



**NEWS RELEASE
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Parenting Journey launches Train-the-Trainer Program in Southeastern Florida

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe to begin offering the Parenting Journey program in early 2016.

MIAMI, FL – Today Parenting Journey kicked off its first ever facilitator training in Southeastern Florida. Joined by family advocates and education specialists from The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start, a division of the [Early Learning Coalition](#) and the [Kiddie Academy](#), participants will learn firsthand how to use the experiential curriculum to run Parenting Journey groups within their organizations.

The Parenting Journey curriculum emphasizes family engagement to promote social and emotional health that supports the academic achievement of students. “There is a growing need for effective parent engagement programs across the U.S.,” says Noël Twigg, Senior Director of Partnerships at Parenting Journey. “We know that, as a whole, children of involved parents do better in school and are more likely to succeed later in life. The Parenting Journey program is not a ‘how to’ class. It is an innovative program that provides opportunity for mothers, fathers, and caregivers to develop themselves as nurtured and nurturing people, laying the groundwork for a strong family foundation on which to build.”

In the coming months Early Learning Coalition will join Devereux Florida, Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association, Inc. (CASA), and Kids Central, Inc. in offering the Parenting Journey program to their clients.

“The Early Learning Coalition is a ‘super grantee’ for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership, a 500 million dollar initiative and an integral part of the Obama Administration’s commitment to young children and families,” says Pamela Hollingsworth, Senior Director of Quality Programming and Performance Management at the Coalition. “Through this innovative partnership with Parenting Journey, more than 750 families of infants and toddlers will have access to this outstanding program. Over time, we expect to deliver Parent Journey to a large and diverse group of families in three languages. This is exactly the type of partnership we like to build, bringing high quality programs to Miami-Dade and Monroe counties by leveraging a variety of funding streams”.



About Parenting Journey

Parenting Journey, a nonprofit agency headquartered in Somerville, Mass., offers powerful programs that help parents build safer, stronger families and trains professionals nationwide to implement its high-impact approach. Nearly 1,500 facilitators have received training, and 52,000 parents raising almost 151,000 children have benefited from Parenting Journey's unique curriculum. Parenting Journey programs have been replicated in nearly 500 locations throughout New England and New York. In 2015, Parenting Journey has expanded program replication into new geographic markets including Washington, DC and Florida.

About Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring early care and education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12 years old and their families. Founded in 2000, the Coalition is among 31 similar organizations in the State of Florida established following the enactment of the School Readiness Act, which consolidated Florida's early learning services into one integrated program.

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