



## **The School District of Osceola County, FL**

**Terry Andrews, Superintendent**

### **Press Release (in English and Spanish)**

**January 12, 2012 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Wee Read Events To Strengthen Early Literacy/Math Skills For Osceola Youngsters**

The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County, the School District of Osceola County, and Walt Disney World, Co. have teamed up to provide the Wee Read Early Literacy/Math Program to help prepare young children in Osceola County for kindergarten.

During the first five years of life, parents have a key role in shaping their child's developing language, literacy, mathematical, and social-emotional skills. As an integral component of the Wee Read program, Family Literacy Events are offered to engage parents in helping them understand how their children grow and develop while teaching them how to build early literacy skills in their four- and/or five-year-old children. At the January event, the Wee Read Coach will present information on brain development and math skills, showing parents techniques and strategies to help them play with their children in a meaningful way. Through generous funding from the Walt Disney World Company's community initiative "Disney Helping Kids Shine", the Wee Read Family Literacy Events feature the READY! for Kindergarten curriculum with a wide range of parent support materials designed to support the early literacy skill building strategies that parents have practiced during the family event. These materials include tools and activities that promote family literacy by making it easy for parents to enjoy fun learning time in the security of their own home. Additionally families receive donated books through Hyperion Publishing, a subsidiary of Walt Disney World Company, to increase the number of children's books in their homes and to promote early literacy parent-child interaction at home. Delicious meals are also offered at each event to make it more convenient for families to attend and participate. As a special treat, the upcoming "Wee Read Family Fun Literacy Events" will also feature "Belle," a popular Disney character from Beauty and the Beast. Through her magical appearance, this special guest will encourage the love of reading between children and their families.

The following "Family Fun Literacy Events" are being hosted at four private child care centers in Osceola County:

**Trinity Lutheran Preschool** (3016 W. Vine St., Kissimmee, FL 34741) on January 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Tiny Tots Christian Academy** (1605 Mickler St., Kissimmee, FL 34741) on January 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Sunflower Daycare** (110 Michelle Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34743) on January 19, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Kids Academy** (2080 N. Michigan Ave., Kissimmee, FL 34744) on January 19, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Invitations have been sent to parents and youngsters participating in the Wee Read Early Literacy/Math Program at the four child care centers.

Research shows that children who start prepared for school find it easier to stay on target for the rest of their school years. To learn more about how you can support early literacy or to find out more about the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County, call 407-933-5353 or go to [www.elcosceola.org](http://www.elcosceola.org).