



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. HOSTS FREE “STORYBOOK FOREST” EVENT

The ever-growing event, which drew more than 3,500 community members in 2015, is held in honor of the 21st Annual Children’s Week, a statewide celebration of Early Childhood Education that brings awareness to legislators and community leaders.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is hosting its 7th annual “**Storybook Forest**” event on **Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 11 AM to 2 PM at Crews Lake Wilderness Park**, 16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill, 34610, to support Children’s Week and Early Childhood Literacy.

Early Childhood Educators in Pasco and Hernando Counties will create interactive displays based on children’s books. Children will learn about the story and create a related make-and-take project at each display.

Storytellers will ignite guests’ imaginations as they bring children’s most cherished stories to life. Last year, more than 3,500 attendees enjoyed stories like “Pete the Cat,” “Rainbow Fish,” “Charlotte’s Web,” and “Cat in the Hat.”

Children will have the opportunity to meet-and-greet popular characters such as **Clifford the Big Red Dog, Elmo, Curious George, Cat in the Hat**, and many more!

Thanks to our sponsors including Bay News 9, WEDU, Publix Supermarket Charities, Staywell, Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, Spring Hill Now, Hulafrog, Foundation for Early Learning in Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc., and many more, Storybook Forest offers a free afternoon of family fun, including:

- FREE Children’s Entertainment
- FREE Music
- FREE Activities
- FREE Food
- FREE Crafts

Storybook Forest is one of hundreds of events held throughout Florida to celebrate Children’s Week 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.

For more information about Children’s week, visit www.childrensweek.org.

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

For more information about the Coalition and its services, visit www.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 13,000 children between infancy and twelve years old, working with more than 400 providers in the counties.

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