



Early Learning Coalition of
Manatee Moments



1. Children's Summit 2010
2. Every Child A Reader, Pittsburgh Pirates visit
3. MCYC 2011 - providers at lunch
4. DeSoto Children's Parade



The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County received funding from the Agency for Workforce Innovation - Office of Early Learning in 2010-2011.

Board of Directors



Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County Board of Directors

Gubernatorial Appointees

Howard Veltz, *Chair*
Susan Miller
Wanda Read-Burke

Private Sector

Dianne Kopczynski, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Adam Mohammadbhoj, *Vice Chair*
Amy Cooley
Linda Guritz
Caroline Halfacre
Mike Hennesey
Dennis Jagdmann
Andrew Minor
Melanie Shackelford
Walter Stern

Legislative Required Members

Nancy Beal
Manatee County School District Representative

Sandra Edmundson
Manatee Health Department Representative

Angela Harber
Faith Based Child Care Representative

Deborah Ludwig
For Profit Child Care Representative

Beverly Williams
Suncoast Workforce

Debbie Kibler
Children with Disabilities Representative

Jennifer Passmore
Manatee County Government Appointee

Kathy Patreka
Head Start Director

Dr. Kathy Stuckey
State College of Florida Representative

Mary Beth Wehnes
Department of Children and Families Representative

Mission Statement

To provide and coordinate the services of School Readiness programs in an efficient manner, in order to help all children develop the skills needed to achieve future educational success; to support the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher; and to continue to improve the quality of services available in the community.

Vision

To provide and support 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.

Table of Contents

Message from the CEO.....	2
Programs and Services	3-6
<i>Child Care Resource and Referral</i>	3
<i>School Readiness</i>	3
<i>Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)</i>	4
<i>Inclusion</i>	5
<i>Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)</i>	5
<i>Professional Development</i>	5
<i>Musical Motion</i>	6
<i>Teamin' Up for Tots</i>	6
Incentives for Providers.....	7
Quality Rating Systems.....	8
<i>Quality Counts for Children Pilot Program</i>	8
<i>Environment Rating Scales</i>	8
Health and Development Screening.....	9
<i>Ages and Stages Questionnaires®</i>	
<i>Developmental Screenings (ASQ)</i>	9
<i>Ages and Stages Questionnaires®</i>	
<i>Social-Emotional Development Screenings (ASQ)</i>	9
<i>Battelle Developmental Inventory™ Screenings (BDI)</i>	9
<i>Vision and Hearing Screenings</i>	9
Community Outreach	10-11
<i>Partners in Literacy</i>	10
<i>Partnering Community Agencies</i>	11
Program Compliance and Monitoring.....	11
Fiscal Revenues and Expenditures.....	12

2 Welcome

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

It is my pleasure to present the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County's Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Annual Report. This past year has been a very exciting time for the Coalition as we continue our mission to provide and coordinate the services of school readiness programs, in an efficient manner, in order to help all children develop the skills needed to achieve future educational success, to support the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher, and to continue to improve the quality of services available in Manatee County. The Coalition has worked this past year committed to improving the quality of early care and education opportunities in Manatee County to ensure children enter school ready to learn and eager to succeed.

The daily operations of the Coalition are conducted by a leadership staff of eight dedicated individuals who oversee 27 extremely qualified employees who work diligently to ensure that the Manatee County School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Programs are of the highest quality, while maintaining accountability to ensure that all our services have the desired impact of preparing children for school.

Manatee County receives state and federal dollars, that all Coalitions receive, but we are extremely fortunate to also receive funding from the Manatee County Government through a children's ad valorem tax.

These funds are directed by the Manatee Children's Service's Advisory Board that consists of local civic leaders appointed by the Manatee Board of County Commissioners.

After a thorough process the Children's Services Advisory Board recommends the funding amounts to be awarded to the Board of County Commissioners who make the final approval. Also, in this process are several county staff employees who work hand in hand with the

Coalition to oversee the county funding and implementation process. In addition, the Coalition is also fortunate enough to be a partner with the United Way of Manatee County who provides the Coalition funding which is used for matching federal dollars. The Coalition is also in partnership with the Sarasota and Polk Coalitions in a HELIOS Education Foundation Grant to specifically help build literacy skills for family child care providers.

While much has been accomplished there is still more to be achieved. With receiving a million dollar funding cut at the end of this fiscal year, other streams of funding are being sought. We will continue our efforts to adequately fund our School Readiness Program at the local level by engaging other children's organizations and the business community as active partners in all School Readiness efforts. Included in these efforts are looking for ways to support our child care providers in recruiting and retaining staff, as well as enhancing quality through collaborative partnerships and training opportunities. To enhance our providers' educational backgrounds, the Coalition awarded many scholarships to providers and staff for Early Childhood Education classes at the State College of Florida. The Coalition also funded the development of the first on-line Bachelors Program in Early Education this year. Unfortunately Manatee County is losing approximately 3 million dollars a year in state funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program by not having all eligible 4 year olds enrolled in this state entitlement program. I have made it a personal goal to increase Manatee County VPK enrollment numbers by educating our community.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors who without their support, time, and effort this Coalition would not be what it is today. The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County is known at the state level for being one of the most progressive, dependable, reliable, and conscientious Coalitions in the state. We are educating the local community on what the Coalition is about in a sound professional manner. None of this would be possible if it not for our extremely competent and dedicated Board of Directors.



Chief Executive Officer

Programs and Services

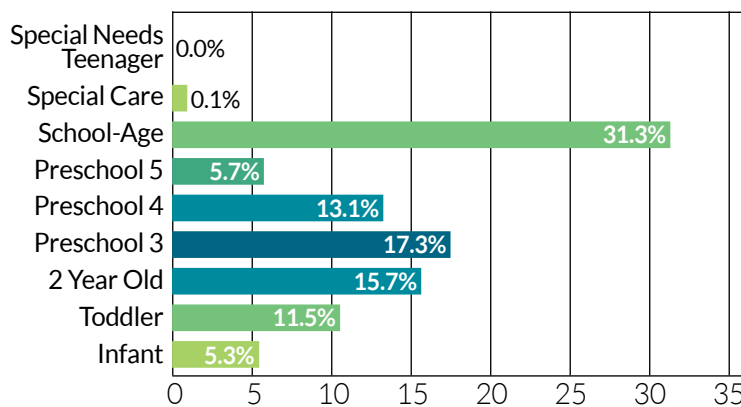
Programs and Services

Child Care Resource and Referral

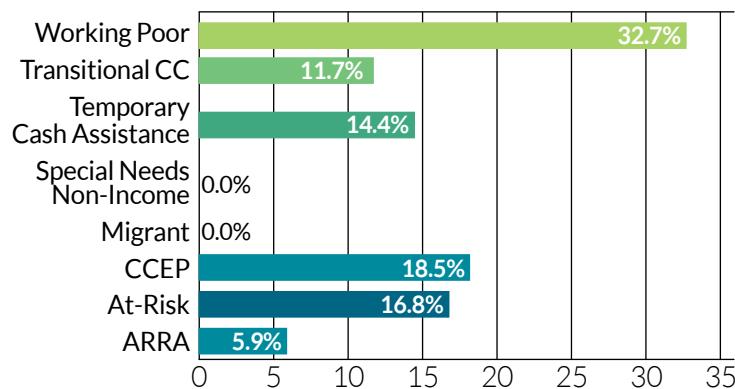
For parents looking for child care in Manatee County, Child Care Resource and Referral services offers free, unbiased, personalized information on child care centers and family child care homes in the area. Services include a customized search for child care based on criteria such as location, schedule, curriculum, environment, and special needs; information on rates, fees, hours, and credentials of providers; financial assistance for child care programs; educational materials and support for parents with questions on early childhood development; tips on identifying quality child care; and referrals to other community resources.

In FY 2010-11, the Coalition provided 1,104 referrals and distributed more than 2,475 developmentally-appropriate books to families who visited the office for new enrollments.

School Readiness—Percentage of Total Payments (including match) by Care Level:



School Readiness—Percentage of Total Payments (including match) by Funding Category:

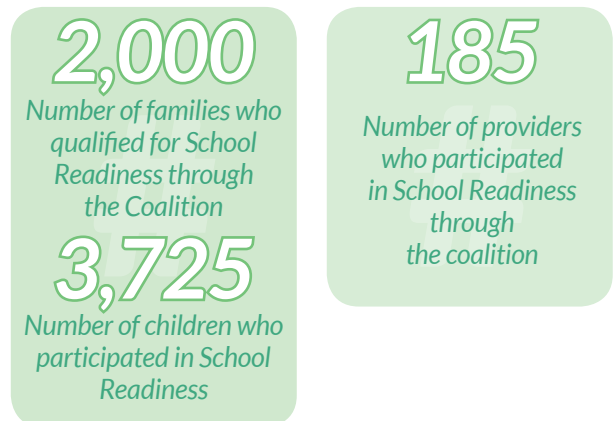


School Readiness

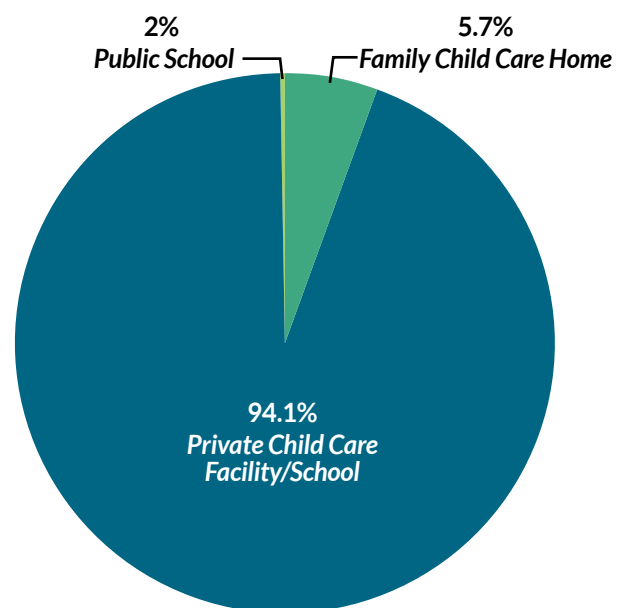
School Readiness provides child care funding for eligible families to assist them in obtaining affordable, high quality child care. Children are eligible from birth through 12 years of age with additional funding for children with special needs until their 17th birthday.

In FY 2010-11, 2,000 families qualified for School Readiness through the Coalition. Of these families, a total of 3,725 children participated in School Readiness.

In FY 2010-11, 185 providers participated in School Readiness through the Coalition.



Participating School Readiness Providers by Provider Type:



4 Programs and Services

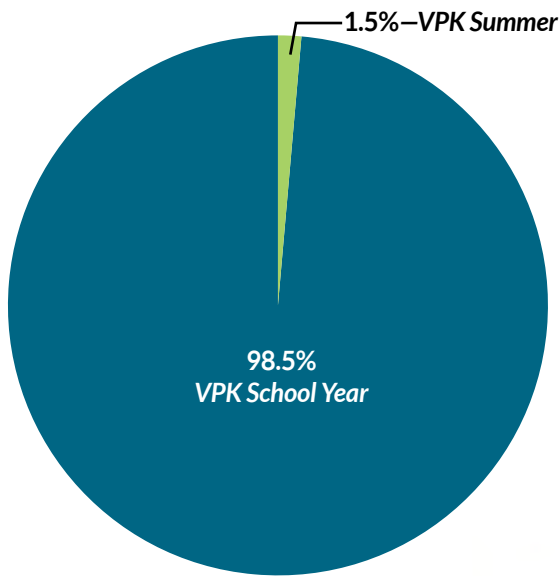
Voluntary Prekindergarten

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free program aimed to prepare four-year-old children for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. VPK is available to all four-year-olds born on or before September 1 who reside in Florida, regardless of family income.

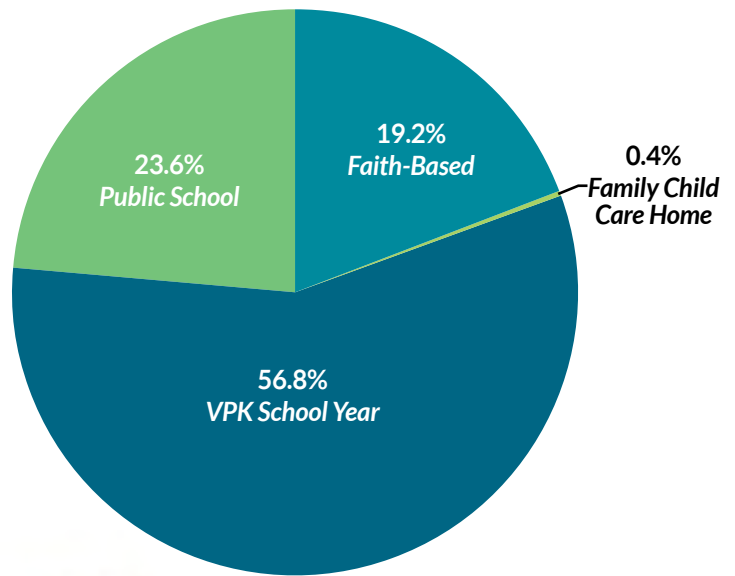
In FY 2010-11, 132 providers participated in Voluntary Prekindergarten programs through the Coalition

In FY 2010-11, 3,044 children were served in Voluntary Prekindergarten programs.

Total percentage of VPK Payments by Program Type:



Participating VPK providers by Provider Type:



Programs and Services

5

Inclusion

The Coalition's Inclusion department connects families and providers with local resources and helps ensure that children with disabilities or behavioral challenges benefit from being

a part of a quality program. Inclusion services for child care providers include technical assistance and consultation regarding curriculum and teaching strategies, environmental adaptations, and challenging behavioral issues.

The ELC Inclusion Specialist is a member of the Board of Directors of the Family Network on Disabilities for Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Coalition team members actively participate with providers, parents and the community at-large to promote inclusive early childhood settings.

Two ELC staff including the ELC Inclusion Specialist attended a week-

long train-the-trainer to offer the Positive Behavior Support training and coaching. Two initial sites were selected, and both training and coaching were initiated. To participate, the programs agreed to the data collection involved, to attend the trainings, and to refrain from excluding any child for behavioral reasons. This training/coaching program continued into the next fiscal year.

In FY 2010-11, 100 percent of parents with a special needs child were informed about inclusion services when they went through the Coalition's Child Care Resource and Referral department.

Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)

The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) is a financial matching program where businesses assist with their employees' cost of child care. It provides financial assistance by helping to pay for child care for low to moderate wage earners and enables families to secure stable child care arrangements that meet the social, emotional, and educational needs of the children requiring care. Reliable, affordable, quality child care enables employees to focus on their job responsibilities and reduces absenteeism.

34.5

Number of hours offered by the Inclusion program for professional development for inclusion and behavior-related topics

237

Number of adults who attended the sessions

39

Number of children who attended

Professional Development

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County is proud to offer a number of professional development opportunities for practitioners to help ensure quality early learning experiences for the children they serve. These opportunities include on-site technical assistance to providers; free or low cost continuing education training on a variety of topics from the Environmental Rating Scale to developmentally appropriate practices; college scholarship programs that pay for providers to earn their Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC), their Director's Credential, or a college degree from the State College of Florida (SCF); a free textbook loan program where providers can check out textbooks needed for their coursework at SCF each semester; an annual Coalition training conference, and funding for providers to attend conferences.

51

Number of providers trained in first aid and adult, infant and child CPR through the Coalition's American Red Cross Training

100

Percentage of school readiness providers offered technical assistance through onsite visits, newsletters, telephone calls, training calendars, emails and mail

758

Number of times that Technical Assistance was provided to various child care programs and family child care homes

38

Number of providers awarded scholarships for

309

Number of credit hours for Early Childhood classes at State College of Florida

135

Number of Manatee County School Readiness providers who attended the Coalition's Third Annual Training Conference

98

Number of individual inservice training sessions

619

Number of providers who attended the inservice training sessions

6 Programs and Services

Musical Motion

Musical Motion is an interactive playgroup for parents/caregivers and their children ages 0-5. Sessions focus on using creative activities to build preschooler's social skills and enhance brain development and early learning skills. Children's play incorporates props such as puppets, parachutes, and scarves, while parents learn about the Forty Developmental Assets, health, safety, and child development. They also trade information and parenting tips with other parents and experienced parenting educators.

99

Percentage of parents reported a better understanding of the growth and development of their preschool children and learning new activities to enhance their child's development and learning abilities

"I have learned to see the importance of playing more with my kids." –Musical Motion Parent

34

Number of Musical Motion sessions were held with an average of 11 parents and 15 children per event



Teamin' Up for Tots

"I have learned that my child needs me to better understand child development so I can better understand her behavior" –Teamin' Parent

In contract with the Family Partnership Center, the Coalition provides Teamin' Up for Tots, an in-home parenting program for Manatee County families on the edge of involvement with the legal system due to abuse/neglect. Families receive customized parent skill building curriculum, and are educated on developmentally appropriate expectations and how to build their children's esteem so they can reach their maximum potential.

"I have learned to discuss expectations with my child for the day so he knows what is to come." –Teamin' Parent

"Teamin' Up for Tots has helped me understand the importance of allowing my child to express his feelings." –Teamin' Parent

445

Number of home visits conducted

58

Number of parents who participated in the program

100

Percentage of participants reported and demonstrated increased knowledge of child development



Incentives for Providers

7

Incentives for Child Care Providers

The Coalition offered numerous incentives for child care practitioners to increase their education, retention and compensation during FY 2010-11. They include:

- The Stay-Put program that rewarded continuity of care and continued education by providing a supplement to teachers' salaries through December 31, 2010
- One-time-only quality program stipends awarded to all School Readiness providers who contracted with the Coalition; total amount \$57,312.50
- Over \$1,000 in Coalition grants were utilized by registered family child care home providers in their transition to becoming licensed
- Mini-grants in the amount of \$15,908 were awarded to providers to replace their drop side cribs with new cribs that meet the DCF compliance requirements. 56 cribs were purchased and delivered to providers



Building 56 drop-side cribs to donate to providers.

- Approval from the Coalition's Board of Directors for funding to develop an online Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education program offered through the State College of Florida
- Mini "Cash for Classrooms Grants" awarded to five providers in Manatee County that allowed them to purchase needed classroom supplies
- IBM KidSmart Early Learning Program grant that provided seven nonprofit early learning sites that serve low-income children with computer systems valued at \$40,000 and loaded with high-quality early education software



8

Quality Rating Systems

Quality Rating Systems

Quality Counts for Children Pilot Program

Quality Counts for Children is a voluntary continuous improvement program for child care centers and family child care homes that uses licensing standards as a foundation and sets a continuum of five clearly defined levels of increasing quality. Administered by the Coalition as a pilot program, Quality Counts for Children is modeled after programs in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Participating child care centers and family child care homes are awarded “star level” designations based on the number of points received for meeting quality specific standards. These standards address:

- Curriculum and Instructional Assessment
- Family Engagement
- Learning Environment
- Ratio and Group Size
- Screening and Identification of Special Needs
- Staff Qualifications
- Program Administration (*center based programs only*)
- Business Administration (*family child care homes only*)
- Provider as Employer (*family child care homes only; may not be applicable*)

In FY 2010-11, eight center-based providers and two family child care home providers participated in the Quality Counts for Children program. Of those participating, seven centers and both home providers completed the pilot. Providers were invited to participate in the pilot based on their interests, School Readiness agreement monitoring results, and Environment Rating Scales (ERS) base scores.

Assessed classrooms receive a score on a scale of 1 to 7 with 7 being the highest level of quality. In Manatee County, the Coalition provides training for providers on use of the ERS. A total of \$ 8,750 was awarded in cash stipends to the nine final participants in our paperwork pilot program.

Environment Rating Scales

The Environment Rating Scales (ERS) measure the quality of child care programs by observing the various interactions that go on in a classroom and the available materials and activities to support those interactions. There are four Environment Rating Scales, each designed for a different segment of the early childhood population: ECERS-R (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale), ITERS-R (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale), FCCERS-R (Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale), and SACERS (School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale). The Scales are designed to assess the quality of a classroom in the three basic areas of protection of children’s health and safety, building positive relationships, and opportunities for stimulation and learning from experience, all of which are needed to support optimal child development.



134 Number of training hours for ERS

589 Number of participants in ERS trainings

24 Number of training sessions for ERS

63 Number of programs represented in for ERS

337
Number of ERS Assessments conducted in Manatee County

174
Number of sites

26
Number of programs receiving financial assistance with baseline scores below

3.0

\$45K⁺
Amount spent on materials and resources distributed to providers to contribute to the increase of program quality.

100
Percentage of providers who received materials or funding from the Coalition with the exception of public schools and school-age programs

49
Number of programs receiving technical assistance with baseline scores below

3.5

Health and Development Screenings

9

Health and Development Screenings

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County offers a variety of programs to help with early detection of physical or learning challenges in a child's life. If any concerns are found, we promote understanding between parents and providers of the condition and propose a course of action to best address these concerns. Our programs include the following:

Ages and Stages Questionnaires® Developmental Screenings (ASQ)

3,029

Total number of ASQ screenings performed

57

Number of referrals provided

The Coalition offers the Ages and Stages Questionnaires® Developmental Screenings to children, 6-months to 5-years of age, to identify possible delays in a child's development. Simple-to-complete, the questionnaires are given to the child's parent and/or teacher every six months that cover a wide

range of skill areas including communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal-social.

If a child shows a possible developmental delay, an Individualized Early Care Plan (IECP) is created that contains activities for both the parent to use at home and the teacher to implement in the classroom. When necessary, referrals to other community agencies are also provided for children who display possible development delays. These agencies provide an in-depth evaluation of the child's overall development.

Ages and Stages Questionnaires® Social-Emotional Developmental Screenings (ASQ:SE)

The Ages and Stages Questionnaires® Social-Emotional Developmental Screenings are designed to identify children 3-months through 6 ½ years-of-age whose social-emotional development may require further evaluation. The questionnaire, completed by the parent or provider, addresses behaviors such as self-regulation, compliance, affect and interaction with people. If needed, referrals to community agencies that can provide a more in-depth evaluation of the child are provided.

Battelle Developmental Inventory™ Screenings (BDI)

Battelle Developmental Inventory™ Screenings is utilized to determine how a classroom environment is helping a child develop the skills necessary to succeed in school. While at the child care center, trained Child Health and Developmental Specialists work with an individual child to complete fun, age-appropriate activities.

Not all children receive the BDI; a sample of children is chosen. Post testing is performed 6-12 months after the initial BDI to assess the progress of the child's school readiness skills.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County provides vision and hearing screenings to children ages seven months to five-years of age to detect early signs of potential hearing and vision problems. The early detection and proper treatment of vision and hearing problems can directly impact a child's success in the classroom. Advisement and referrals are placed if further examination by a physician is recommended.

97

Percentage of children assessed through BDI that were deemed ready for school

238

Total number of hearing screenings performed

61

Number of referrals provided

273

Total number of vision screenings performed

46

Number of referrals provided



10 Community Outreach

Community Outreach

Coalition staff participated in many community events in FY 2010-11 such as the Children's Summit, Suncoast Workforce's Job Fair, the DeSoto Grand Parade, Children's Parade and Party in the Park, Children's Week, community screenings, Health Fairs, the "It's Your Turn" radio show and more.

In 2011, the Coalition obtained a Mobile Outreach Resource Vehicle to promote the School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs, as well as educate the public about the Early Learning Coalition's role as a community partner. The vehicle's outside television monitor plays videos regarding the importance of the years prior to school entry.

Partners in Literacy

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County has partnered with the following agencies to promote the benefits of early literacy skills that help to ensure positive outcomes for children in school and life.

- **Scholastic Literacy Partnership:** the Coalition donated over 3,000 books to law enforcement agencies in Manatee County for distribution to children being removed from the home during protective service investigations.
- The Coalition partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton's **Every Child a Reader** pilot program where volunteers read books to children in child care classrooms. Each child received a copy of the book to take home.
- In partnership with Early Learning Coalitions of Sarasota and Polk Counties, the Coalition assisted in implementing the **Family Providers Focus on Literacy (FPFL)** program that provides literacy, training and coaching services for family child care home providers. In FY2010-11, the program worked with 19 family child care providers. Funded by the Helios Foundation, FPFL participants also received \$500 worth of literacy materials and a \$500 stipend.
- The Coalition collaborated with Children First, Inc. of Sarasota in their **Ladder to Literacy Teacher Professional Development** program that focuses on strengthening the literacy and language skills of early childhood educators in high-need areas of Sarasota and Manatee Counties. The program works with teachers from home and center-based child care settings and gives them practical solutions to integrate early literacy into their classrooms.



MCYC 2011 Vendor Row



DeSoto Children's Parade



Family Providers Focus on Literacy (FPFL) program



Every Child a Reader pilot program



Mobile Outreach Resource Vehicle



The Children's Summit

The Children's Summit
Jack and the Beanstalk Display

Community Partnerships

11

Community Partnerships

The Coalition continues to provide collaborative efforts with community agencies including:

Suncoast Workforce Manatee Association for the Education of Young Children
HOPE Family Services STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
united way whole child manatee FAMILY NETWORK ON DISABILITIES
School District of Manatee County Homeless Coalition Head Start
Manatee Hope MANATEE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children Kiwanis Club of Bradenton
TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN Department of Children and Families Child Care Licensing
Healthy Start Safe Children's Coalition Safe Kids Coalition (All Children's Hospital)
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CENTER Women's Resource Center Lions Club of Bradenton
HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION OF MANATEE COUNTY HERNANDO DESOTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Florida Family Child Care Home Association PITTSBURGH PIRATES ORGANIZATION
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS CHILD CARE WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM
Manatee County Chamber of Commerce American Red Cross
community haven for adults and children Manatee Education Foundation

Program Compliance and Monitoring

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County performs on-site monitoring in every program care-group using a set of tools that rate environmental indicators including health and safety and developmentally appropriate practices. Regular meetings with the Department of Children and Families' Child Care Licensing department are scheduled to review individual monitoring reports for any non-compliance concerns.

Strategies that the Coalition has implemented in regards to licensing and compliance include increased accountability for minimum health and safety standards and notices to programs of serious non-compliance issues; developing a health and safety checklist for providers; establishing a baseline of scores on the Environment Rating Scales for all School Readiness Programs; requiring non-compliant providers to complete a Corrective Action Plan; honoring

"I have learned the importance of keeping a structure, while still taking time to read books and play with my child."

Gold Seal licensing accreditation that provides sales tax exemption and increased provider reimbursement rates for children participating in school readiness programs; and playing a critical role in the Manatee County Board of County Commissioner's resolution that all family child care homes in Manatee County be licensed by April 30, 2012.

A total of 238 program sites were monitored by the Coalition in FY 2010-11. All programs monitored were in substantial compliance and 27 received Corrective Action Plans that were resolved prior to the start of the 2011-2012 contract year.

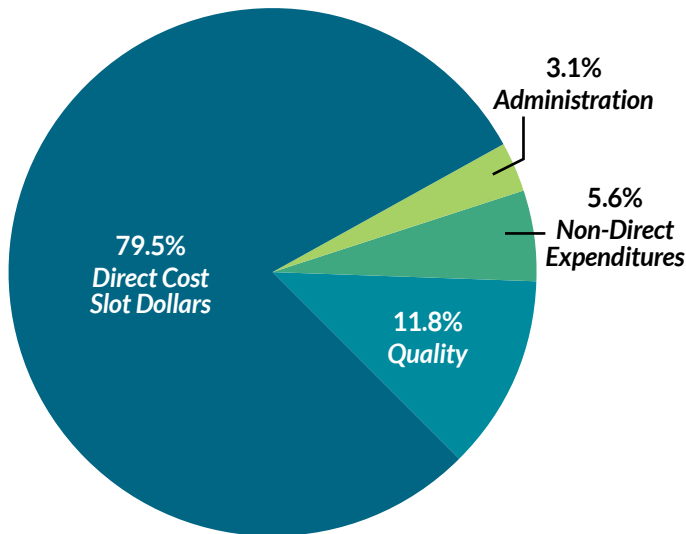
12 Fiscal Revenues and Expenditures

Fiscal Revenues and Expenditures FY 2010-11

Office of Early Learning (Includes ARRA):

\$10,615,778

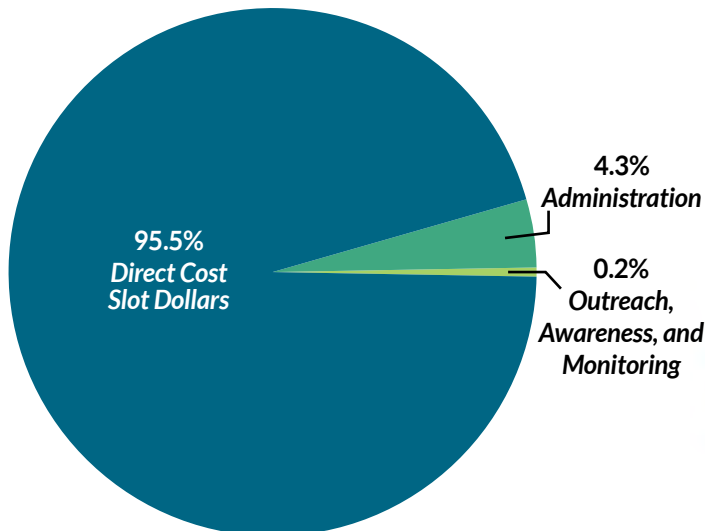
School Readiness (Includes ARRA): During the 2010-2011 fiscal year the Coalition's total School Readiness Program operating budget was \$10,615,778. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Voluntary Pre Kindergarten (Includes ARRA):

\$7,292,004

The Coalition's total Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program operating budget in FY 2010-11 was \$7,292,004. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Additional Revenue Sources

The Coalition continues to look for other avenues of revenue to enhance the programs funded through the Office of Early Learning and was awarded additional grant dollars in excess of \$1.5 million from the following entities:

Manatee County Government	\$1,427,243
United Way	\$87,000
Helios Foundation*	\$79,235
Private Coalition Event	\$10,000

*Grant dollars were received in September 2010 for a period of two years. The amounts for the first year are still being spent into FY 11/12.

General Administration

Event Expense	\$12,063
Maintenance	\$10,700
Sponsorships/Advertising	\$13,207
All Other Administration Expense	\$28,011
Total General Administration	\$63,981**

**\$34,351 of the total funding was spent from Coalition net assets per Office of Early Learning request.



Total ELC Manatee Expenditures for FY 10/11

\$19,547,769

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee Moments



1. MCYC 2011
2. DeSoto Children's Parade
3. MCYC 2011, providers with door prizes
4. Mobile Outreach Van



Early
Learning Coalition
OF MANATEE COUNTY, INC.

3526 Ninth Street West, Ste. 200
Bradenton, FL 34205
941.757.2900 (ph) || 941.757.2915 (f)
www.elc-manatee.org