

Parenting is one of the toughest jobs out there – and inarguably the most important – but a visit to The Children's Trust FREE Family Expo, now happening on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, can make that job easier.

Originally scheduled for September until Hurricane Irma forced its cancellation, the Family Expo is back on, thanks to a relatively quick storm recovery in Miami-Dade County. That's great news, because no other event in the county brings together this many resources for after-school enrichment programs, pre-K registration, low-cost health insurance, services for children with disabilities, and health and nutrition education, all in one place. Throw in kid- and family-friendly activities that'll put a smile on everyone's face, and this all-day festival becomes a

must-not-miss event!

"There are incredible programs and services available to the children and families of Miami-Dade County, some of them life-changing, and they're resources that their own tax dollars provide," says Trust

President and CEO James R. Haj. "The Family Expo is one way – a big way – to make sure that folks are aware of them."

Now in its eleventh year, the Expo fills two huge indoor exhibit halls and spills onto the adjoining outdoor areas, attracting approximately 15,000 people who flow into this much-anticipated annual event on Coral Way.

Local resources from hundreds of exhibitors are showcased at the Expo, which hosts a long list of special-interest areas like Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) Boulevard to Success. Helpful representatives from nearly 20 school divisions will line the busy "street" and answer questions about magnet schools, parent engagement programs, adult education classes and more.

"Miami-Dade County Public Schools wants to ensure that parents have the information they need about their schools and the resources available to them," says Barbara Biggart of the Parent Academy. "We are absolutely thrilled about our longstanding participation in the Expo, and to share the innovative programs we provide."

Of course, the biggest part of any family-centric celebration is entertainment for the kids, and this year, children can climb a rock wall, jump in oversized bounce houses, and meet their favorite storybook and television characters, such as Llama Llama, Elephant & Piggie, Maisy, Geronimo Stilton, and Nickelodeon's Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants. Plus, they can get their faces painted, take home a balloon



The Children's Trust family expo

**Saturday
October 21, 2017
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

**Miami-Dade County
Fair & Expo Center
Entrances on Coral Way
At SW 109th and 112th Avenues**

animal created just for them, and see music and dance performances, clowns, stilt walkers, magicians, storytellers and more!

Marking the 25th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, HistoryMiami will put the mysteries and dangers of Mother Nature on display in an interactive booth dedicated to extreme weather and natural disasters. Families will be able to explore how hurricanes develop, plan an emergency preparedness kit and discover the impact of dangerous weather systems on the environment. A special area will allow children to study cloud formations

FREE!

and create their own interpretation of them using cotton, chalk and charcoal pastels.

For sports and fitness fun, kids can try their hand at fencing, tennis, rock climbing and other physical activities; Baptist Health of South Florida will get the crowd going with family-friendly yoga and Zumba classes, as well as a giant game of Twister! Children can exercise their minds in the Code Explorers Tech Zone or the Robotics Room sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Highlighting the importance of reading in every child's bright future, the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership and Miami Book Fair International at Miami-Dade College will again host the Read to Learn Book Fair, with many steeply discounted child- and youth-appropriate selections – and the magical presence of human mermaid statue Daniela Viotti!

For creatively inclined kids, crowd favorite Miami Children's Museum will be back with a series of arts and crafts workshops incorporating a variety of mediums, while HistoryMiami will provide a special takeaway art activity focused on its permanent Buena Vista Trolley exhibit, giving Expogooers a glimpse of Miami's storied past. And Homestead Speedway will be zipping in with a special race car exhibit.

With so many great choices, there are things to engage every interest and ability. You can even capture the day's happy memories in the Expo's popular photo booths – and post your portraits to social media – as well as try your luck at the new-this-year hourly giveaways for big-ticket items. Admission, parking, and all activities and entertainment are FREE. Food and beverages will be available for purchase on-site.

"It's really a great way to spend the day with the kids," says Liliana, a mom of three who's come to the Expo five years running. "I learn a lot about the different programs they can enroll in, and they have the time of their lives."



Building 1

Watch the Monitors to Know Where to Go!

Performance schedules, exhibitor booth locations and must-see announcements, all on the big screens located throughout the event.

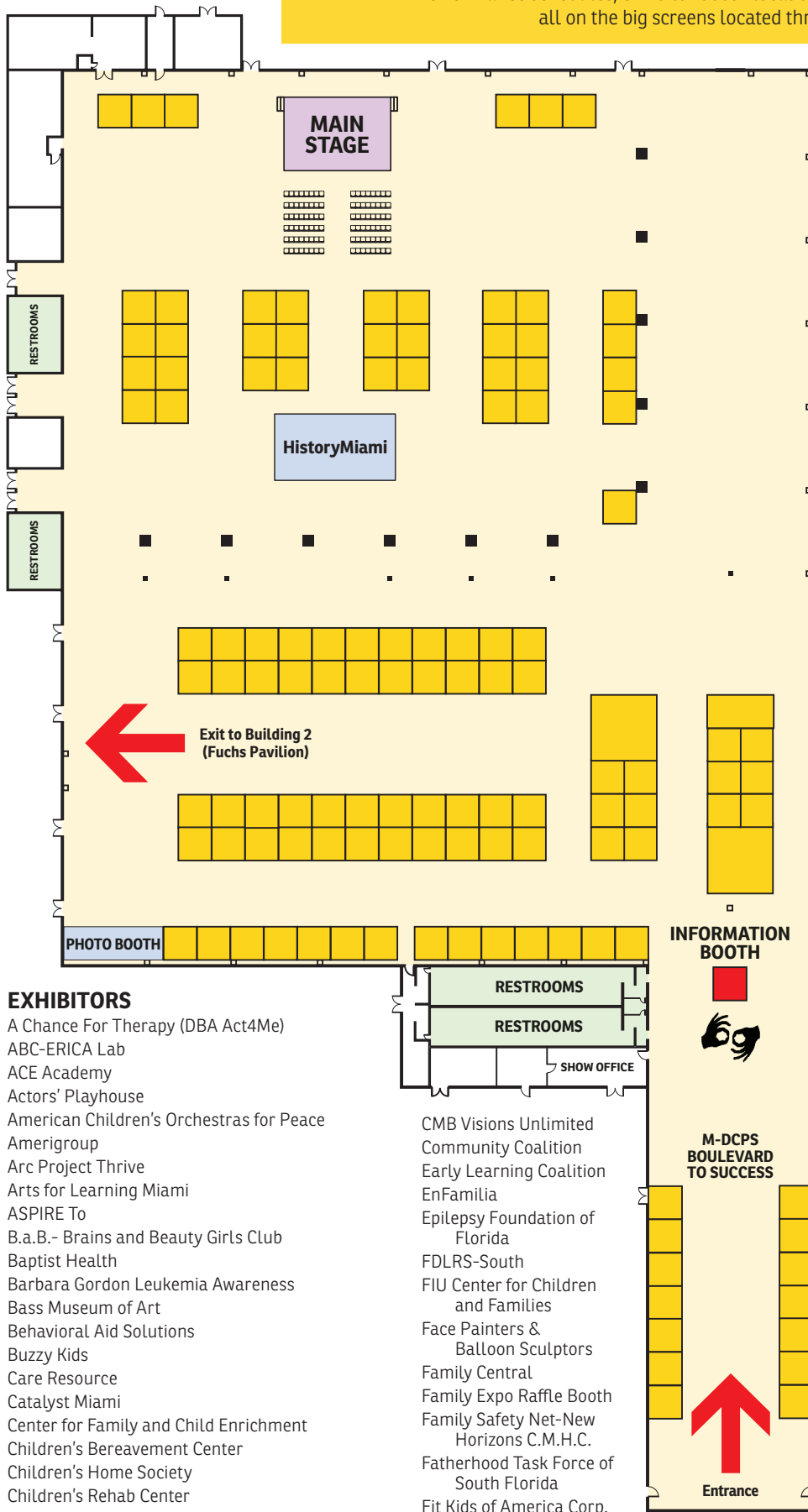
FREE Hourly Raffles BIG-TICKET Giveaways!

Register at the door or
at designated kiosks located
throughout the event –
prizes awarded starting at 11:30 a.m.!

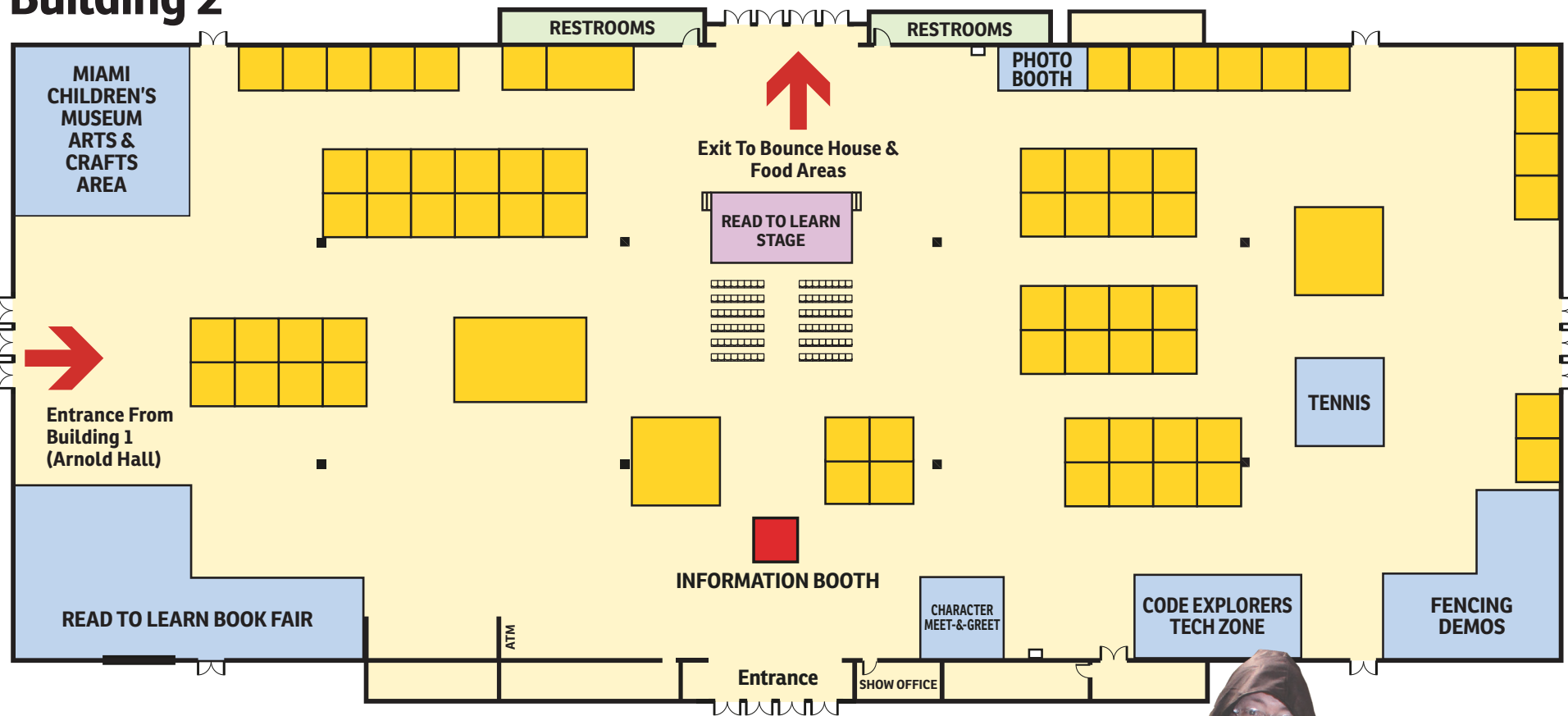
Outdoor Mobile Units & Interactives

- Amerigroup
- Colgate Bright Smile Bright Futures
- Homestead Speedway
- OneBlood

M-DCPS Early Childhood Program
M-DCPS ESE
M-DCPS Family Support Services
M-DCPS Food and Nutrition
M-DCPS Information Technology Services
M-DCPS Instructional Technology
M-DCPS School Choice and Parental Options
M-DCPS Student Services
Medical Foster Care Program-Miami-Dade/
Monroe County
Miami Arts Montessori School
Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services
Miami Children's Chorus
Miami Heart Gallery
Miami Herald Spelling Bee
Miami Wind Symphony
Musical
NAMI Miami-Dade
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental
Medicine
Our Chance Enterprise
Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Promised Land Academy and Therapy
Real Special Education
Seaper Powers
South Florida Autism Center
South Florida Autism Charter Schools
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
Step Up For Students
The Children's Gallery and Arts Center
The Children's Trust
The Icla Da Silva Foundation/Be The Match
The Motivational Edge
The Parent Academy
The SEED School of Miami
Thomas Armour Youth Ballet
Tip-Top Tutoring
Title I Administration
Title I Chess Program
Trendz Dance Technique Center
Trinity Church Peacemakers Family Center
UM WalkSafe and BikeSafe
UM-NSU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
University of Miami Families First
Univision 23
Univision Radio
Urgent Inc.
Waving Hands



Building 2



EXHIBITORS

Amigos For Kids
 Boy Scouts Troop No. 23
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade
 CASA
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami
 Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program
 Children of Inmates
 Code Explorers Tech Zone
 Common Threads
 DentaQuest
 Divine Fist Kung Fu
 Early Beginnings Academy
 FIU-School Readiness and Healthy Lifestyle Programs
 Face Painters & Balloon Sculptors

Family Expo Raffle Booth
 Fantasy Theatre Factory
 Fitness Sports Karate
 FLIPANY
 Florida Center for Allergy and Asthma Care
 Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services
 Institute for Child and Family Health
 Jackson Health Navigators
 Jackson Memorial Hospital
 Jessie Trice Community Health Center
 Miami Children's Museum Arts & Crafts
 Miami Dade College
 Miami Herald
 Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership
 Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
 Miami-Dade Public Library System
 Nicklaus Children's Hospital
 Operation Christmas Child
 Parent to Parent of Miami
 Pinecrest Gardens
 Positive Parenting Program
 St. Alban's Child Enrichment
 Special Olympics Florida
 Healthy Community
 Telemundo 51

The Dan Marino Foundation
 The English Center
 UM Debbie School
 UM Healthy Steps
 UM Parent-Child Interaction
 Therapy Community-Connect
 University of Florida/
 IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program
 Youth Impact Ministries



SCHEDULES

MAIN STAGE

- 11 a.m. **Ju-Jitsu Martial Arts**
Kia Kidz - Martial Arts Center for Students with Special Needs
Scars to Your Beautiful
Overtown Youth Center
- 11:30 a.m. **Raffle Announcement**
STYLE SWAG
Trendz Dance Technique Center
Dance Performance
Boys & Girls Club
- Noon **Young Talent Big Dreams All-Stars!**
Actors' Playhouse
- 12:30 p.m. **Raffle Announcement**
GMYS Strings
Great Miami Youth Symphony
- 1 p.m. **Magic Show**
Amazing Mr. A
- 1:30 p.m. **Raffle Announcement**
Small Voices Calling Out
Miami Children's Chorus
- 2 p.m. **"Can't Stop the Feeling" Conga**
American Children's Orchestras for Peace
- 2:30 p.m. **Raffle Announcement**
Young Talent Big Dreams All-Stars!
Actors' Playhouse
- 3 p.m. **Lyrical Expression & Spoken Word**
The Motivational Edge
- 3:30 p.m. **Raffle Announcement**
Comedy Juggling with Tim the Juggler
Tim Erwin
- 4 p.m. **Get On Your Feet**
Fit Kids of America
- 4:30 p.m. **Raffle Announcement**

SPECIAL AREAS

- **#BaptistHealthy**, Baptist Health
- **HistoryMiami**
- **Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Boulevard to Success**
- **Robotics Room**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Building 2

CHARACTER MEET-&-GREET

- 10 a.m. **Peter Rabbit**
10:30 a.m. **Madeline**
11 a.m. **Elephant & Piggie**
11:30 a.m. **Geronimo Stilton**
12 p.m. **Peter Rabbit**
12:30 p.m. **SpongeBob SquarePants**
1 p.m. **Dora the Explorer**
1:30 p.m. **Geronimo Stilton**
2 p.m. **SpongeBob SquarePants**
2:30 p.m. **Dora the Explorer**
3 p.m. **Elephant & Piggie**
3:30 p.m. **Madeline**
4 p.m. **Peter Rabbit**
4:30 p.m. **Geronimo Stilton**

READ TO LEARN STAGE

- 10:30 a.m. **Little Monster Tales**
Fantasy Theatre Factory
- 11:30 a.m. **Piggie & Gerald**
Miami Children's Museum
- Noon **Music with Meaghan**
Meaghan Gasch
- 12:30 p.m. **Reading is Magic**
Fantasy Theatre Factory
- 1 p.m. **Just a Minute**
Miami Children's Museum
- 2 p.m. **Music with Meaghan**
Meaghan Gasch
- 2:30 p.m. **Little Monster Tales**
Fantasy Theatre Factory
- 3:30 p.m. **Piggie & Gerald**
Miami Children's Museum
- 4 p.m. **Magic Show**
Amazing Mr. A
- 4:30 p.m. **Just a Minute**
Miami Children's Museum

FENCING DEMONSTRATIONS

Presented by

Florespa Fencing Club

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| 11 a.m. | 2 p.m. |
| Noon | 3 p.m. |
| 1 p.m. | 4 p.m. |

SPECIAL AREAS

- **Arts & Crafts**, Miami Children's Museum
- **Character Meet-&-Greet**
- **Fencing**, Florespa Fencing
- **Read to Learn Book Fair**
- **Tech Zone**, Code Explorers
- **Tennis**, First Serve



The Children's Trust
Family expo

Visit us on

thechildrenstrust.org



#TCTFamilyExpo

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Baptist Health
South Florida



Miami Herald

M-DCPS Boulevard to Success Sponsors:



DentaQuest