

**DID YOU KNOW??**

Families are expected to report changes within 10 calendar days of the change. Changes are now processed by drop off and appointments are no longer required. Families can request a reporting changes checklist either in person or by email.



*WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
NEWS FROM ELC'S ELIGIBILITY DEPT.*

**NEW STATEWIDE FAMILY PORTAL**

<https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/Account/Login>

Compatible with Google Chrome

**WHAT CAN I DO ON THE PORTAL?**

Create an account using a valid email address to apply for: Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).

- Must be Florida residence.
- Applying for child 4 years old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> of the year you are seeking eligibility.
- Must be able to upload proof of residence and proof of child's age to complete the application.
- You will get email notification when the VPK Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is issued.
- Submit your COE to the VPK provider of your choice.
- If their fourth birthday falls Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year, parents can postpone enrolling their child in VPK that year and wait until the following year when their child is 5.

Apply for School Readiness (subsidized child care).

- Must successfully complete the prequalification questions to advance to the complete application.
- Working and student applicants must upload their most recent paystub / school schedule.
- You will get email notifications to sign-in to your account for application status.

Turn your Valentine's day baking into a fun activity with your kids with this easy recipe!



**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 pouch Betty Crocker chocolate cookie mix
- 1/4 cup all -purpose flour

1/2 cup butter, softened

1 egg

3-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter

**DIRECTIONS:**

- 1 Heat oven to 375°F. In medium bowl, stir cookie mix, flour, butter and egg until well blended. Roll into 1 1/4-inch balls.
- 2 Spray cookie cutter with cooking spray; place on ungreased cookie sheet. Press dough ball evenly into cutter. Remove cutter; reshape dough if necessary. Continue making heart-shaped cookies, placing 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Spray cookie cutter as needed with cooking spray.
- 3 Bake 5 to 6 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.

**Email Correspondences**

ELCAC often uses emails as a point of contact with parents and providers. Please ensure that you furnish our office with your most recent email address. This ensures that you are able to receive important information.

If you need to speak with a Specialist regarding your case, it is recommended that you email for a quicker response. Email contacts are as follows:

Jimmie McFall: [jmcfall@elcalachua.org](mailto:jmcfall@elcalachua.org)

Michelle Del Valle: [mdelvalle@elcalachua.org](mailto:mdelvalle@elcalachua.org)

Shannon Prieto: [sprieto@elcalachua.org](mailto:sprieto@elcalachua.org)

Melissa Smith [msmith@elcalachua.org](mailto:msmith@elcalachua.org)

Lakeshia Young: [lyoung@elcalachua.org](mailto:lyoung@elcalachua.org)



**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS**

Child Care Resource & Referral :  
Contact Lynda Bowie at (352) 375-4104 or email at [llbowie@elcalachua.org](mailto:llbowie@elcalachua.org)

Child Development Services :  
Contact Toby Hunter at (352) 375-4087 or email at [thunter@elcalachua.org](mailto:thunter@elcalachua.org)



The Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County has great news! We will be seeking a few good women and men to serve on our new Parent Advocacy Committee, better known as P.A.C.

- ✚ The committee is designed for individuals to be a part of a group that provides ideas and suggestions regarding changes to our office and play spot.
- ✚ Learn information that may help parents work more effectively with our Agency.
- ✚ Meet and build positive relationships with other parents/caregivers/foster parents who share the same goals.
- ✚ Be educated on changes to our Eligibility process and stay current on changes with the Family Portal.

An official flyer and P.A.C application will be provided to your Child Care Provider for distribution. The committee will consist of roughly 8 individuals. If you've expressed interest and were not chosen to serve on the Committee, don't fret, there will be opportunities in the future to contribute.



*Congratulations!*

Promotions

Lakeshia Young, Parent Support Supervisor  
Angela Moore, Reimbursement Coordinator

Welcome

Jamie Audette, Client Services Facilitator  
Melissa Smith, Eligibility Support Staff



Florida's School Readiness Program is funded by state, federal and local funds. Approximately seventy-four percent (74%) of this initiative is funded through federal dollars in the amount of \$7,608,958; 23% is funded through Florida state funds in the amount of \$2,403,356; and 3% is funded through local dollars in the amount of \$285,667"

Supported by the Alachua County Board of County Commission's Community Agency Partnership Program" to be added to all published material, announcements and websites. Use of logo must be approved by the County's Communication Office.

Supported by the Alachua County Board of County Commission's Children's Services Advisory Board" to be added to all published material, announcements and websites. Use of logo must be approved by the County's Communication Office.



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR KIDS

From the Office of Early Learning

The new year will be here soon and it is important to include your young child in the holiday fun. Many adults make New Year's resolutions and you can encourage your child to make at least one resolution, too. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has a list of healthy New Year's resolutions for kids and offers resolution suggestions for preschoolers, children 5 to 12 years old and kids 13 years and older. You can use these suggestions to help your child make a New Year's resolution. Focus on something your child will be able to accomplish with a little help and encouragement from you. When your child chooses a resolution, write it down for him and ask him to draw a picture of himself completing the resolution.

Put the picture on a mirror or wall in his room where he can see it every day. For example, if your child's resolution is to put away his toys before going to bed, read his resolution to him at bedtime and ask if he put his toys away. Emphasize the importance of your child keeping his resolution and how it helps him find his toys and keeps his toys from being stepped on and getting broken or lost. Praise your child when he remembers to put away his toys without a reminder and tell him how many days he has kept his resolution. Do not criticize him if he does not follow through with his resolution every day, rather encourage him to stick to his resolution and get back on track the next day. Your child can try many different resolutions, such as brushing his teeth twice a day, being nice to friends and others at school and at home, helping clear the table after meals, and washing his hands before eating and after using the bathroom. You may want to guide your child in choosing a resolution similar to one you have made. If your resolution focuses on eating more vegetables, your child may want to make eating a new vegetable once a week his resolution.

New Year's resolutions can help your family have a happier and healthier new year in 2017.

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