



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ELLEN E. WEAVER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Early Childhood Coordinators
District Family Engagement Liaisons

FROM: Dr. Abbey Duggins
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: January 31, 2023

RE: Office of Early Learning and Literacy Learning Engagement Opportunities for Families
Spring 2023

The South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) is pleased to announce some exciting opportunities for South Carolina families of early learners. This memo outlines the details for these opportunities.

The SCDE OELL learning engagement coaches (LECs) for families provide an outreach program for families and communities to assist with resources and materials for supporting school readiness. The LECs focus on working with families in South Carolina public schools, including charter schools, non-public schools, and home school families in the following areas:

- Improve communication between families, teachers, and schools to support remote learning;
- Provide training for families on how to help their children at home with literacy and learning skills; and
- Provide online resources and modules that support early learning and literacy skills.

Upcoming regional family engagement sessions are planned to meet the unique needs of each region and local education agencies. The LECs partnered with local libraries and schools to provide on-site opportunities for the families of early learners. All family engagement sessions integrate early literacy and social-emotional skills. Please find details regarding the regional sessions below.

I Like Big Words

LECs will support families in working with early learners at home. Families will learn ways to teach friendship and high frequency words. Families will leave this session with new skills, a book, and a take-home learning activity.

Session Date and Time	Site	Registration Link
February 7, 2023 9:15am and 10:30am	Anderson County Library 300 North McDuffie Street, Anderson, SC 29621	Register here .
February 10, 2023 10am-11am	Saluda County Library 101 South Main Street, Saluda, SC 29138	Register here .
February 14, 2023 10:30am-11:30am	York County Library – Main 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730	Register here .

Let's Talk about Texts

LECs will support families in working with early learners at home. Families will help their child understand others while teaching them how to self-monitor and self-correct. Families will leave this session with new skills, a book, and a take-home learning activity.

Session Date and Time	Site	Registration Link
March 21, 2023 10:30am - 11:30am	Pickens County Library - Kimberly Hampton Branch 304 Biltmore Road, Easley, SC 29640	Register here .
March 15, 2023 10:30am - 11:30am	Calhoun County Library 900 F R Huff Drive, St Matthews, SC 29135	Register here .
March 23, 2023 10:00am - 11:00am	Richland County Library: Ballentine Branch 1200 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063	Register here .

The Building Blocks of Math

LECs will use the South Carolina Early Learning Standards for mathematical thinking to share strategies that families can use at home to support their young child's development. Families will leave this session with new skills, a book, and a list of resources for learning at home. Please note that one of these sessions is a Bilingual opportunity for families, and the session will be provided in Spanish.

Session Date and Time	Site	Registration Link
February 15, 2023 10:00 am - 11:00 am	Lee County Library 200 North Main St, Bishopville, SC 29010	Bilingual Opportunity Register here .
February 9, 2023 10:30 am	Berkeley Library - Hanahan Branch 1216 Old Murray Drive, Hanahan, SC 29410	Register here .

The Power of Play

There are six areas of growth and development that research says are involved in helping a child progress ages birth thru 60 months. These six areas are defined in the South Carolina Early Learning Standards. The LECs will introduce families to the South Carolina Early Learning Standards for families that is called [Ready, Set, Kindergarten!](#) and the [Profile of the Ready Kindergartener](#). This session will focus on approaches to learning and inquiry to share strategies that families can use at home to support their young child's development. This session will help families understand how to maximize play time for learning. Families will leave this session with new skills, a book, and a list of resources for learning at home. Please note that one of these sessions is a Bilingual opportunity for families, and the session will be provided in Spanish.

Session Date and Time	Site	Registration Link
March 21, 2023 10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Horry Library - Socastee Branch 141 SC-707, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588	Bilingual Opportunity Register here .
March 21, 2023 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm	Charleston County Library - St. Pauls Hollywood Branch 5130 SC-165, Hollywood, SC 29449	Register here .

For more information or to schedule sessions please complete this [link](#). For questions about the LECs or the family engagement sessions please contact Wendy Burgess at wburgess@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-5858.