visual inside the Capitol Rotunda. This incredible piece of art serves as a daily reminder to legislators, advocates and visitors that the future of our children rests in their hands. This stunning display is comprised of custom hand artwork crafted by young children across the state.

Special thanks to our Board members and Partners for your ongoing support and encouragement.
**CLASS® Bonus PreK**  
**CLASS® Bonus Infant/Toddler**  
**Up-skill Director (Directors ONLY)**  
**Child Success Grants**

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:

CLICK on Link: [https://elcbrevard.webauthor.com/go/frx_class_product_key_sign_up/default.cfm](https://elcbrevard.webauthor.com/go/frx_class_product_key_sign_up/default.cfm)

- Complete CLASS Bonus Sign Up.
- Each Educator interested in completing new CLASS bonuses, must complete – CLASS Bonus Sign Up.
- Receive email with personalized product key(s) from ELC staff.
- 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.
- Look out for a Welcome Email from contact@teachstone.com.
- Activate your MyTeachstone account and set up a password.
- Complete required coursework for the bonus you are applying for.
- Apply for Bonus -complete funding request in Webauthor; upload certificates and financial documents into WebAuthor

**Steps to Sign Up for Virtually Facilitated Courses:**

- Courses must be signed up for in advance, do not wait until the day before the training. 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.
- Check available courses on ARPA Calendar (ELCB website). [www.elcbrevard.org/p/286/arpa-calendar/](http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/286/arpa-calendar/)
- Register- for training as outlined for each Bonus you are applying for. Refer to World Class & CRRSA Incentive Summary for Bonus training requirements.
- If training request is submitted within timeframe, you will receive an email from Teachstone with – Log in information and Zoom link for training date
- Specific trainings have physical training materials. These materials will be shipped to ELCB, and ELCB staff will make arrangement to issue to registered participant. These items are also available digitally, in the event participant does not receive before registered training.

**Child Success Grants:**

- Current VPK and/or SR contract  
- CLASS Score below a 5  
- No CLASS Score  
- Director must participate along with staff.

If you don’t know your CLASS score: Send request for score to: [GOTARPA@elcbrevard.org](mailto:GOTARPA@elcbrevard.org)
Steps to Sign Up for Child Success Grant:

**Segment 1** - online, and virtually facilitated trainings that must be completed by all participants.

**Segment 2** - online, and in person trainings- No Seats available.

1. Each individual participating in any bonuses must be added to ARPA WebAuthor and each must have a W-9, copy of driver’s license, or state identification, copy of voided check, and completed direct deposit agreement.

2. Each individual participating must complete – Teachstone- CLASS Product Key (Online) & Virtually Facilitated Training Form(attached) and email to: GOTARPA@elcbrevard.org. (Best to send all participants forms in one email)

3. ELCB upon receipt of forms, will process, and then set up participants in Teachstone, and will provide center Director with product keys for online trainings to issue to their staff to start training.

4. For the virtually facilitated trainings, Director will need to register each participant for the required trainings on the ELCB Calendars on the ELCB website.

5. Upon completion of all trainings, a funding request will then be submitted, along with each participant's proof of training completion (certificates).

6. ELCB upon receipt of funding request in ARPA WebAuthor will review funding request, and if all in compliance, will then process for payment of bonuses.

**To apply for this bonus** - the Director must participate in the training along with staff, so the entire program benefits from the same preparation, work with a coach, and support of weekly goals.

All Child Success Grants are available for providers completing the requirements from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. **All trainings must be completed by June 30, 2023.**

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**Teacher of the Month**

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
Program Assessment & Professional Development

Greeting Providers & Teachers,

We hope you all healthy, happy and well.

April has finally arrived, and with it comes several religious holidays or observances; For those celebrating "Happy Easter", "Ramadan Greetings", "Peaceful Palm Sunday" or "Pleasant Passover"... essentially, we hope you all have a great month.

As a friendly reminder 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. Come join us the last Thursday of each month, check our ELC Brevard calendar for details and links. You will hear directly from our Community Partners, ELC staff, DEL facilitators, and accreditation agencies.

When registering for our trainings, if you later realize that you cannot attend, please contact us so we can permit other participants to join our training, this also applies to 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 emails please update your teacher emails on QPS it helps us to have their emails for training information and our newsletter distribution.

If you would like free vision screenings for your children, please reach out to Kid Sight’s Mr. Stephen Tarr of the Satellite Beach Lions Club at 610-742-7878.

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

Best wishes to you all,
Professional Development team

Reminder 1pm - 2pm
Monthly Directors Chat
Last Thursday of each month

ZOOM Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89393982922?pwd=MGVsVmRTQ2pjT25QNWhwY21yRFINQT09
江西的评估意识 (FAST) 使用 Star Early Literacy 训练

上个夏天DEL提供了FAST使用 Star Early Literacy 训练通过 ZOOM。如果VPK工作人员参加了这次培训并且它不在DCF工作人员的简历中，DEL无法匹配到您在DCF中的信息。为了确保训练内容与您的DCF账户中的信息相符，您需要在注册期间提交以下信息：

- 姓名
- 姓名
- 邮箱地址
- DCF 学生ID（此信息应在员工编号字段中显示）


有关江西的评估意识 (FAST) 使用 Star Early Literacy 训练的信息可在DEL的网站上找到：

This month we focus on Problem Solving Skills. Solving problems are hard for young children, even teenagers, as their prefrontal cortex isn’t fully developed yet. Using multisensory teaching tools to support brain development, practicing tasks that teach executive functioning skills and using developmentally appropriate tools to help children calm down, will help even the most frustrating moments become a bit less stressful for children and adults.

As we learn to be more patient with children, understanding that the part of their brain needed to solve problems is just beginning to develop, repeating the same directions over and over again may not be so frustrating. Our children are doing the best they can. It’s up to us to provide them with experiences to help their brains grow and develop.

Problem Solving Skills and Executive Functioning doesn’t need to involve boring projects, long checklists, or tedious tasks that make the kids run. These activities can help to improve the skills that translate to better planning, prioritization, and staying on task during day-to-day and increase friendship skills.
Children who are nonverbal are always communicating with us. In fact, according to Dr. Mehrabian, "93% of our communication is nonverbal in nature."

Yet just because children who are nonverbal might not be speaking to us, educators can still have a reciprocal interaction. Try focusing on their facial expressions, following their gaze, and looking at what they pointing to. Interpret their input and check for confirmation. Facilitate technological devices and apps that speak for them, and make available visuals they can use to show us what they want, think, need, fear, or are interested in. Lunchtime might post a more challenging time to incorporate these ideas. Here are some additional ways to support nonverbal communication during mealtimes.

1. **Engage in Back-And-Forth Exchanges**

   Engage in back-and-forth exchanges, even when these exchanges are nonverbal on the part of the child. As you speak with children, they are always listening and observing your nonverbal communication and responding in their own way. Their communication may come across as smiles, excited clapping, eye contact, and pauses as they wait for your response.

2. **Scaffold Answers by Offering Choices**

   Scaffold the answers by offering two choices. For example, "Would you like apples or pears?" Follow up when they choose, "Oh, you want a pear!

   I wonder why you chose a pear today. Is it sweeter? Is it because you want a yellow fruit today? Pause and look attentively as the child responds non-verbally. Add your own likes: "I like apples better than pears. Do you want to know why?" Pause, look at the response, and follow up should the child is interested: "Well, pears feel grainy in my mouth. Do you know what grainy means? They feel like sand in my mouth, and I do not like that feeling."

   Maybe the child's expression changed when you said "sand." Use this response: "You like sand? Do we eat sand? Why not? What can we do in the sand? "The conversations are likely to extend to several children at the table, engage, these conversations will be endless as you persist.

3. **Encourage Children to Respond in Other Ways**

   You can incorporate movement in children’s responses even while sitting at the table. Consider asking them to raise their hand to questions you can ask throughout mealtime. Some questions to consider could include:
   - Do you like your food today?
   - Have you visited a farm before?
   - Did anyone help pick out your food at the grocery store?

   Engage in reciprocal interactions by mentioning things they might have seen so that they can respond based on their own experiences.

4. **Use Pictures**

   Consider sharing pictures with children so they can choose the conversation topic at the table. Topics could include their family, their pets, how foods grow, etc. What other
Professional Development Cont...
How to Communicate with Non-Verbal Children During Meal Time... cont

pictures might you want to add to help them communicate their needs during mealtime? Things like more food, I’m full, I need help can be useful cards to make meals easier.

5. BE AN AUTHENTIC INTERPRETER

Always double-check that what you think they’re communicating is what they mean. For example, if a child points to their water, check that they’re asking for more. They could mean they’re looking for a different drink or they might not like the cup you’ve offered them. It’s always a good idea to watch their reactions as you ask for confirmation.

6. BE SILLY

Be silly while providing information. Children don’t need to be verbal to enjoy silly moments with their educators. Here’s a silly example:

“What do you think we are going to eat for lunch?” Pause to gauge interest. “Are we having grass?”
Laugh and smile.
“No? Why don’t we eat grass? Who eats grass? Why can they eat grass, and we cannot?

7. INCLUDE MORE THAN ONE CHILD

Remember to include other children in their conversations. For example, say, "Show your friend what food on your plate you like the most." When the child points at the food, call out the food and prompt the child to repeat, "Can you say carrot so that your friend hears you?"

With these tips, you’ll be on your way to making meals more memorable for every child in your program.

Program Assessment Reminder...

Our Coaches are here to support you, our Teachers & Providers. Please don’t wait until your observation date is announced or AFTER your CLASS Assessment has been completed to reach out or accept support.

Let’s work together to be prepared for Classroom Observations & The CLASS Measure

Let our Coaches explore with your Teachers the interactions that matter! Professional Development is ongoing...
Mission Moments

ELC Brevard sent a group of Staff delegates, representing all Departments, **Provider Services, CCR&R, Family Services, Finances & Leadership** to the recent Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC) Annual Training Camp. Our Delegates worked with colleagues from ELC’s across the State, sharing expertise and our joint vision which in turn we will share with our Early Years Providers and Teachers.

The Keynote Speaker Gerry Brooks was insightful knowledgeable and entertaining... we highly recomend his book "Go See The Principal"

Workshops & Breakout sessions were facilitated by a plethora of exceptional & knowledgeable Practitioners & Partners.

The list of topics explored was vast, and included:

- CLASS, STEM,
- Early Literacy Micro Credentials,
- Staff Recruitment & Retention,
- Professional Development, Family Engagement, Leadership & Quality,
- Language Development & Technology & Supports,
- SR Eligibility, Community Relations, Partnership and Outreach, Effective Communication and Child Welfare.
Crafty Corner

Spring Chicks - hand and footprints - simple eggshaped body

Paper Straw Tulips - straws, pleat flower and thread, add long leaves to stem

Peek-a-Boo Chicks - Clothes pegs, Colorful or textured cardstock - Let your kids express their creativity by drawing faces

Bunny-Cups - Perfect for those take home Easter Treats

Peg Printing Bubble snap! - Cotton balls, pegs, Paint & egg shapes

Easter Wreaths - Colourful scrap cardstock giftwrap or paper, ribbon for bows and threading

Striped Eggs - A simple sticking project in the Toddler room - It's eggtastic!

Corkscrew printing Easter Chicks - Fork Painting A very spikey chick
Community Resources

You have an exciting teaching resource in your hands right now!

The Adventure Center is a place where children and adults come to get materials and inspiration for creative, hands-on play and learning in Science, Mathematics, the Arts, and Literacy Skills.

It is a fantastic network of Brevard businesses and industries that donate high quality, unwanted by-products, over-runs, rejects, and obsolete products for use in our schools, child care and Head Start Centers, after school programs, summer camps, neighborhood youth and other community organizations.

Thank you, local business and industry partners who make the Adventure Center possible and help to develop the creativity and imagination of children and adults!

What we do:

- Offer materials and Discovery Workshops for children at our Adventure Center or their schools, using a wide variety of open-ended materials. See a video of a Children's Workshop at our Center: http://youtu.be/pMRq2U2X70Y
- Conduct professional development training for teachers and all staff.
- Research the importance of play in education and human development, and develop curriculum and activities focused on Self Active play.
- Promote an ethic of reuse and environmental stewardship.

"Play is the highest form of research." Albert Einstein

The Reusable Resources Adventure Center is a unique and valuable professional support service for teachers, parents, artists and children. It provides a variety of instructional materials and inspiring workshops to stimulate teachers and parents to develop new and exciting "hands-on" approaches to learning in the classroom and home.

"It gives me joy to know that I am helping to develop creative minds. At Rockwell, I sort items and put them in boxes after we take the parts out. I think RRAC is a wonderful program and Rockwell likes to help." Rena Williams, Materials Leader, Collins Aerospace, Melbourne, FL

We are open to all! We are open on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00 to 6:00, and the 4th Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00. Appointments are available outside of these times.

Become a Member!
Everyone is welcome to be a member and support our program for $45 a year, or come fill a bag with materials for $10.

Donate Materials!
Donate materials during our open hours or by appointment.

We can reuse these things:
Paper stock, mat board, picture frames, fabric, yarn, wire, thread cones and spindles, buttons and other craft supplies, metal rings and tubes, plastic caps, containers, wheels and gears, wood dowels, cut-offs, boxes, rolls of ribbon, raffia, contact paper, cardboard tubes, foam punch-outs, and more!

Location & Contact:
The Reusable Resources Adventure Center
West Melbourne School for Science
2255 Meadowlane Ave
W. Melbourne, FL 32904
www.ReuseResources.org
321-984-1018
Visit us on Facebook:
Reusable Resources Adventure Center
Institute for Self Active Education
Dr. Drew's Blocks

A program of The Institute for Self Active Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit sponsored by The Kiwanis Club of Melbourne, FL
In collaboration with Brevard County Public Schools
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children
Dr. Drew's Toys, Inc.
And many local businesses

Developing the creativity, imagination and environmental awareness of children and adults

A Community Partnership
benefitting local schools, businesses and government
April Calendar Dates

April 7th, 2023: Good Friday
Celebrated in the Christian faith, observing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

April 9th, 2023 - Easter Sunday
The season of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday is a time of fasting, sacrifice, and prayer. It is the Christian way of replicating in a small way what Christ sacrificed for us.

April 10th, 2023 - National Siblings Day
is a day to appreciate and cherish your brothers and sisters, including stepsiblings and adopted siblings. Siblings are truly a special blessing often taken for granted. They are often our best friends and supporters throughout life.

April 14th, 2023 - Look Up at the Sky Day?
SERIOUSLY... take a minute and look up! Ya never know what might be going on. An asteroid or meteor may be on its way. A solar eclipse or a flock of geese or birds may be overhead... airplanes, helicopters, and perhaps a few weather balloons... ask the kids what they see!

April 20th, 2023 - National High Five Day
The “High Five” is a celebratory slapping of hands.
It’s fun and easy to celebrate this special day.
Give a High Five to everyone you see. This includes friends, family, passersby, and total strangers. The more you give, the better for everyone involved.

April 21st, 2023 - Kindergarten Day
Celebrate today with a trip down memory lane. Pull out the old pictures of you and/or your child's first day at Kindergarten.

April 27th, 2023 - Take your Daughter to Work Day (maybe take your sons too)
The intention was to give girls additional direct attention and an insight into work world opportunities available to them. It was to serve the multiple purposes of increased self-esteem for young girls, as well as give them some ideas of the wealth of careers in the world. Thirdly, it allowed them more one-on-one time with their mom or dad.
# Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Staff Contacts

Melbourne Fax (321) 752-3294  Rockledge Fax (321) 637-1897
Reception/ Main telephone: (321) 637-1800

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Work Cell</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Assistance with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Gambino</td>
<td>321 423-4268 X 8567</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lgambino@elcbrevard.org">lgambino@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriet Paredes</td>
<td>321 210-6595 X 2515</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hparedes@elcbrevard.org">hparedes@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Provider Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaris Rosario</td>
<td>321 408-8110 X 8542</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arosario@elcbrevard.org">arosario@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Ammons</td>
<td>321 626-7313 X 8541</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jammons@elcbrevard.org">jammons@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Quality Assurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eneida Colon</td>
<td>321 626-4485 X 8572</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecolon@elcbrevard.org">ecolon@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Community Outreach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Dockery</td>
<td>321 626-2878 X 8550</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mdockery@elcbrevard.org">mdockery@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Family Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeannie Williams</td>
<td>321 474-4115 X 8568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwilliams@elcbrevard.org">jwilliams@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Director of Executive Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priscilla Ramos</td>
<td>321 423-7439 X 8551</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pramos@elcbrevard.org">pramos@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Provider Services Administrator</td>
<td>Professional Development / Program Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinaka Grizzle</td>
<td>321 210-6629 X 2525</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org">cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Professional Development Specialist</td>
<td>Professional Development / Program Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Diggs</td>
<td>321 210-6188 X 2526</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ldiggs@elcbrevard.org">ldiggs@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Professional Development Specialist</td>
<td>Professional Development / Program Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden Epstein</td>
<td>X 7272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hepstein@elcbrevard.org">hepstein@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>VPK Behavioral Coach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Detweiler</td>
<td>321 358-4002 X 8559</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org">ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Provider Services Coordinator</td>
<td>Program Assessments / Contract assistance BPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Michaud</td>
<td>321 626-4935 X 8562</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmichaud@elcbrevard.org">dmichaud@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Provider Relations Coordinator</td>
<td>Contract - Providers A-K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shivani Veerasami</td>
<td>321 408-7445 X 8574</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sveerasami@elcbrevard.org">sveerasami@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Provider Relations Coordinator</td>
<td>Contracts - Providers L-Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Leddin</td>
<td>321 604-1583 X 2523</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mleddin@elcbrevard.org">mleddin@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Provider Services Administrator</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridhi Uppal</td>
<td>321 604-1586 X 8571</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ruppal@elcbrevard.org">ruppal@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Compliance Specialist</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Clicquot</td>
<td>321 626-3179 X 2510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccliquot@elcbrevard.org">ccliquot@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Compliance Specialist</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesenia Boris</td>
<td>321 446-4771 X 2516</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yboris@elcbrevard.org">yboris@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Compliance Specialist</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Arthur</td>
<td>321 482-3445 X 8564</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barthur@elcbrevard.org">barthur@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Early Intervention Administrator</td>
<td>Early Intervention / screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Giest</td>
<td>321 626-8096 X 2514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tgiest@elcbrevard.org">tgiest@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Early Intervention Specialist</td>
<td>Early Intervention / screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakia King</td>
<td>321 626-7424 X 2534</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lking@elcbrevard.org">lking@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Early Intervention Specialist</td>
<td>Early Intervention / screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Kohler</td>
<td>321 626-8154 X 2529</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kkohler@elcbrevard.org">kkohler@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Early Intervention Specialist</td>
<td>Early Intervention / screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Strooband</td>
<td>321 626-3992 X 2531</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kstrooband@elcbrevard.org">kstrooband@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Lead Family Services Specialist-Melbourne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige Hoskins</td>
<td>321 626-6825 X 2519</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phoskins@elcbrevard.org">phoskins@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Family Services Administrator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Filgueiras</td>
<td>321 626-4996 X 8543</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kfilgueiras@elcbrevard.org">kfilgueiras@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Lead Family Family Services Specialist-Rockledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverley Brown</td>
<td>321 456-8545 321 626-0376 ext. 8545</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbrown@elcbrevard.org">bbrown@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Reimbursement Specialist</td>
<td>A-K Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Streb</td>
<td>321 626-0285 ext. 8548</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mstreb@elcbrevard.org">mstreb@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>Reimbursement Specialist</td>
<td>L-Z Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonia Montalvo</td>
<td>321 626-7195 ext. 2530</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smontalvo@elcbrevard.org">smontalvo@elcbrevard.org</a></td>
<td>CCR&amp;R Administrator</td>
<td></td>
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