



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION OPENS REGISTRATION FOR 7TH ANNUAL EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE: PASSPORT TO EXCELLENCE

The Conference is a full day professional development event — open to the public — offering early education trainings from local, regional and out-of-state presenters.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.'s online registration opens today for the **"7th Annual Early Learning Conference: Passport to Excellence,"** held on **October 25, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Bishop McLaughlin High School, 13651 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610.**

The conference focuses on early childhood development, providing innovative practices from the fields of:

- Early education
- Child care
- Infant mental health
- Family involvement
- Business management
- Social work
- and more!

Last year, over 1,000 child care professionals and community members from across the state attended this conference!

Keynote speaker Jeff Johnson, Owner and Author of Explorations Early Learning, is back by popular demand. Jeff's presentation called "Are You Ready" will focus on preparing early educators to create, nurture, and sustain healthy emotional environments.

Diverse sessions will offer participants the opportunity to increase their knowledge base and become more professionally aware of industry happenings. Participants can register for one training in each of the four (4) sessions which include trainings such as:

- "Creating a Socially and Emotionally Healthy Center Environment;"
- "Play with Me: I'll Learn With You;"
- and "Strategies to Promote Active Learning in Mathematics"

A complete listing of the training descriptions can be found online at www.phelc.org. Participants can also visit the website to register for the conference.

Early-bird registration will be available for \$25.00 through August 23, 2014. Registration from August 24, 2014 through October 16, 2014 will be \$45.00 and on-site registration will cost \$50.00. All registration will include:

- Full day conference;
- Breakfast and lunch, provided by Chick-fil-A of Hernando County;
- Entry in Door Prize Giveaways;
- Access to an exhibitor hall;
- And FOUR breakout sessions.

For an additional \$15.00, participants may purchase 0.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), which child care teachers and directors need for license recertification.

For more information about the Early Learning Conference, contact Quality Supervisor Bev Doucet at b.doucet@phelc.org or call (727) 233-8291.

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

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 30 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 subsidized child care for low-to-moderate income working families. 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 9,000 children between infancy and eight years old, working with more than 300 providers in the counties.

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