

Office of Early Learning

Agency Partners for Administering Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

Office of Early Learning

The Office of Early Learning provides state-level support and direction for the implementation of the VPK program, as well as other early learning programs. 850-921-3180 or 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

www.floridaearlylearning.com

Early Learning Coalition (ELC)

Early learning coalitions have additional information on VPK, including application procedures and dates to apply in your county. 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

www.floridaearlylearning.com

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

The Department of Children and Families regulates licensed child care facilities, licensed family child care homes, and licensed mildly ill facilities in 60 of Florida's 67 counties. 850-921-4713

www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care

Florida Department of Education- Office of Early Learning

The Office of Early Learning is responsible for VPK curriculum and accountability. 850-245-0445

www.fldoe.org/earlylearning

Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program Parent Handbook



What is Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)?

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) is a FREE educational program created to prepare every four-year-old in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. The VPK program offers each child an opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life by offering quality programs that include developmentally appropriate curricula with a focus on early literacy skills, accountability, manageable class sizes, and increased teacher credentials.

VPK Vision:

That Florida's children are eager to learn and ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.

VPK Mission:

To ensure that all children are intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially ready to enter school and ready to learn, fully recognizing the crucial role of parents as their child's first teacher.





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VPK Parents' Rights

- As a parent, I have the right to select VPK program options that meet my child's needs.
- As a parent, I have the right to enroll in either a school-year or summer free VPK program.
- As a parent, I have the right to select a VPK program that employs VPK instructors and meets minimum classroom requirements.
- As a parent, I have the right to select a VPK program that follows approved VPK curriculum and guidelines.
- As a parent, I have the right to enroll my four-year-old child in a VPK program.
- As a parent, I have the right to make an informed VPK choice.

VPK Parents' Responsibilities

- As a parent, I am responsible for complying with date of birth verification requirements.
- As a parent, I am responsible for complying with residential address verification requirements.
- As a parent, I am responsible for ensuring my child participates in kindergarten screening.
- As a parent, I am responsible for my child's VPK transportation.
- As a parent, I am responsible for complying with the provider's attendance and other program policies.

Highlights of the VPK Program:

- High quality educational program with an early literacy focus
- *FREE* for all children four-years-old on or before September 1 of the program year who reside in Florida
- Parent choice is a priority; therefore, both private and public providers may participate

Verification of Receipt

I certify that I have received a copy of the VPK Parent Handbook and have reviewed and understand the parent rights and responsibilities contained in this document. I understand that the information contained in the VPK Parent Handbook is accurate as of January 2009 and is subject to changes based on modification of legislation, statute or rule.

Signed:

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Orientation Staff: _____

Date: _____