

ELCNWF Programmatic Update



January 2024



DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

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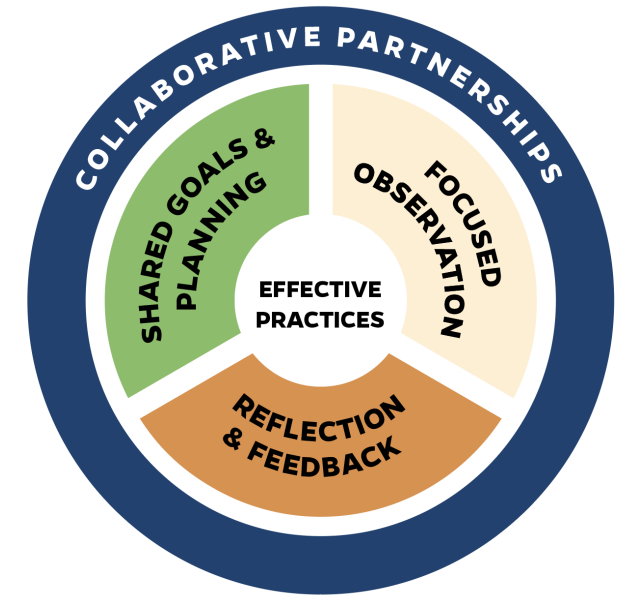
NEW Program Alert!
Practice-Based Coaching (PBC)

Practice-Based Coaching (PBC)

Effective January 2024, all Education Services coaches will begin implementing Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) in classrooms. This evidence-based, CLASS-aligned coaching model, founded by the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center, has been recognized nationally and internationally as a recommended practice. You can learn more about the model by clicking [HERE](#).

We are currently working to align existing programs with PBC. If you currently have staff engaged in coaching in the Learning Literacy program or BBB, staff will not use PBC with them.

If you are interested in PBC for your team, email redline@elcnwf.org with “Coaching” in the subject line.





Funding Opportunities

Grants and Programs Update

Funding Opportunities

Thank you all for your quick responses to grant advertisements, for submitting relevant documents promptly, and for being patient with us as we process your information. We had hoped to get many of our payments out before Christmas, but you all exceeded our expectations for participation. Though we worked around the clock to process, we could only get a few payments out before closing for the holidays.

That said, you can expect center and teacher payments to move nicely in January and throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Please continue to be patient with us as we push out any paper check payments, as those are set to be hand-delivered. If you would like your paper check payments compiled and prepared for you to pick up at one of our offices, please email the [redline](#) to let us know.



Upcoming Funding Opportunities



Program Name	Application Period	Details
Staff Retention Grants	1/5/2024 to 2/2/2024	These funds should be used to pay performance bonuses, bonuses for time in service, bonuses for education, bonuses for peer mentorship or some other bonus structure of your choosing. These funds can only be used to bonus your staff. The application will be published in a Special Blast and in our provider newsletter. Grants will be paid on a revolving basis during the application period to encourage quick payments to staff. If you have any questions about this grant, please email redline@elcnwf.org .
Professional Learning Reimbursement and Support	1/5/2024 to 6/1/2024	These funds will be used to reimburse providers/educators for the cost of CPR training and/or the 10% of tuition/books/fees not covered by the TEACH scholarship. Proof of training completion, enrollment in courses, and payment to appropriate vendors will be required. Funds will be paid to the childcare program. If you have any questions about this reimbursement program, please email redline@elcnwf.org .
Grants for Business Technology	2/5/2024 to 3/8/2024	These funds will be used to cover the cost of full implementation of your preferred business management software, ie. Brightwheel, Procare, etc. These grants can be used to pay licensing fees and for additional technology like tablets, fingerprint scanners, or some other technology. These funds may also be used to put key code locks on doors, or some other identified systems. Funds will be paid to the child care program. If you have any questions about this grant, please email redline@elcnwf.org .
Grants for Early Learning Technology	2/5/2024 to 3/8/2024	These funds will be used to implement early learning software in appropriate classrooms, and can be used to purchase learning assistive technology, cover licensing fees, pay for teacher training, or any other cost associated with integrating technology into the classroom. Programs already launched in Florida are Hatch's Ignite program, My Math Academy, and My Reading Academy (both powered by ABC Mouse), however, you will not be limited to these programs only. Funds will be paid to the child care program. If you have any questions about this grant program, please email redline@elcnwf.org .



New Requirements

Changes to Health and Safety Training

Health and Safety Training

As of January 1, 2024, your health and safety training requirements have changed due to updated federal regulations. In order to be considered in compliance, ALL personnel who directly supervise children must successfully complete mandated health and safety training. Information from FDOE/DEL is on the next slides.

If you have any questions about these requirements, you may send them to DEL_Questions@del.fldoe.org or contact your local licensing agent.



Health and Safety Training

CURRENT SR CHILD CARE PERSONNEL

All current SR child care personnel must complete two new health and safety courses (*Health and Nutrition in the School Readiness Program* and *Safety Practices in the School Readiness Program*) by **June 30, 2024**.

These free courses are hosted in the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#). SR child care personnel must take these courses even if they have completed preservice training and can use the two courses towards the annual in-service training requirement.



Health and Safety Training

NEW HIRES AND CURRENT PRESERVICE TRAINEES

New hires and current preservice trainees must complete all required preservice training within **90 days** of initial employment with any SR provider by successfully completing one of the learning pathway options listed on slide 13.

A new hire or preservice trainee may elect to complete option 1 or option 3. If a new hire or preservice trainee elects to take option 1, they must also complete the two new health and safety courses (*Health and Nutrition in the School Readiness Program* and *Safety Practices in the School Readiness Program*).

Please note that new hires still need to completed the required 45 hours of training and exams through DCF within the first 90-days of employment and the required Rules and Regulations training as well as the Part 2 courses within the first year. If you or your new staff have questions about training requirements, you may reach out to Millie Tizol by email at milliet@eekids.org or by phone at (850) 832-9726.



Health and Safety Training

SR CHILDCARE PERSONNEL WITH EXEMPTIONS

SR child care personnel with exemptions from completing the DCF introductory child care training based on educational credentials or passing of competency examinations per s. 402.305(2), F.S., must also complete all mandated preservice training in option 1 (along with the *Health and Nutrition in the School Readiness Program* and *Safety Practices in the School Readiness Program*) or option 3 by **June 30, 2024, or within 90 days** of initial employment.



Health and Safety Training



Option 1 (DCF courses, plus corresponding exams) - <https://childcaretraining.myflfamilies.com/studentsite/admin/signin>

Existing courses available now under the Child Care Facility Part 1 heading for \$10 per course:

- Health, Safety and Nutrition
- Child Growth and Development
- Behavioral Observation and Screening
- Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
- Health and Nutrition in the School Readiness Program
- Safety Practices in the School Readiness Program

Option 2 (DEL Early Learning Florida Health and Safety Modules) - No Longer Available

(Anyone who was in the process of taking these modules and did not complete the entire required set by December 31, 2023, must complete all of Option 3.)

Option 3 (DEL - Florida Early Childhood PD Registry) - <https://childcaretraining.myflfamilies.com/studentsite/admin/signin>

*New courses available starting **January 1, 2024**, under the School Readiness Preservice heading for free:*

- Child Development in the School Readiness Program
- Health and Nutrition in the School Readiness Program
- Safe Sleep Practices in Child Care (not required for school-age only programs)
- Safety Practices in the School Readiness Program
- Transportation Safety in Child Care Programs (if applicable)



NEW Program Alert!
Services with FirstDay Learning

FirstDay Learning

FirstDay Learning is on a mission to create happy, confident teachers who cultivate happy, inclusive learning environments where all children thrive. Their science-based programs help everyone impacted by problematic behaviors **build more responsive classrooms from day one**. Here are reasons their programs work!

1. They're grounded in behavioral science, designed by experts in human psychology, trauma-informed practices, self-care, and applied behavior analysis.
2. They're simple and straight forward, focused on making behavior change both actionable and achievable.
3. They're integrative, not additive. Meaning that the solutions will compliment, not replace, any work teachers are already doing in the classroom.
4. They're teacher-centric and facilitated by former educators who get it.

We have completed the contracting process, but we are still deciding how to best give you all access to the training and professional development opportunities that FirstDay Learning has to offer. Keep an eye on the provider newsletter for more information. To learn more while you wait, you can visit <https://www.firstdaylearning.com/>.





Program Relaunch!

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Services



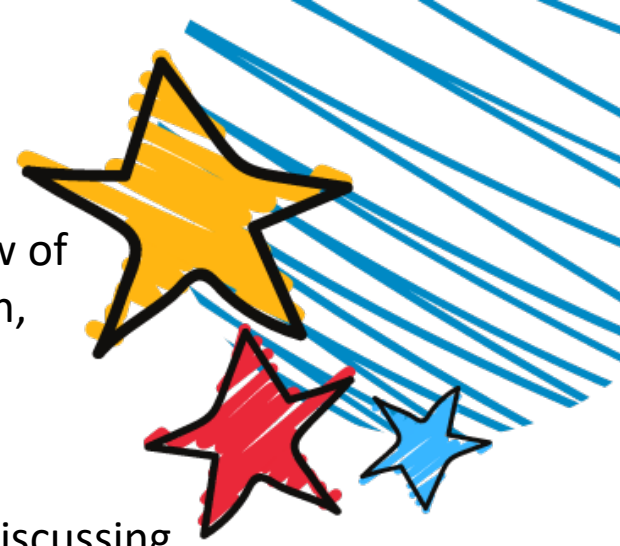
ELCNWF has partnered with the Legacy House to provide mental health counseling services to children, parents, and staff at no cost. If you, a coworker, or child you know has experienced trauma, struggles with mental health, or is currently experiencing stressors or changes, mental health counseling is available, again through June 30, 2024!

To connect with these services, please complete a warmline at [Request for Warmline Survey](#).



Help Me Grow Northwest Florida
Help Us Help Your Families

Help Me Grow Northwest Florida (HMGNWF)



Help Me Grow is a national program that was brought to our service area in 2020. Help Me Grow of Northwest Florida serves children from birth through eight in Bay, Calhoun, Holmes, Gulf, Jackson, and Washington County, and their families.

While HMGNWF offers developmental screenings and care coordination, families do not have to complete one to receive the other. HMG Specialists strive to meet families where they're at by discussing family dynamics and goals with caregivers before making recommendations or referrals. After referrals are made, HMG Specialists follow-up with the caregivers to address any barriers that may arise when families begin new services.

Unlike other ELCNWF services, HMGNWF is a parent-led program. HMG Specialists must have caregiver consent prior to completing a developmental screening and HMG Specialists will only connect families to resources if the parent agrees to the interventions.

Childcare programs play a pivotal role in connecting families to HMGNWF services through the Warmline. While HMGNWF couldn't reach these families without childcares reaching out, it is important to note that all updates on HMGNWF cases should be discussed with the caregiver unless additional consents are on file.

Free Developmental Screenings for ALL children birth through age 8



Types of free screenings include:

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Social-Emotional Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-SE)
- Pediatric Symptoms Checklist
- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers
- Hearing and Vision Screenings

Ways a child can be screened:

- Submit a Warmline and an HMG Specialist will contact the parent to complete the screening.
- One-on-one at a childcare center (usually at the caregiver's request)
- Host a screening event at your center (Consent forms are sent home prior to the event)
- Follow HMGNWF Facebook for the next Books, Balls, and Blocks Opportunity
- Request a screening at [Help Me Grow - Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida](#) by clicking on "Get Started"

HMGNWF Care Coordination Referral and Follow-Up

Family and child needs are identified through developmental screenings and information collection. While HMG's most common referrals are services such as Early Steps and ChildFind, HMG Specialists also connect families with other needs such as assistance in applying for health insurance or state benefits, a referral for the caregiver or older sibling, etc.

When services require multiple steps, navigating the system can seem overwhelming. When caregivers are confused about whom to call, how much the cost, and what the service is for, the chance of engagement decreases. HMG Specialists work with caregivers in hopes that we can do some of the leg work, or provide the information needed for caregivers to follow through with services for the children and/or themselves.

When a referral need is not identified or the parent is not in agreement with interventions, HMG Specialists provide education and activities to that caregiver that increase awareness and boost child development.



HMGNWF Parent Cafés

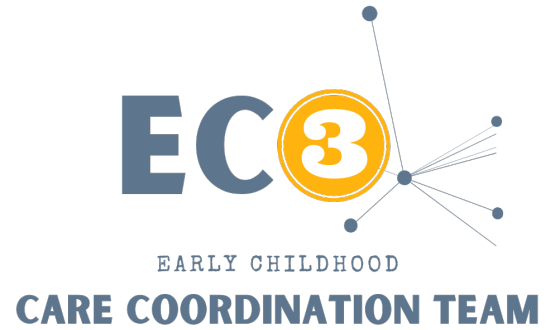


A Parent Café is a 2-hour research-based parenting program that consists of caregivers (5-25 participants) and café hosts who lead conversations and activities surrounding the 5 Protective Factors-

1. Resilience
2. Social connections or relationships
3. Knowledge of parenting and child development
4. Concrete supports or interventions
5. Communication or social-emotional competence of children.

All people who play a role in a child's life can benefit from a Parent Café. By sharing and hearing others' lived experiences, cafés allow caregivers to highlight their strengths and parenting successes in a safe environment free of judgment or criticism. When this space is created, caregivers can let their defenses down and are more open to listening.

While funds last, HMGNWF has the unique opportunity to provide incentives for Parent Café attendees. To schedule a Parent Café at your center, email HMG@elcnwf.org.



Early Childhood Care Coordination (EC3)



The Early Childhood Care Coordination Team (EC3) is a wraparound program that uses evidence-based interventions in both the home and classroom setting for children five and under with big behaviors. EC3 is a 90-day program that focuses on family-centered goals, trauma-informed care, and continuity of placement in the childcare and home setting. EC3 provides home visiting, care coordination, classroom support, and parent education to the family while teaching parents how to become therapeutic change agents for their children through play.

Pulling from several evidence-based treatments, Family Success Coaches are trained and able to meet the family where they are by tailoring curriculum specific to the family and child's needs. Conscious Discipline, Protective Factors, and Child-Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT) Parent Education, community resources, and follow-up have been proven to help caregivers manage little people and their big feelings. EC3 sessions, in both the classroom and home, focus on CPRT which teaches caregivers skills that improve the caregiver- child relationship and increase the child's locus of control. CPRT has been proven to reduce big behaviors by the 7th session. By using these child-centered practices in the classroom and home, caregivers and teachers are more equipped to reduce tantrums and manage big behaviors without disrupting the classroom setting.

Criteria:

- ✓ Family lives in Bay County
- ✓ Child attends childcare in Bay County
- ✓ Child is 5 years old or younger.
- ✓ Child had big behaviors that are disruptive in the home or classroom setting.

Program Includes:

- ✓ Parent Education
- ✓ Care Coordination & Referrals
- ✓ Classroom Support
- ✓ Home Visiting



LINK FOR REFERRAL



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7P5G2ZP>



Programmatic Changes for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Upcoming CLASS Changes

Per Rule 6m-4.740, Coalitions have a 60-day window before and after the CLASS assessment due date to complete the assessment for the program year.

After much thoughtful consideration, the team has agreed that it would be best for our staff and child care programs if we consider conducting CLASS assessments throughout the entire fiscal year for all SR contracted programs. We intend to implement this change in fiscal year 2024-2025.

So, what does this mean?

1. Education Services Specialists will have more time to coach and train teachers in order to better prepare them for the classroom.
2. Your program may be subject to a CLASS assessment during the summer months if you are typically assessed in late August, September, or early October.
3. The window of time when no CLASS assessments are conducted will shrink to only the months of May and June to accommodate the contract process.



Changes to Payments for Teachers

Starting July 1, 2024, the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida will no longer be issuing paper checks for payments made directly to early learning educators and directors. Staff are working to determine what forms of payment will be allowable in absence of paper checks for those professionals who earn a stipend, but do not have a bank account.

So, what does this mean?

1. More timely payments made directly to the early learning educators and directors.
2. Early learning professionals may be asked to update or verify their banking/payment information on an annual basis.
3. Application windows and deadlines may have a tighter turnaround.



For Your Information!

Lindsay Holmes

Education Services Director

Education Services Programs

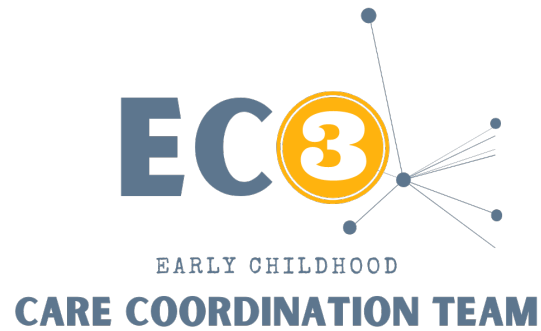
- ✓ Training and Professional Development
 - Practice-Based Coaching
 - Learning Literacy Program
 - Building Better Beginnings
 - CLASS 101/CLASS Group Coaching
 - Conferences
- ✓ Program Assessments (CLASS)
- ✓ VPK Progress Monitoring (FAST/STAR)
- ✓ ARPA Grants and Programs
- ✓ First Day Learning
- ✓ Inclusion/ASQ
- ✓ TSG Reimbursement processing

Email the [Redline](#) for assistance with any of the programs listed above.



For Your Information!

Chelsea Ranew
Special Projects Director



Special Projects

1. Help Me Grow Northwest Florida
2. Early Care Coordination (EC3)
3. Mental Health Services
4. ARP Act for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Email the [Redline](#) for assistance with any of the programs listed above.

