



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION HOSTS FREE “STORYBOOK FOREST” AT CREWS LAKE PARK

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is hosting its **6th Annual “Storybook Forest”** event on **Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at Crews Lake Wilderness Park, 18739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill, 34610, to support Florida’s Children’s Week and Childhood Literacy.**

Last year more than 3,500 attendees enjoyed stories including, “Cat in the Hat,” “Where the Wild Things Are,” and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar.” **The day will begin at 10:00 AM with a Ribbon Cutting by Board Chair, Dr. Steven Kanakis, to announce the opening of Storybook Forest.**

There will be no onsite parking at Crew’s Lake Park. Frequent shuttles beginning at 10:45 AM will be available for attendees at Crews Lake Middle School located at 15144 Shady Hills Road throughout the event.

Educators in Pasco and Hernando Counties will offer attendees interactive displays based on children’s books. Children will learn about the story through hands-on activities and will create a related make-and-take project at each display. Children of all ages are invited to attend and actively participate.

Storytellers will ignite guest’s imagination as they bring children’s stories to life. Meet and greet with children’s favorite characters such as **Clifford the Big Red Dog, Emily Elizabeth, Curious George, the Man in the Yellow Hat, Madeline, Wild Thing, Corduroy, Maisy Mouse, Lilly the Mouse,** and many more!

Sponsored by Bay News 9, WEDU, and Staywell Insurance, the Storybook Forest offers a **FREE** afternoon of family fun that appeals to ALL children and families.

The Storybook Forest is one of hundreds of events held throughout Florida to celebrate Children’s Week (April 12, 2015 – April 17, 2015) by bringing together child advocates to deliver the message that every child in Florida must be healthy, ready to learn, and able to achieve their full potential. To learn more about Children’s Week, visit <http://www.childrensweek.org/>.

For more information about the Coalition and its services, visit www.phelc.org. For more information about the Storybook Forest, contact Bev Doucet at 727-233-8291 or b.doucet@phelc.org.

About the Coalition

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 30 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1st. School Readiness provides subsidized child care for low-to-moderate income working families. The non-profit serves over 9,000 children between infancy and eight years old, working with more than 300 providers in the counties.

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