Palmetto, Florida, June 5th, 2020 – The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc (ELC) has awarded a $286,000 grant through the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to support local providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

152 programs were eligible to receive these grants and 115 awarded by June 5th. Grants were designated for Health and Safety supplies, Infrastructure needs and staff professional development to assist provider who were currently open or working to re-open their programs.

Paul Sharff, ELC Chief Executive Officer, said: “We are grateful to the Office of Early Learning for helping us to support our Manatee County early care programs that have stood with us to serve the children of our essential workers.”

Mr. Sharff is pictured below with Marjani Jones, ELC Board of Directors Provider Representative and Annette Larkin, owner of Happy Cubs, and an ELC Board Member.
The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. is a multi-service agency dedicated to helping children develop skills that they will need to be successful in school and life. The agency's focus is on high quality school readiness opportunities for all children and their families, understanding that it is in the first years of life that a child's future educational success is determined and the critical role of parents, as their child's first and most important teacher. To learn more about Coalition’s services, go to www.elc-manatee.org or call (941) 757-2900, extension 2100.