



Early Learning Coalition  
of Palm Beach County

*Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.*

# Hello & Welcome To the Parent Connection Newsletter

Celebrating You as Your Child's 1st Teacher.




## The Parent Connection Newsletter

To our Parents, Families, and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Parent Connection!

As we enter the busy holiday season, we hope that each of you enjoy family togetherness and celebration.

Be sure to read on for tips about safe toys and gifts, navigating the Family Portal, the new Inclusion Warm Line, how to rewatch our Parent Chats & Workshops, and more.

We're always available for you via phone: 1.561.514.3300 or by web. For program and service information, please visit our website at [www.elcpalmbeach.org](http://www.elcpalmbeach.org). 

Thank you!  
The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County

## December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month!

Celebrating the holidays can be so much fun and exciting for your early learners. Whether you are looking for gifts to purchase yourself or you would like to share ideas with family and friends, we are here to spread awareness for safe toys and gifts.



Some of the best tips for toy safety include:

- Purchasing age appropriate toys: Toys should be the appropriate age, skill, and technical level.
- Inspecting toys often: Check toys for loose pieces, rips, peeling paint and other signs of wear and tear.
- Avoiding toys with small parts and magnets: Small parts are choking hazards and magnets can cause internal damage.
- Only purchasing quality, sturdy toys: Choose toys that are made well, to prevent breakage and injury.
- Avoiding toys with dangling parts and strands: Strings, ribbons, and pulls can be a choking hazard to young children.

For more information and resources on safe toys and gifts, please visit our [December Awareness Topic page](#).

## What You Need to Know About VPK

### **VPK Enrollment Process:**

1. Determine if your child is eligible – if they're four by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and you live in Palm Beach County they're eligible this year! (Four by September 1, 2022, the application opens in January 2022.)
2. Enroll by completing the simple online application – you can do it from your phone!\*
3. Choose a local VPK provider

\*Please note enrollment certificates take a few days to come back to you as finalized.



## Navigating the Family Portal



TIPS AND TRICKS ON  
NAVIGATING FLORIDA'S EARLY  
LEARNING FAMILY PORTAL

Services at 561- 514-3300 or visit  
website [www.elcpalmbeach.org](http://www.elcpalmbeach.org)

The Family Portal is an excellent tool available for all families! Here you can apply for School Readiness services, VPK, and Children's Services Council Scholarships, as well as update any information that may impact eligibility and redetermination, and so much more!

To help you navigate the portal we've created a [step-by-step guide!](#)

**For questions about the Family Portal, please contact Family the Web Chat feature on our**

# The Inclusion Warm Line is Here!

## THE INCLUSION WARM LINE IS HERE!

Attention Early Childhood Providers and Parents- Are you experiencing challenging behavior in your classrooms? Is your child on track with their growth and development, or do you have any concerns about your child?

The Inclusion Warm Line is HERE to help! Our Early Intervention & Inclusion Team is available to connect providers and families with local resources and help ensure that children are in the most appropriate environment.

Call today for assistance with:

- Consultation
- Developmental Screening
- Training and Coaching
- Challenging Behavior Strategies
- Environmental Support
- Intervention Strategies for Children with Special Needs
- Link to Community Resources

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!  
PLEASE CALL US AT  
1-888-620-9190**



**Have you missed some of our recent Parent Chats and Workshops? They can be replayed here!**



Join us every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm on Facebook and YouTube for a live showing of our Parent Chats and Workshops.

**[Fall Parent Chat Playlist](#)**

**[Fall Parent Workshop Playlist](#)**

## COVID-19 Resources

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County wants you and your family to stay safe as we continue to re-open.

**Please see the attached quick reference guide for what you should do if your child is showing signs of COVID-19 at home or at child care:**

[COVID-19 Reference Guide](#)



CENTER FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISABILITIES

FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) is the first step after an individual gets diagnosed with autism or after an individual has been determined eligible with the school district. FAU CARD helps bridge needs with resources and services for individuals with ASD.

FAU CARD provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for all people across all race, ethnic, and gender groups, with autism and related disabilities. Services are also available for their families, employers, the professionals and community, and governmental agencies serving them.

**Visit their website**

**here:** <https://www.fau.edu/education/centersandprograms/card/>

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**Join our vision:**

**Every child in Palm Beach County is Ready to Succeed in School  
and Life.**



