

K-Ready Community

For Our Kids, For Our Families, For Our Future

February 5, 2021

At our K-Ready Rally event last year, Dr. Joel Hunter asked us, "What kind of community do we want? What are we willing to work for?"

The K-Ready Community project is about working together to become the kind of community that invests in a better tomorrow by taking care of our children today. In a K-Ready Community, EVERY SINGLE child gets the start they deserve and the start they need to thrive in school and in life.

It's time to take action! This newsletter includes some things that you can do now to help and get engaged.

Stay tuned for more details and project updates soon, and contact us anytime if you would like to do or learn more.

Leslie
The K-Ready Community Project Team

P.S. Please consider joining the K-Ready Alliance and making a donation to power the movement to become a K-Ready Community!

SUPPORT THE K-READY FUND

JOIN THE K-READY ALLIANCE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT TOWN HALL

February 17, 6:00 p.m.

At the next in our series of town halls about the importance of the first 2000 days of a child's life, we will be talking about how to help children cope with stress. We hope you can join the event host, Commissioner Bakari Burns, for this important conversation.

Register Here

JOIN US VIRTUALLY

Early Care and Education Town Hall Meeting: Focus on The First 2000 Days

February 17, 2021
6PM - 7PM EST

CO-HOST: **Bakari Burns**
Orlando City District 6 Commissioner

Helping Children Cope with Stress

As part of the Town Hall Series on the importance of the first 2000 days of a child's life a new town hall will focus on children coping with stress. Participants will get tips and find out what early education programs are doing to help children cope.

Partners:

RSVP here to receive a Zoom link: kready.eventbrite.com Also available on **Facebook Live**

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Our partner, the Children's Movement of Florida is offering advocacy training on **Tuesday, February 23 from 12:30 to 2:00.**

Learn to effectively tell your story to our legislators so they know what action to take. From concerns about child care and health to unemployment, there is a range of issues that can affect family and child wellbeing.

Legislative session 2021 starts March 2 and continues until April 30, so you will have a chance to use what you learn to impact legislation that matters to you and to K-Ready. The Children's Movement's 2021 Legislative Agenda, which aligns with the K-Ready priorities, are outlined below and can be accessed [here](#).

The training is free, but you need to [register here](#). We'll see you there!

2021 Agenda
A strong start #ForFloridaChildren

The Children's Movement of Florida insists on a strong start for all our children. We know young children need these basics to thrive: supportive parents and caregivers, stimulating early learning environments, and good health care—including early identification and intervention for developmental delays and disabilities. Our legislative priorities for 2021 also reflect a growing appreciation that if we want young children to thrive, we must address the needs of the adults who care for them, too. The pandemic economy underscores how important it is to support parents if we want to promote equity and maximize early investments.

- EARLY LEARNING**
 - Adequately fund Florida's VPK and School Readiness programs so that high-quality early learning is affordable for Florida families.
 - Strengthen VPK standards that lead to real quality, valuing positive teacher-child interactions and social-emotional growth alongside early literacy development.
 - Minimize learning loss by ensuring pandemic recovery funds for child care are allocated equitably and targeted to the needs of families across the state.
- HEALTH CARE**
 - Get mothers and babies off to a strong start by ensuring prenatal health care for all, extending maternal Medicaid coverage for 12 months postpartum.
 - Increase health care access for children by streamlining KidCare enrollment and increasing outreach efforts.
- PARENT SUPPORT**
 - Ensure access to information and resources about developmental milestones and high-quality early learning opportunities.
 - Help families be financially independent with policies that do not trigger abrupt cuts in child care and family benefits when parents get a raise. We want people to make more money knowing they won't suffer a net loss of income due to benefit loss.

www.childrensmovementofFlorida.org @TheChildrensMovement

The Children's Movement of Florida
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DONATE CLEAR MASKS FOR TEACHERS

Join 100 Women Strong and the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County and donate to the **#MaskandSmile fund** to provide clear masks to early learning providers to promote safe and healthy socio-emotional development!

Support Children, Share a Smile

#MASKANDSMILE

Babies learn how to express emotions and communicate through relationships. Help early care and education providers show their smiles and be safe with clear masks by supporting the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County's #MaskandSmile Fund.

100 WOMEN STRONG
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOUNDATION
partnered with

EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF ORANGE COUNTY

\$10 SHARES A SMILE
\$75 MAKES A CLASSROOM SMILE
\$500 MAKES A CENTER SMILE
\$1000 MAKES TWO CENTERS SMILE
\$3000 MAKES 6 CENTERS SMILE
\$5000 MAKES A NEIGHBORHOOD SMILE

To donate and help spread more smiles, visit www.elcoc.org/Donate and note that your donation is for #MaskandSmile

[Donate to #MaskandSmile](#)

A few other ways to get involved...

Virtual Reading Opportunities: Have a free hour to spare in the morning? Sign up to read virtually to a classroom of preschoolers.

Book Buddy: Have fun promoting emerging literacy skills by being a pen pal with a deserving 3 or 4-year-old.

Sign Up Here

Join the K-Ready Alliance to stay informed, get involved, and be a part of the movement to become a **K-Ready Community!**

JOIN THE K-READY ALLIANCE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

SUPPORT THE K-READY FUND

HELP US GROW! The **K-Ready Community Project** is thankful for the growing list of partners and supporters. We are in this together! Please help to continue to grow this list among your own companies, friends, and colleagues.



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