



## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NAVY FAMILIES CELEBRATED BY LOCAL NON-PROFIT**

Early Learning Coalition of Duval Holds Holiday Party for Navy Families with Special Needs Children

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 22, 2010** — Yesterday afternoon, **Early Learning Coalition of Duval** (ELC of Duval) hosted a holiday party for local families in the Exceptional Family Member Respite Care program- a respite care program for active-duty, U.S. Navy families with special-needs children. ELC of Duval partnered with **Tijuana Flats** to provide lunch and gifts for the families in the program.

Over 80 parents and children attended the open-house style event at the ELC of Duval office. As families arrived, the children made crafts and enjoyed the Tijuana Flats catered lunch of tacos and nachos.

"The military plays such an **important** role in our community, and we are proud to give **some help** to those families who sacrifice daily on our behalf," said Susan Main, Executive Director of ELC of Duval. "We are thankful for local partners like Tijuana Flats who can help us honor **and support** these families."

Each child in the program, and their siblings, had the opportunity to take pictures with Santa and open presents provided by Tijuana Flats.

"The holiday party is amazing," said Beth Rasch, who has one child in the program. "But, honestly, the respite care you all provide for us, beyond the holidays, is like a year-round Christmas present."

ELC of Duval works with the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies to administer the U.S. Navy Exceptional Family Member Respite Care program. The program is for active-duty, Navy families with Category 4 or 5 special needs children as diagnosed by the U.S. Navy Exceptional Family Member Program office. Families are eligible for services if they are connected with NAS Jacksonville, NAS Mayport or NSB Kings Bay. There are currently 45 families in the program.

For more information about the Exceptional Family Member Respite Care program, or any other programs offered at ELC of Duval, call 904-208-2044 or visit [www.ChooseQualityChildCare.org](http://www.ChooseQualityChildCare.org).

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