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Early Learning Parents' Pages

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIVISION OF EARLY LEARNING

November is Family Engagement Month

Find opportunities daily, from meal time to play time

Parents have a vital role in their children's development in the early years. That is why the Division of Early Learning works with the state's early learning coalitions, programs and providers to engage families in meaningful ways to actively support their children's learning and development.

Following are just a few family engagement ideas:

- Find moments during your daily routines to actively engage in conversation with your child.
- Teach your child new words and concepts by talking with them about the food they eat. Ask them questions like what color is the fruit and what shape is the sandwich? Help them count the number of grapes or carrots on their plate at mealtime.
- Read to your child 15 minutes a day.
- Tell stories, sing songs and play games with your child.
- Draw a picture with your child from their favorite book. Ask them questions about the characters in the story, like which is their favorite and why?
- Go for a walk in the park, complete a puzzle or build with blocks with your child.



Tell a story and have your child tell one back. It's a great way for them to learn new words and conversation skills.

Talk to your child's teacher about specific activities you can do at home to help boost your child's learning and development. To help you in your conversation with your child's teacher about where your child should be developmentally, reference the [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#).

Your local [early learning coalition](#) also has a Child Care Resource and Referral Program that can connect you with resources to help support your role as your child's first teacher.



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The New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI) is a free Florida literacy program for private and public VPK students and K-5 public school students, including charter school students, currently not yet meeting age-appropriate/grade level standards in literacy.

Eligible VPK-Grade 5 students receive free books on a monthly basis until the student exits fifth grade. In addition, parent resources are included to support families with literacy learning at home.

It's a great way to build a personalized home library based on your child's interests. Books are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Haitian-Creole](#) and braille.

To find out if your child is eligible for the program, visit newworldsreading.com.

Gold Seal Indicates High Level of Care

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) understands that it is important to find quality child care that meets your family's needs. Looking for the Gold Seal Quality Care designation is one way to identify quality in a child care program.

Established by the Florida Legislature and administered by DEL, the Gold Seal Quality Care Program is an indicator of high-level quality child care. DEL reviews prospective accrediting associations' standards before approving their participation in the Gold Seal program. Then, the Gold Seal accrediting associations issue accreditation and DEL awards the Gold Seal Quality Care designation to facilities in recognition of their high-quality child care.

To learn more about choosing quality child care, or to view a list of child care programs in your area that have the Gold Seal Quality Care designation, visit our website to view [Gold Seal providers by region](#).

Looking for quality child care programs?

Whether you need help finding quality child care, information on early learning programs or other family assistance, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Program offered by your local early learning coalition.

You can also contact the CCR&R State Network at 1-888-357-3239 to find the information you need.

