



Early Learning Coalition of Seminole 2008-2009 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to be the recognized authority in Seminole County for information regarding high quality school readiness and child care services which allow parents to make informed choices when selecting childcare providers. We carry out our mission through collaborative partnerships with early education and care professionals and concerned community leaders to:

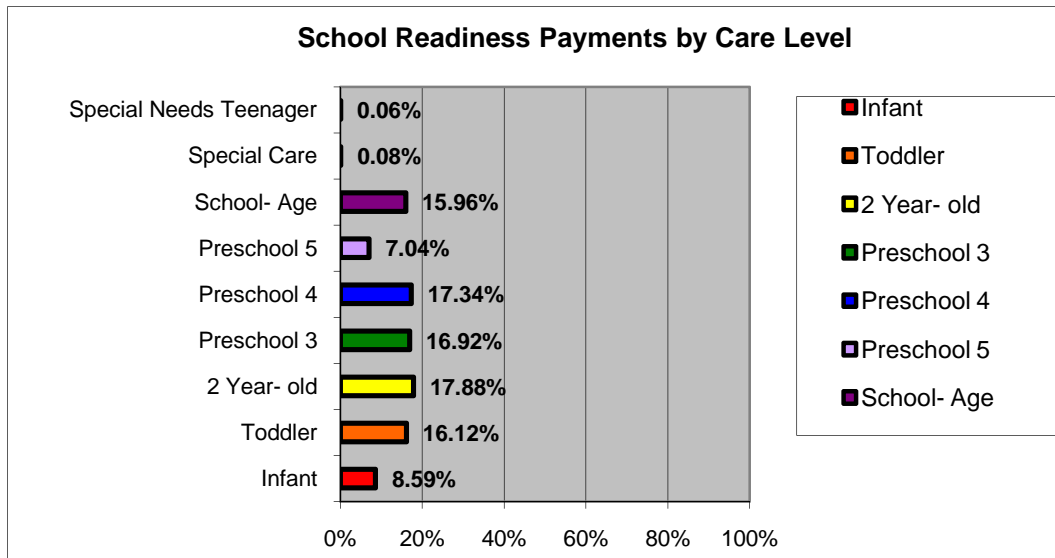
- enhance the quality of school readiness services in Seminole County;
- promote community awareness of critical factors regarding early learning;
- provide scholarships for eligible low income children to attend child care centers; and
- increase participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program available to all four year olds in Seminole County.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009.

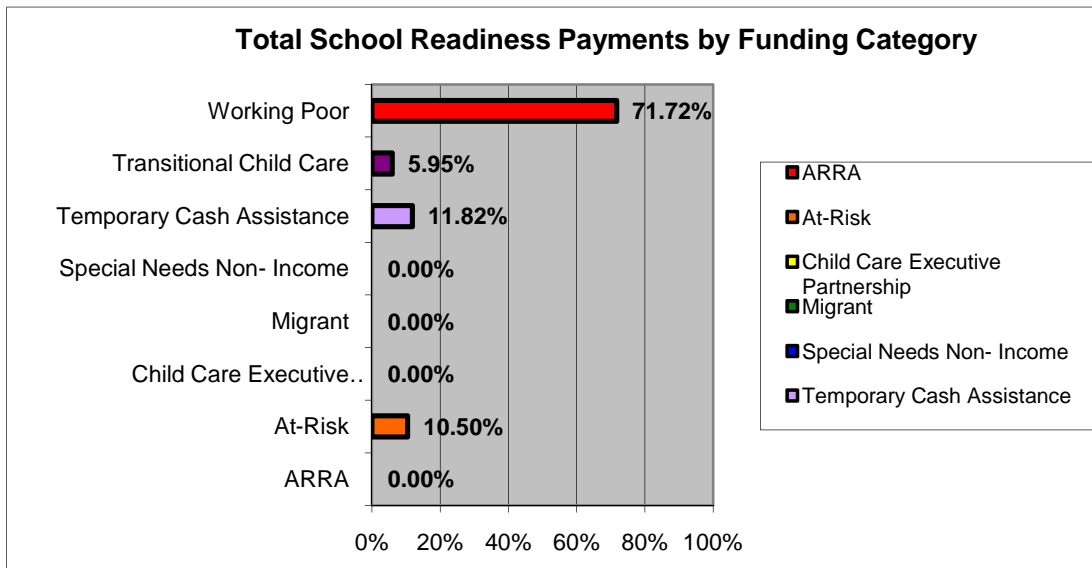
Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

SR Children	SR Families
3538	2060

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



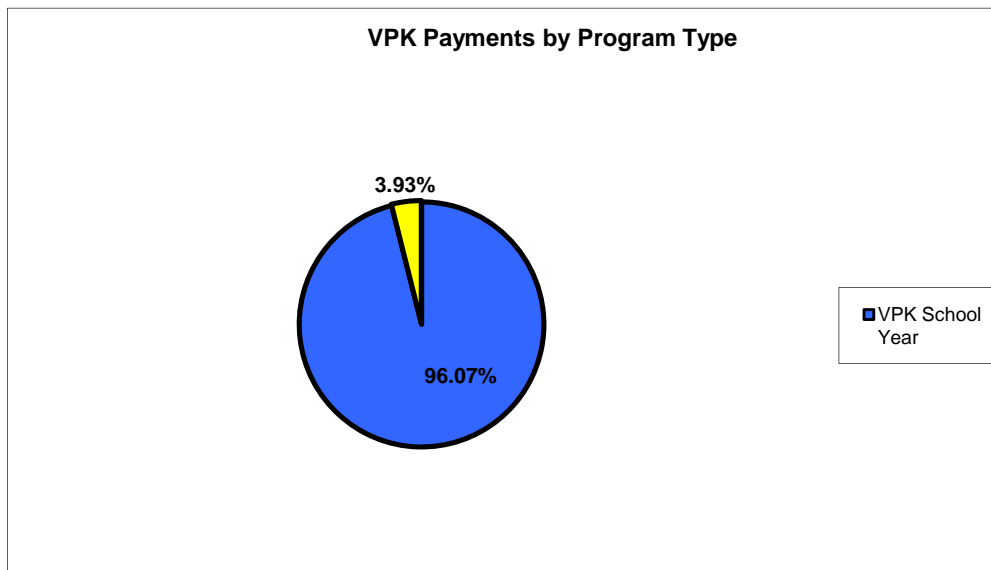
School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:



Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children	VPK Families
3761	3690

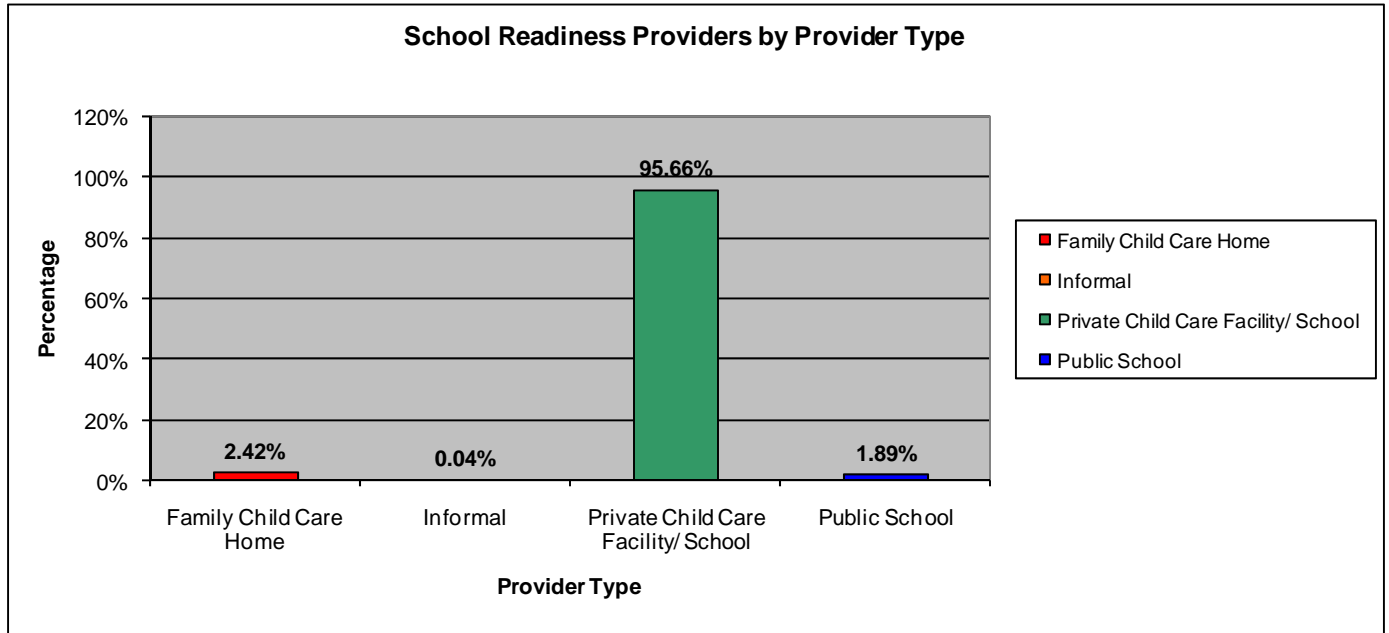
Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



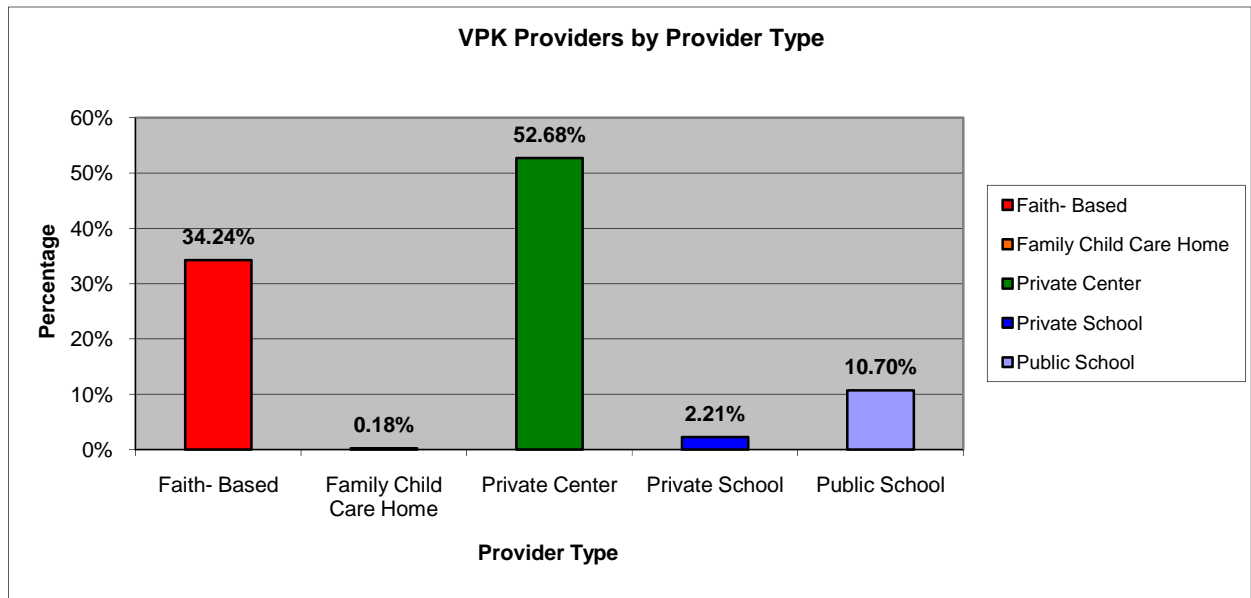
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
251	141

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating VPK providers by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has maintained strong relationships with existing community partners that provide cash and in-kind donations to the Coalition to support children with quality early care and education. Continuing community partners included Heart of Florida United Way, The John R. and Ruth W. Gurtler Foundation, Inc., Orlando Magic Youth Fund, Orlando Sentinel Family Fund, City of Altamonte Springs, City of Oviedo, Wachovia Foundation, Joe Alberts' I.T. Services, and Seminole Community College. In addition, this year CSX Transportation granted an award of \$5,000 for child care slots. Kevin Spolski Construction provided over \$70,000 of in-kind remodeling services in order to relocate the client services office. This new location has allowed families to more easily access services in a convenient and professional environment.

Quality Activity Summary:

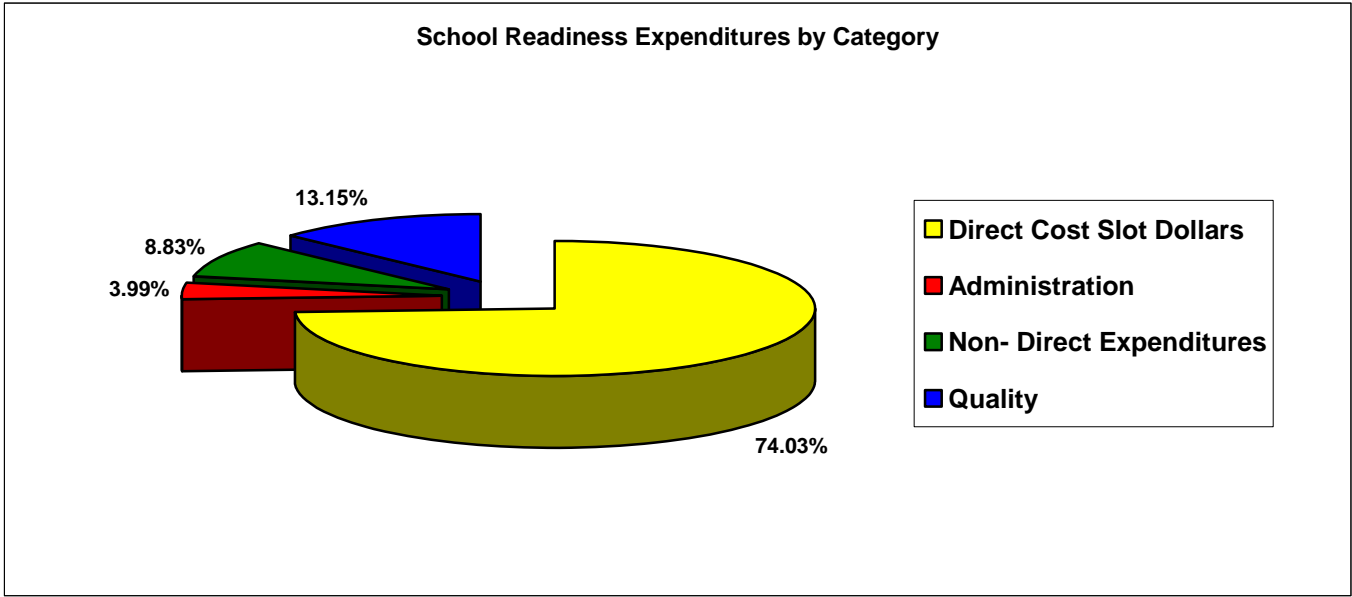
Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has reached more than 5,000 individuals with available resources such as SR, VPK, Inclusion Services, information regarding how to apply for service and guidance on selecting high quality child care through the following events and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Blast Back to School Fair• CAPTF Safety Fair• Families in Transition Assistance Fair (reaching homeless families in SCPS)• SCPS Community Outreach Event• Healthy Start Baby Shower• Kidgits Club at the Seminole Towne Center Mall• Flyers to all public elementary school students, grades K-3• Over 20 VPK Round-Ups
Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.	Mini-grants were offered to Providers based on scores achieved through ERS assessments and technical assistance. These funds were used to purchase developmentally appropriate materials and supplies to support compliance with state and local standards.
Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.	The Coalition's subrecipient, 4C, conducts the initial review and desk monitoring of licensing and regulatory requirements before a Provider is offered an SR or VPK agreement. In addition, 4C maintains a database to flag all Provider eligibility documentation required to conduct business, such as (but not limited to) license expiration, background screenings and affidavit of good moral character. The Coalition Quality Team provides monitoring and technical assistance for licensing and regulatory compliance during technical assistance visits.

<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>The Coalition offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of early care and education services available in Seminole County. Free trainings conducted by Coalition Quality Service and Inclusion Specialists this year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Implementation; • Beyond Centers and Circle Time Curriculum; • Environmental Rating Scales (ERS); • Character Development; • Creative Curriculum; • After-School Program; • Lap-3 Assessment; • Intentional Teaching and Purposeful Planning; • Inclusion/Behavior Management, and • 4 Separate Early Literacy and Early Math Concepts Trainings <p>The Coalition Quality Services Specialists offer individual and small group technical assistance upon request for Providers regarding the ERS and curriculum implementation. In partnership with Seminole Community College, the Coalition funded both CDA and AA/AS scholarships, sponsored the 5th Annual Learning Conference, Bringing Central Florida Together for Children, and funded a half-day Spring conference, titled Healthy Connections, targeting the prevention of childhood obesity. The Coalition also provides professional development opportunities, specifically targeting family child care providers. Toward this effort, the Coalition offered scholarships to the 17th Annual Florida Family Child Care Home Association Conference.</p>
<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>The Coalition funded CPA and AA/AS scholarships through Seminole Community College promote higher salaries for early childhood educators.</p>
<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has been working in conjunction with the Early Learning Coalitions of Orange and Osceola Counties to design the Central Florida Quality Counts Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The Coalitions have utilized the framework established by the multi-county, state-wide workgroup to ensure consistency with other systems across the state. A joint pilot project was developed to begin in the next fiscal year, and the services of an outside firm were solicited to assist with Provider selection, evaluation of the pilot project, implementation and identification of child outcomes.</p> <p>In order to prepare Providers for QRIS, all Seminole County SR Providers were assessed using the Environmental Rating Scales and provided with technical assistance to improve their scores. Additionally, Providers were assessed and offered trainings on</p>

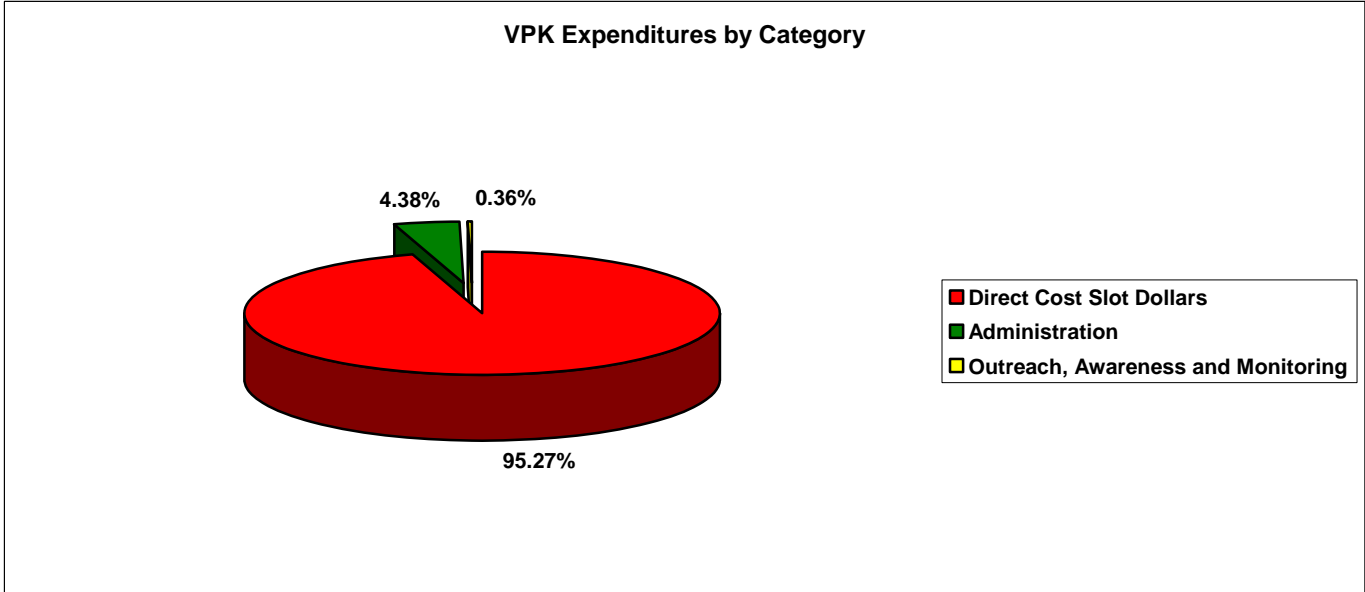
	curriculum implementation.
Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.	<p>The Quality Services Specialists (QSS) specifically targeted literacy and early math concepts development through the following trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Your Way Training • Recipe for Success • Jump into Literacy • More than Numbers <p>The "Let's Read Together!" Program was a family initiative begun by the QSS in which parents check out literacy kits from providers. The kits contain an activity guide and books for parents to read with their children.</p>
What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?	<p>The Coalition Inclusion Specialist offers both formal training and individual intervention services to aid classroom teachers, parents and children in establishing best practices to meet the needs of all children. The Warm Line has been established and marketed to Providers to allow direct access to request inclusion services. Additionally, after obtaining a Level III ASQ screening, vision and hearing screenings are offered and then a LAP-D or E-LAP assessment is conducted to determine the need for additional support from the Inclusion Specialist. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, nearly 260 referrals were made for Coalition Inclusion Services.</p>
How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?	<p>The Coalition has implemented several activities to promote healthy habits, as well as the social and emotional development of children. Through trainings for classroom teachers and directors, character development has been encouraged based on the Conscious Discipline Curriculum. The Coalition encourages Providers to support parents in the social and emotional development of their child through the "Parenting in a Bag" initiative.</p> <p>This year, the Coalition had the opportunity to partner with Nemours in a childhood obesity pilot project. Nemours trained classroom teachers to incorporate the "5-2-1-Almost None" concept in a select number of Seminole County child care sites. Another method of training child care professionals to promote healthy habits that combat childhood obesity was offered through the Coalition-funded Healthy Connections half-day conference at Seminole Community College. In addition, the Coalition participated in the Healthy Start Baby Shower, teaching at-risk mothers the importance of selecting a high quality child care experience.</p>
Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))	<p>The Coalition has had the opportunity to participate in unique partnerships to promote the availability of high quality child care in Seminole County. As a member of the Children's Cabinet of Seminole County, the Coalition has been asked to lead a subcommittee to address child care as one of the priorities for families in our county. Furthermore, the Coalition has begun a partnership with the Sanford</p>

	Housing Authority to provide an orientation and training for residents of the Housing Authority that are interested in pursuing a career in the child care industry.
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Fiscal Summary: During the 2008- 2009 fiscal year the coalition's total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$8,743,246. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2008- 2009 fiscal year the coalition's total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$9,204,007. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole saw significant growth in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services increased by 47.8%. Twenty-seven (27) new School Readiness (SR) Providers were added and SR services grew by 3%. The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program also saw a 3% growth in services with nine (9) new VPK Providers offering the program. This growth in services likely resulted from the downturn in the economy, but also may have been impacted through the Coalition's partnerships developed over the past year.

The Early Learning Coalition has experienced many successes through partnerships during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. In support of Children's Week, and in recognition of the needs of children and families in our county, the Early Learning Coalition was able to collect proclamations from all seven municipalities in the county, including the Board of County Commissioners. The support demonstrated by all government entities is a clear indication of the value of Coalition services to the community.

Through the new partnerships with Nemours, the Healthy Start Program, the Sanford Housing Authority, and sponsorship of PBS Kids programming, the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has expanded its reach promoting high quality early care and education throughout the county.

In partnership with our School Readiness Providers, the quality of child care continues to improve. All Providers, with the exception of one, showed significant increases in ERS scores after receiving training and technical assistance and have met the minimum score of 3.0. At year-end, 61% of the Providers scored between 3.00 and 3.99, and 37% scored 4.00 or higher. These results indicate a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of quality by Seminole County child care providers.