



Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION'S ANNUAL "EAT SMART FOR A HEALTHY START" EVENT ONE WEEK AWAY

The Coalition has teamed up with local child care providers and agencies to celebrate the start of a new and healthier school year

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. (ELC) is helping families head back to school healthier at the annual **Eat Smart for a Healthy Start** event. The Coalition invites the community to visit one (1) of three (3) event locations throughout Pasco and Hernando Counties to learn about healthy eating and nutritional back-to-school options.

The first 100 children (aged birth to 8 years old) at each Eat Smart for a Healthy Start event will take home a brightly colored lunchbox filled with healthy snacks and goodies, as well as informative materials. Join the ELC to celebrate the new school year at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, August 2
Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: Brooksville
Library
238 Howell Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601

Date: Wednesday, August 3
Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: Hudson Library
8012 Library road
Hudson, FL 34667

Date: Thursday, August 4
Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: Hugh Embry
Library
14215 Fourth Street
Dade City, FL 33523

The ELC, with local childcare providers, aims to educate families about health and wellness, providing families with tools to make healthy nutritional choices.

Eat Smart for a Healthy Start would not be possible without the support of community partner UPS. The Coalition received a \$600 community outreach donation from UPS to help with the cost of lunchboxes.

For more information about Eat Smart for a Healthy Start, please contact the Early Learning Coalition at (727) 233-8291.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 31 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. It works to ensure that programs and services are available to assist

families with young children during their formative years. Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1st. School Readiness provides assistance for low-to-moderate income working families by paying a portion of the childcare costs on a sliding fee schedule. Starting as separate organizations in 2000, Pasco and Hernando counties joined forces to form the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties in 2005. The non-profit serves over nine thousand children between infancy and five years old, working with over 300 providers in the counties.

For more information about the ELC and its services, visit www.phelc.org.

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