

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information

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ELC of NW Florida Offers First Annual Early Learning Scholastic Book Fair

Preschool book fair will promote early literacy and family engagement

Panama City, Fla. – The Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida will host an Early Learning Scholastic Book Fair from November 6-9 in their Panama City Coalition Office (703 W. 15th Street). On Thursday, November 9, the Coalition will host a Family Night from 5-7 p.m. Families and teachers of preschool children are invited to attend. Light snacks will be served, and craft stations will be available for children of all ages.

“We wanted to create a unique Scholastic Book Fair opportunity for families with preschoolers and teachers in early learning settings,” Coalition Executive Director Lynne Eldridge said. “Our fair is 100 percent appropriate for preschool-aged children, and the money raised helps support other families and children throughout Northwest Florida.”

The Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida is a non-profit organization receiving federal and state funding to oversee the Voluntary Prekindergarten and School Readiness Programs. The School Readiness Program helps families who are income-eligible and are either employed for at least 20 hours, training, or attending school.

“We see this as a win-win for the communities we serve,” Eldridge said. “While supporting family engagement and early literacy through appropriate, affordable early learning book selections, we are raising money to provide funding to the nearly 450 children currently on our waitlist.”

Families on the waitlist are waiting for child care assistance offered through the School Readiness Program. For every \$1 raised by the Coalition, \$16 is matched by the grant. The Coalition hopes to extend services to more children and families as the result of fundraising efforts like this one. If you would like to learn more about the Early Learning Scholastic Book Fair benefiting the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, visit www.elcnwf.org/scholastic-book-fair/ to explore the flier, view hours of operation, and link to the online fair.

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The Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida oversees the School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Programs for Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties. In addition to these programs, the Coalition offers child care resource and referral, developmental screenings, and support to parents. For additional information, visit the Office of Early Learning’s website at www.floridaearlylearning.com or visit www.elcnwf.org for information about your local Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida.

