



Resources At the Center:
(Available virtually or in-person)

- Developmental screenings and assessments help determine each child's needs
- Individualized behavioral support strategies for school and home
- Transition planning support and linkages with Head Start and PreK services
- Ongoing opportunities to meet and strategize on each child's educational needs and linkages to services
- Information about alternative educational options for your child

The Linda Ray Intervention Center (LRIC) is a University-based Multidisciplinary Educational Services Center within the Department of Education's Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System. Additionally, the LRIC is one of the five Early Intervention Birth-Two Programs in Miami within the state's Early Steps program for young children with disabilities. The LRIC is part of the Department of Psychology within the College of Arts and Sciences. Our mission is to support and facilitate positive developmental outcomes with high quality services, thereby improving young children's school readiness, and future student achievement.

Welcoming in 2021 and leaving 2020 behind

Along with the rest of MDCPS district schools, we returned to in-person school in mid-October, offering families a hybrid model: children can attend virtually, if needed, because they or someone in their family has been exposed to COVID, or is infected; or children can attend school in-person, with masks, social distancing, smaller classroom 'pods,' and health monitoring by our trained staff.

We were most grateful during the holiday season to receive donations from community members even though gift-exchanges and in-person visits to the school were not possible. Special thanks to the Office of the President/University of Miami, the Perez Family, the Peerless Family and The Oizumi Wish Foundation for their special efforts on behalf of the children. Come January, we look forward to a collaboration with the Coral Gables Museum Project. We were also able to provide students with a virtual school box of materials.



Talking to Young Children about COVID

Keep it simple. Rather than giving children a lot of information that they won't understand child psychologists instead tell us that children in this age group need structure, and they need their parents to remain calm. Even at age two and three, they're going to pick up their cues from their parent. Family adults need to be good role models for their child about how to do deal with curveballs that get thrown at us, and certainly, this pandemic is a major curveball. Routines and reassurance will also help you and your child to cope. Reassure them that you know how to keep them safe. (Delamater, 2021)

February 2021

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March 2021

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- Teacher Workday
- Legal Holiday
- Recess Day (closed)

CENTER NAME: FDLRS/UM Multidisciplinary Educational Services Center
 LOCATION: UM/Linda Ray Intervention Center, 750 NW 15th Street, Miami FL 33136-1431
 PRIMARY SERVICE AREA: Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties
 SERVICES: Multidisciplinary evaluation and consultation services for children with complex learning, behavioral, medical, and socio-emotional problems, their families, teachers, and schools; parent education and support services; and in-service training to educators and other community professionals. Additional targeted support services for children developmentally impacted by parental substance abuse, child maltreatment and foster care. Services may be delivered remotely or in-person.
 DIRECTOR: Lynne Katz, Ed.D. CONTACT NUMBERS: Tel:(305)325-1818 Fax: (305) 325-1151
 EMAIL: lkatz@miami.edu WEBSITE: <http://www.fdlrs-um.miami.edu>

Updates

In our role as a Discretionary University project (FDLRS-UM MDC) within the state's FDLRS network, we continue to provide training to community partners on topics including brain development and attachment and behavioral regulation strategies, as part of professional development and parent support. Our website: www.fdlrs-um.miami.edu features resources and information pertaining to disability awareness and young children with special needs. Outreach and enrollment of young children into the intervention program is ongoing and our primary service coordinator can be reached at c.morin@miami.edu for enrollment appointments and to schedule an assessment for your child.

Vaccine roll-outs

Getting vaccinated is one of many steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Protection from COVID-19 is critically important because for some people, the virus can cause severe illness or death. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask when in public, staying at least 6 feet away from others who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands often, or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't available, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others can offer the best protection from COVID-19. (CDC EPIC Exchange Newsletter 1/12/21)

Keeping children safe

- Children two years or older must come to school with their own mask labeled with their name.
- Handwashing is implemented frequently throughout the day.
- Social distancing of children at play time, mealtime and on the playground.
- Classrooms do not mix throughout the day.
- During nap time, children's mats or cribs are placed 6 feet apart.
- Bedding is washed regularly either at home or if needed at school.
- Children have separate bins or buckets of developmental materials with their names.



How our services are unique:

The Center provides specialized, multidisciplinary services virtual or in person that include:

- ◆ Direct services to children, youth, families, and educators to improve student outcomes.
- ◆ Multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluation services for young children with complex educational, behavioral, medical, and socio-emotional problems impacting learning and acquisition of skills.
- ◆ Direct intervention and consultation services for families and children aimed at improving student learning, skill development, and outcomes through implementation of evidence-based interventions.
- ◆ Classroom observations of individual students to build a collaborative action plan intended to improve instructional delivery and student success.
- ◆ Technical assistance to individual teachers for implementing recommended interventions and strategies.
- ◆ Training for community providers and district staff
- ◆ Website resources at www.fdlrs-um.miami.edu