

# ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

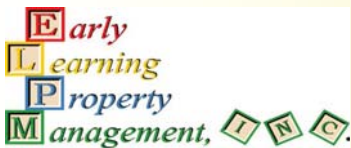
## *Building a Future*

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends



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[www.elpm.org](http://www.elpm.org)

## Premier Academy Inducted in Atlanta Business League's 2011 Hall of Fame



**Premier Academy, Inc.**, one of Atlanta's leading early childhood education providers has been recognized by the Atlanta Business League for its continuous service to low income children who are in need of a high quality early childhood education before they enter kindergarten. On November 15, 2011, the Atlanta Business League inducted Premier Academy, Inc. into its 2011 Hall of Fame. Cindra Taylor, Executive Director for Premier Academy, along with three other inductees in various fields, were recognized as leaders who are the driving force for business and community in achieving success and continuously setting milestones. This occasion also commemorated the League's 78 Years of Service.

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The theme for the 2011 event was "Big Vision for Growing Enterprises". Leona Barr-Davenport, Atlanta Business League's president and CEO stated, "The excitement alone of being in a room filled with business owners drawing from those who continue to pave the way is enough to inspire any professional to do great things". Atlanta Business League strongly believes that in order for entrepreneurs and professionals to keep the momentum of being inspired and challenged is to get a clean understanding of the industry and its impact on the community.

Premier Academy's Minnie Howell Child Development Center continues to be a successful role model for high quality early learning education throughout the state.



2011 ABL Hall of Fame inductees holding their awards (left to right): Michael Griffin, President, Prestige Packaging, Arthur Queen, President & CEO, EGM Services, Inc., Cindra Taylor, Executive Director, Premier Academy; and Carlton Webb, Vice President, Cox Brothers Funeral Home

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www.atlantabusinessleague.org*

*For Premier Academy program information, please visit: [www.premier-academy.org](http://www.premier-academy.org)*



## Education Week Report Places Georgia at #7

**Congratulations Georgia!** A report released today by *Education Week* ranks Georgia seventh in the nation for overall education quality. The annual "Quality Counts" report is an investigation of key education outcomes that provides ranks and grades for each state based on their commitment to improve educational policies and practices. This year's report gave Georgia a grade of B-.

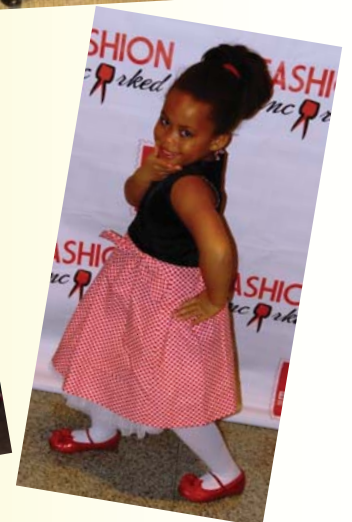
**Among our strengths** is the area of Transition and Alignment, where Georgia is ranked among the top six states in the nation in early education and the articulations between early childhood education, K-12 education, and post-secondary Institutions. Georgia also received high marks for its standards, assessment, and accountability policies and programs. The full report can be found at [Quality Counts 2012](#) and interactive state report cards. Here is the link announcing the good news [Georgia Department of Education news release](#).

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*Fashion Uncorked*, a charitable event to benefit Easter Seals of North Georgia, held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gala affair in February. The event raised funds to support programs for children and adults with learning disabilities and other special needs throughout Atlanta and Georgia. Easter Seals of North Georgia has child development centers, therapy programs and autism programs that give families the support to have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. *Fashion Uncorked* featured 10 of Atlanta's top emerging designers as they competed for various prizes and recognition.

For program information on Easter Seals of North Georgia, please visit:  
[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)

*Photos submitted and printed with permission by Norma Center, Development Coordinator, Easter Seals of North Georgia*



## Special Interest

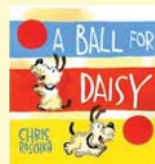
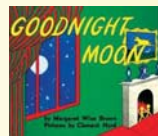
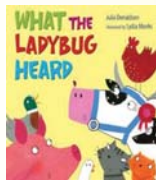


Smart Start, the early learning division of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta has joined forces with a coalition of early childhood advocates and professionals to implement four **Early Reading First (ERF)** grants throughout metropolitan Atlanta: **DREAM, READERS, LIGHT** and **APPLE**. The programs focus on low-income, preschool children with risks for reading difficulties, transforming our existing, good programs into programs of excellence.

Over 80% of youth in our program areas qualify for free or reduced lunch, far exceeding the state average of 50%. To date, more than 1700 children in DeKalb, Fulton, and Cobb counties have been served.

The key indicator of a child's later success in school is their ability to read. The goal of ERF is to enhance the early language, literacy, and pre-reading development of young children, particularly those from low income families, through strategies and professional development that are grounded in Scientifically-Based Reading Research (**SBRR**) and family literacy.

*For further details on United Way's new program, please visit: [www.smartstartga.org](http://www.smartstartga.org)  
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## THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY LITERACY



The most important thing parents can do to ensure their child's academic success is fun for both parent and child and it's free.

Literacy experts agree that reading aloud to your child from an early age is the single best way to prepare him or her to learn to read. Those good reading skills will provide the foundation for acquiring other knowledge later on.

Any time you read a book to your child or even talk or sing, you're laying the foundation for what educators call "early literacy." Early literacy is essentially everything a child knows about language and reading and writing before he or she can actually read or write.

By creating a language-rich environment when your child is very young, you are supplying the building blocks for learning. Experts say this early learning pays big dividends later when the child enters school.

The skills associated with early literacy are best developed in everyday social activities with other people. Doing things like talking together about what they are doing and enjoying a good story or rhyming book together. You can't start too early!

*Please visit [www.nieer.org](http://www.nieer.org) for complete article.  
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## Early Learning Property Management Mission Statement

To support and promote early childhood learning and development by providing safe and adequate facilities where early learning programs and activities can be conducted.



### **ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS**

For ELPM center program information, please visit [www.elpm.org](http://www.elpm.org)



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**TO: Our Partners, Supporters and Friends**