Celebrating Black History Month

Valentine's Day

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

Presented by Chinaka Grizzle
Professional Development Specialist
ELCB
February is black history month

It's February and that means it's Black History Month! We recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black and African American individuals and communities. In the spirit of LOVE, we celebrate and acknowledge all of our Black and African American individuals and communities.

Here at ELC Brevard, we are fortunate to be able to do what we LOVE every day – that is to support our Providers in developing and sustaining the BEST Early Learning facilities for Brevard's children and families. As such we are delighted and excited to roll out the new Professional Development initiatives and retention incentives for our Providers and Teachers. We strive to be a part of your success! For the latest updates and training opportunities please check our ELCB website at www.elcbrevard.org and our Facebook page.

Thank you to our Providers and Families who make Early Learning truly special!
Good day Brevard providers-

- ARPA Round 2 - deadline to apply by February 28th, 2023.

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

ELCB is working on coordinating the facilitation of this program.

Please follow outlined steps 1 & 2 below.

Grants currently available:

**Stage 1: Monday, February 6th - ELCB will launch platform for providers to complete Eligibility Request(s), once Reviewed by ELCB, and if Approved, Provider may then submit request for the two bonuses below:**

**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.

**1. 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.

**CLASS Bonus Sign Up - Coming Soon!**
Dear Wonderful Providers,

We hope you all are doing well. **February** is here and lots of events are happening this month from Valentine's Day to honoring our Presidents. We hope you all have a wonderful month.

Just a couple of friendly reminders, when registering for our trainings if you cannot attend, please contact us so we can permit other participants to join our trainings, this also applies to our face-to-face trainings 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. With regards to Teacher emails, please update your teacher email addresses on QPS as it helps us to contact them personally with training information and newsletter distribution.

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

Best wishes to you all,
Professional Development team

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**Certified Coaching Hour - REMINDER**

Effective on **February 7th**, next scheduled **Tuesday Certified Coaching Hour** and all Tuesdays moving forward will have a maximum capacity of **twenty five (25) participants**.

Spaces will be allocated on a **first come first served basis**. Only the first twenty-five (25) to sign into the session will be admitted.

The intent of these sessions is for our coaches to facilitate quality learning and sharing experiences for all participants, and although we would like to accommodate additional participants, anything greater than 25 detracts from that intent.
Hello Providers,
As we enter the Valentine’s month filled with hearts and love, we want to remind you of the wonderful saying from Russell Barkley:

“The kid that needs the most love will ask for it in the most un-loving ways.”

Keep this quote in your heart and mind when dealing with children who are presenting you with challenging behaviors. Remember that children are trying to communicate their needs with their behavior when their words and minds cannot.

Ask yourself:

- “What is this child trying to tell me?”
- “What need is this child trying to have met with this behavior?”
- “Is my response to this behavior filling this child’s needs?”
- “As this child’s teacher, am I teaching him or her another, better, way to communicate this need to me or their friends?”
- “Am I giving love to the child who is asking for it in an un-loving way?”

Please contact your Early Intervention Specialist right away when you need help with challenging behavior. You may just need help decoding what the child is trying to say to you with the behavior, or figuring out a need that is asking to be met.

Do not expel! Give us a yell!

https://youtu.be/l5h5u6D0pSQ  
https://youtu.be/nYAKk-X_To  
https://youtu.be/encEFoFdqCg
Some reminders from the compliance team:

• Upload quarter 4 for proof of unemployment insurance to the center's profile (document tab).

• Ensure all other documents are current on profile and VPK application (license, insurances, background screening, VPK teacher credentials).

• The PM2 administration dates in Renaissance are default dates. If you need assistance figuring out the administration dates for PM2 please email me, my contact information is Margaret Leddin, mleddin@elcbrevard.org.
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

Ms Paige Duguay was nominated for ELC’s Teacher of The Month feature by Michelle Wood, the Director at Kid City USA, who stated:

Paige Duguay is an EXCEPTIONAL Teacher! who we love & appreciate!

Mrs. Paige Started working with us in the childcare field in 2013, she is a very dedicated worker, always punctual, organized and clean. Paige is always there, she never calls out, she’s consistently early for every shift, and we know that we can rely on her.

Mrs. Paige has been a VPK teacher for many years, however she is multi talented and highly skilled because she can work with any age group.

Most of all Ms. Paige is an amazing Teacher because she takes the time to build relationships with her students and parents. She goes above and beyond all expectations. Teamwork makes the dream work! We are BEEyond blessed to have her!

Fun Fact: Mrs. Paige just recently got married! Congratulations Paige and Jimmy!
Using Open-Ended Prompts to Deepen Language Modeling Interactions
20 Dec 2022 by Marla Read Capper

What are open-ended prompts?
Open-ended prompts are questions or statements that support children’s verbal and nonverbal communication. The purpose of open-ended prompts is to encourage extended responses, which promote children’s language development by meeting children where they are. To encourage optimal language growth for all children, educators tailor open-ended prompts to meet individual needs. For example, educators may need to provide more time and support for children to process information and then respond as they are able. The complexity of prompts should be based on children’s readiness levels and communication skills.

Why is it important to use open-ended prompts with children?
It’s important for educators to ask children open-ended questions and statements like, “Tell me more about your drawing” or “What are you doing this weekend?” because they invite children to use more than one word in their response. Open-ended prompts are an important strategy that educators can use with children to open the dialogue and extend conversation, providing opportunities for children to practice language. Effective questions such as, “What is your favorite…? or “Tell me about…?” not only encourage back-and-forth exchanges and develop communication skills, but they can also offer valuable information about children.

How can educators grow their Language Modeling interactions by using ended prompts?
- Consider the frequency, depth, and duration of the educator-child interactions.
- Frequency—the number of times the behaviors or interactions occur.
- Depth—the impact of the interaction on the child.
- Duration—the length of an interaction and whether it is short-lived or sustained.
- Meet students where they are and individualize prompts.
- Promote language by asking open-ended questions that are differentiated based on children’s language abilities and communication skills.
- Use verbal and nonverbal cues
- Communicate in the home language, if possible.

When should educators ask open-ended prompts?
All day long! Ideally, educators and children should participate in back-and-forth conversations all day.

Open-ended questions or statements can lead to longer conversations while children are arriving in the morning and getting settled. It also can lead to dialogues between students, which can be helpful during arrival when there are only a few students in the room and teachers juggle managerial tasks.
VALENTINES CRAFTS

Tree of LOVE!
The tree trunk is a hand shaped stencil cut out of brown paper. Students have creative freedom to stick their heart shapes on their tree! Can be a picture or a greeting card for a friend or family member.

Ladybug Craft
The only thing cuter than a ladybug craft is one that features your child’s cherubic face front and center. Kids of all ages can help with this cardstock-and-glue stick craft and the end result is sweet enough to post in the mail.

PRESCHOOL

Roll Love Bugs
Super fun and easy Toilet Roll Love Bugs for Preschoolers to make! These adorable crafts ideas for Valentine’s are very simple to put together, and the sky is the limit to how they can be designed and decorated. Too cute!

Watercolor fun:-
This easy craft idea for Valentine’s will be a hit! Use a silhouette machine to cut some vinyl heart shapes out. The vinyl would be easy to take off once the painting was finished. It was the most straightforward process! Simply stick, paint & peel.

TODDLER CRAFTS

This Valentine’s craft is super simple for toddlers, try making heart stamps out of toilet paper rolls—no need to run out to the store and buy a bunch of supplies.

Fruit Loop Heart Bird Feeder – Sweet And Simple Living
So simple and easy and perfect to do at snack time. The kiddos can snack and craft at the same time. Just grab a chenille stem (pipe cleaner) and Fruit Loops. Then let the kiddos have fun stringing this cute heart-shaped craft.
Celebrate the MOST WONDERFUL month of the year by making your very own African Mask.

**Supplies:** Multiple Colors of Construction Paper, pipe cleaners, glue & creativity.

Finally, glue them on the circles in the correct order to finish your traffic light.

**Traffic Light Craft**

This activity was inspired by African American inventor, Garrett Morgan. He invented a three-position traffic signal. 

**Supplies**

- Construction paper or cardstock (green, red, yellow, black)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

**Directions**

- Draw three circles on a piece of black paper.
- Kids either cut or tear pieces of red, green and yellow paper.
- Finally, glue them on the circles in the correct order to finish your traffic light.

**Black History Month**

Black History Month was created to bring attention on the contributions of people of African heritage to the United States, Canada and the UK.

Black History Month celebrates the contributions of all Black people from all periods of history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to people of African decent living in the United States, Canada and the UK today.

**Paper Clock Craft**

Inspired by Benjamin Banneker. He created a striking clock completely made out of wood. Benjamin was also credited for making the first clock in America.

Most children are not familiar with analog clocks so this was a great learning activity!

Use this activity to talk about TIME and routines, show children various pictures of clock faces, digital and analog.

**Books Celebrating Black Joy**

- **Oona**
- **I Am Enough**
- **Not Quite Snow White**
- **Make It Fashion**
- **A Welcome to the Party**
- **Baby Says**

**Afrikan Masks**

Celebrate the MOST WONDERFUL month of the year by making your very own African Mask.

**Supplies:**

- Multiple Colors of Construction Paper, pipe cleaners, glue & creativity.
Each year, Children’s Week Florida™ partners and volunteers come together to hang a larger than life visual inside the Capitol Rotunda. The display is constructed from thousands of pieces of vibrant and beautiful children’s hand artwork from across the state. This incredible work of art serves as a daily reminder to legislators, advocates and visitors that the future of our children rests in their hands.

We invite you to join in on the fun and be a part of the 2023 display! Decorate and submit hands with colorful artwork, words, stories and/or pictures to share with legislators and Capitol visitors – there is no limit to your creativity!

The 2023 Celebration of the Hands will take place March 26-31, 2023, in the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee, FL. Below are helpful tips for creating hand artwork to be included in the upcoming Celebration of the Hands display:

• Your hand artwork pieces should be connected using items that will easily adhere to the large ropes used during the week-long display. This includes twine, string, yarn or wide ribbon (please do not send individual hands).

• Staple, tape and secure artwork vertically onto string or ribbon in lengths of no more than 8 feet to create the “hanging” effect.

• If you have many hands of art, please separate them and string together before mailing (no more than 8 feet per string of hands).

• You may also use the hands to create small posters to be included in the display. These should be no larger than 11” x 17”. Vertical or horizontal orientation is acceptable.

• If using glue, glitter or other embellishments, please allow 2-3 days of drying time before packaging your artwork.

Artwork must be mailed by Friday, March 10, 2023, to be included in the large display. Please mail your packages to our 2023 Partner and Community Artwork Host at the address below:

Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region
Attn: Community Relations - Children’s Week
2639 N. Monroe Street, Bldg. C, Ste. 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303
February Calendar Dates

February Monthly Celebrations

• American Heart Month
• Black History Month
• National Bird Feeding Month
• National Children’s Dental Health Month

February 2
• Groundhog Day

February 3
• National Wear Red Day
• National Women Physicians Day

February 4
• Sweater Day

February 9
• National Pizza Day
• Read in the Bathtub Day

February 11
• National Make a Friend Day

February 14
• Valentines Day

February 15
• National Gumdrop Day
• World Hippo Day

February 19
• Whale Day

February 20
• Clean Out Your Bookcase Day
• National Cherry Pie Day
• National Comfy Day

February 22
• National Walking the Dog Day

February 26
• Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 27
• International Polar Bear Day

Strawberry Fest
Wickham Park

When: Saturday, February 18, 2023, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: 2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935
Cost: $6, Kids 2 and under FREE

Saint Katherine Greek Festival

When: Sunday, February 26, 2023 - All Day Event
Location: Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 5965 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940
Cost: FREE
Greek food, Greek Pastries, Live Greek Music and Dancing! Greek Beer & Wine. Church Tours
Friday: 4pm-10pm Saturday: 12 pm - 10 pm Sunday: 12 pm - 5 pm

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN AT FLORIDA TECH

FLORIDA TECH, 150 W. UNIVERSITY BLVD., MELBOURNE,

WILL HOST “WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED” IN THE EVANS LIBRARY ON FRIDAY, FEB. 10 AT 6:30 P.M. FACULTY, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL HONOR THE VOICES OF BLACK RESISTANCE THROUGH MUSIC, LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. VISIT FIT.EDU.
**Name** | **Work Cell** | **Email Address** | **Title** | **Assistance with**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Laura Gambino | 321 432-4268 x 8567 | lgambino@elcbrevard.org | Chief Executive Officer | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Harriet Paredes | 321 210-6595 x 2515 | hparedes@elcbrevard.org | Director of Provider Services | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Amaris Rosario | 321 408-8110 x 8542 | arosario@elcbrevard.org | Director of Finance | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Jodi Ammons | 321 626-7313 x 8541 | jammons@elcbrevard.org | Director of Quality Assurance | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Eneida Colon | 321 626-4485 x 8572 | ecolon@elcbrevard.org | Director of Community Outreach | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Michelle Dockery | 321 626-2878 x 8550 | mdockery@elcbrevard.org | Director of Family Services | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Jeannie Williams | 321-474-4115 x 8568 | jwilliams@elcbrevard.org | Director of Executive Administration | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Priscilla Ramos | 321 423-7439 x 8551 | pramos@elcbrevard.org | Provider Services Administrator | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Chinaka Grizzle | 321 210-6629 x 2525 | cgrizzle@elcbrevard.org | Professional Development Specialist | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Lisa Diggs | 321 210-6188 x 2526 | ldiggs@elcbrevard.org | Professional Development Specialist | Professional Development / Program Assessment
Hayden Epstein | x 7272 | hepstein@elcbrevard.org | VPK Behavioral Coach | Program Assessments / Contract assistance BPS
Lauren Detweiler | 321 358-4002 x 8559 | ldetweiler@elcbrevard.org | Provider Services Coordinator | Contract - Providers A-K
Dallas Michaud | 321 626-4935 x 8562 | dmichaud@elcbrevard.org | Provider Relations Coordinator | Contracts - Providers L-Z
Shivani Veerasami | 321-408-7445 x 8574 | sveerasami@elcbrevard.org | Provider Relations Coordinator | Monitoring & Compliance
Margaret Leddin | 321 664-1583 x 2523 | mleddin@elcbrevard.org | Provider Services Administrator | Monitoring & Compliance
Dilhi Uppal | 321 604-1586 x 8571 | ruppal@elcbrevard.org | Compliance Specialist | Monitoring & Compliance
Christina Clicquot | 321 626-3179 x 2510 | cclicquot@elcbrevard.org | Compliance Specialist | Monitoring & Compliance
Yesenia Boris | 321 446-4771 x 2516 | yboris@elcbrevard.org | Compliance Specialist | Monitoring & Compliance
Beth Arthur | 321 482-3445 x 8564 | barthur@elcbrevard.org | Early Intervention Administrator | Early Intervention / screening
Tammy Giest | 321 626-8096 x 2514 | tgiest@elcbrevard.org | Early Intervention Specialist | Early Intervention / screening
Lakia King | 321 626-7434 x 2534 | lking@elcbrevard.org | Early Intervention Specialist | Early Intervention / screening
Kim Kohler | 321 626-8354 x 2529 | kkohler@elcbrevard.org | Early Intervention Specialist | Early Intervention / screening
Kathleen Strooband | 321-626-3992 x 2531 | kstrooband@elcbrevard.org | Lead Family Services Specialist - Melbourne | Early Intervention / screening
Paige Hoskins | 321-626-6825 x 2519 | phoskins@elcbrevard.org | Family Services Administrator | Early Intervention / screening
Kathy filgueiras | 321 626-4996 x 8543 | kfilgueiras@elcbrevard.org | Lead Family Services Specialist - Rockledge | Early Intervention / screening
Beverley Brown | 321 456-8545 321 626-0376 ext. 8545 | bbrown@elcbrevard.org | Reimbursement Specialist | A-K Providers
Melissa Streb | 321 626-0285 ext. 8548 | mstreb@elcbrevard.org | Reimbursement Specialist | L-Z Providers
Sonia Montalvo | 321 626-7195 ext. 2530 | smontalvo@elcbrevard.org | CCR&R Administrator | 

Please check our ELC Brevard website for information, updates and trainings:
[https://www.elcbrevard.org/p/90/calendar](https://www.elcbrevard.org/p/90/calendar)

You can also find and follow Early Learning Coalition of Brevard on
[https://www.facebook.com/ELCBC](https://www.facebook.com/ELCBC)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/elcbrevard](https://twitter.com/elcbrevard)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/elcbrevard/](https://www.instagram.com/elcbrevard/)