

## Second Annual 'Kickoff to K' Parties Draw Hundreds



Oh, what a night! Two nights, to be exact.

ELC's second annual "Kickoff to K" parties were, once again, met with resounding success.

In April 2024, the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, in collaboration with Sarasota County Schools, hosted two FREE kindergarten parties for ALL incoming kindergartners entering a public or charter school in the fall. With one event held in north county and another in south county, hundreds came out to enjoy a fun-filled evening of math and literacy-infused excitement

We welcomed those who knew everything about their child's new elementary school as well as those who knew nothing about it. Representatives were on hand to assist any parent who needed to find their child's district school.

This event was designed to be a casual, comfortable opportunity for families to connect with Sarasota County School leaders, meet kindergarten teachers, and get any questions answered.

Eligibility specialists with the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County were also onsite to help families navigate their childcare search for younger siblings. Help included how to apply for financial assistance for independent, community-based preschools as well as how to register for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)—a free preschool program for all Florida 4-year-olds, regardless of income.

In addition to dinner and dancing with a DJ, the event featured a free "Future Kindergartner" photo booth. Families also engaged in hands-on activities with district kindergarten teachers, an art project with The Ringling Museum, interactive STEM activities with Sarasota Children's Museum, and clever guessing games with prizes and free book giveaways.

Each incoming kindergartner received six free books and a swag bag filled with hands-on, manipulative play materials featuring researched-based strategies that the whole family can enjoy!

Cheers to the Sarasota County Schools incoming Class of 2037! And a HUGE thank you to our amazing "Kickoff to K" community volunteers, especially those from Bank of America and START of Sarasota County nonprofit. Your commitment and enthusiasm shined throughout the night.

Our kindergarten parties were made possible thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation and the coordination of The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading as part of Suncoast Remake Learning Days. Remake Learning Days is a local 15-day festival filled with free events for children and families offering multi-generational, hands-on learning experiences.



# 2024 Kindergarten Parties



 **Early Learning**  
Coalition of Sarasota County  
*Ready for Learning, Ready for Life!*





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