

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
February 16, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-8.201, Child Enrollment Procedure for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program and Repeal of Rule 6M-8.2011, Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs: the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

This revision to Rule 6M-8.201, F.A.C. consolidates the parent guide and parent handbook into one parent-friendly document (Form OEL-VPK 07). This update makes it necessary to repeal of Rule 6M-8.2011, F.A.C. which merely incorporates the parent guide. Through this revision, obsolete content was removed and new useful information for VPK parents was added. Some rule language was also adjusted to add clarity. Additionally, the field "VPK class" in the certificate of eligibility, (Form OEL-VPK 02) incorporated in Rule 6M-8.201, F.A.C., will no longer be an optional field for payment processing reasons.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rules 6M-8.201 and 6M-8.2011, F.A.C.; Form OEL-VPK 02, Child Certificate of Eligibility; and Form OEL-VPK-07, Voluntary Prekindergarten Handbook

Facilitator: Rodney J. MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning

6M-8.201 Child Enrollment Procedure for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.

(1) Child registration. A parent wishing to register a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must complete and submit Form OEL-VPK 01 (May 2016), titled Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Child Application, through the single point of entry (known as the Family Portal) established under Section 1002.53, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and available at the following web address:

<https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com> using personal means or with assistance available at an early learning coalition. Form OEL-VPK 01 (May 2016), is hereby incorporated by reference and a copy may be obtained as provided in Rule 6M-8.900, F.A.C., or at: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07032>.

~~(2) Parent Guide and Right to Information. The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide, Form OEL-VPK 06, <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-01648>, as incorporated in Rule 6M-8.2011, F.A.C., is available by following the instructions at the following website: <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>.~~

~~(2) (3) Parent Handbook. The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Handbook, Form OEL-VPK 07 (February 2017/May 2016), is hereby incorporated by reference, _____ <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07034>, and is available by following the instructions at the following website: <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>.~~

~~(3) (4) Determining eligibility. The early learning coalition will review information submitted through the Family Portal to determine each child's eligibility. A child who resides in Florida and attains the age of 4 years old on or before September 1 of the program year is eligible to attend VPK that program year. Additionally, a A child who resides in Florida and attains the age of 4 between February 2 and September 1 may attend VPK either that program year or the subsequent program year. A child cannot attend VPK more than one program year unless granted a reenrollment under Rule 6M-8.210, F.A.C. A child is not eligible for VPK once he or she has been admitted to kindergarten.~~

(a) Age eligibility. The early learning coalition shall determine if a child is eligible based on the age requirement in Section 1002.53, F.S., by accepting the following documents showing the child's name and date of birth:

1. An original or certified copy of the child's birth record filed according to law with the appropriate public officer;
2. An original or certified copy of the child's certificate of baptism or other religious record of the child's birth,

accompanied by a notarized affidavit stating that the certificate is true and correct, sworn to or affirmed by the child's parent;

3. An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two years;

4. A passport or certificate of the child's arrival in the United States;

5. An immunization record signed by a public health officer or licensed practicing physician; or

6. A valid military dependent identification card or a federal or state government issued identification card.

7. If no supporting documents listed in subparagraphs (1)(b)1.-6. above are available, a coalition may accept a parent's notarized affidavit of the child's age accompanied by a letter on official letterhead signed by a public health officer or physician stating that the child's age shown in the affidavit is true and correct.

(b) Residential Eligibility. To be eligible for VPK, a child must reside in Florida. The early learning coalition shall keep a record of at least one of the following supporting documents that shows the name and residential address of a parent with whom the child resides:

1. Utility bill (electric, gas, water), cable, or home phone bill dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted;

2. Pay stub dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted;

3. Residential rental agreement or receipt from rental payment dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted;

4. Government-issued document (for example, Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, property tax assessment showing a homestead exemption);

5. Military order showing that the child's parent is a service member in the United States Armed Forces and is assigned to duty in Florida when the child attends the VPK program;

6. Federal government order showing that the child's parent is a federal employee assigned to work in Florida when the child attends the VPK program;

7. A Florida Migrant Education Program Certificate of Eligibility (COE) Form from the Florida Department of Education;

8. If no supporting documents listed in subparagraphs (2)(b)1.-7. above are available, a coalition may accept a notarized affidavit from the child's parent accompanied by a letter from a landlord, property owner, or property

leasee which confirms that the child resides at the address shown in the affidavit; or

9. If no supporting documents listed in subparagraphs (2)(b)1.-8. above are available for a child who is experiencing homelessness as defined in Section 1003.01(12), F.S., a coalition shall document residency based on other supporting documents showing that the child who is experiencing homelessness and resides in Florida (for example, letter from a homeless shelter, homeless referral, or notarized statement from the child's parent).

(c) Eligibility for VPK Specialized Instructional Services. Eligibility for VPK Specialized Instructional Services (VPK SIS) in lieu of a traditional VPK education program, requires that the child must have a disability and a current individual educational plan (IEP) developed by the local school district. The coalition shall keep a record of the child's IEP, and ensure that the VPK Specialized Instructional Services sought are consistent with the child's IEP. Rule 6M-8.500, F.A.C., sets forth the requirements for participation in VPK Specialized Instructional Services.

~~(4)~~ ~~(5)~~ Early Learning Coalition Responsibilities.

(a) The early learning coalition will review documentation submitted via the Family Portal, determine the eligibility of each child for VPK, and manage the eligibility process through the Family Portal.

(b) When the early learning coalition has verified the eligibility of a child for VPK, and the provider has enrolled the child in their VPK program, a coalition must complete a child's enrollment in the statewide information system by recording an association between the child and the child's VPK provider.

(c) An early learning coalition shall coordinate with the Department of Children and Families to keep current profiles of VPK providers in the coalition's geographic region on the Child Care Information System found on the website: <https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch>.

(d) The early learning coalition shall assist all parents who present themselves or contact the early learning coalition with available information to help the parent make informed decisions. This information may be provided in person or through online resources and shall include:

~~1. The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide.~~

~~1.2.~~ The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Handbook.

~~2.3.~~ Information about different VPK program types.

~~3.4.~~ Assistance navigating profiles of VPK providers in the coalition's geographic region through the Child Care Information System website.

(e) The early learning coalition shall make available the use of technology at the early learning coalition or

contracted service provider to all parents who present themselves requesting assistance with completing the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Child Application (Form OEL-VPK 01) on the Family Portal.

(5) (6) Enrollment. A VPK provider may only enroll a child in the VPK or VPK SIS program after the early learning coalition determines that the child is eligible for the program. A VPK provider shall collect ~~from the child's parent~~ Form OEL-VPK 02, titled Child Certificate of Eligibility (~~February 2017~~ ~~May 2016~~), or Form OEL-VPK 04 ~~http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07035~~, as incorporated by Rule 6M-8.210, F.A.C., ~~titled Certificate of Eligibility for Reenrollment from the child's parent~~. Both forms are generated by the Family Portal after the early learning coalition determines the child is eligible. The VPK provider shall complete the remainder of the form and submit verification of the completed form to the early learning coalition to finalize the child's enrollment with that VPK provider. Form OEL-VPK 02, is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained as described in Rule 6M-8.900, F.A.C., or at _____.
<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07033>.

(a) For children enrolling into the VPK SIS program, an early learning coalition and VPK SIS providers will adhere to the Rule 6M-8.500, F.A.C.

(b) A coalition must allow a VPK provider to enroll a child who resides in a Florida county other than the county where the provider's VPK site is located. If the county listed on Form OEL-VPK 02 or Form OEL-VPK 04 is different than the county where services will be provided, the early learning coalitions shall coordinate to change the county of services on the child's application in the Family Portal to the correct county (if the child has not yet attended VPK). After eligibility for the VPK program is determined by an early learning coalition, no further resubmission or reverification of age and residential eligibility documentation is required.

(c) A VPK provider may only enroll a child with the coalition of the county where the provider's VPK site is located, regardless of the county in which the child resides.

(d) A coalition, upon receipt of the completed or verification of the completed Form OEL-VPK 02 or Form OEL-VPK 04, shall complete a child's enrollment in the statewide information system by recording an association between the child and the child's selected VPK provider.

(e) For parents requesting to reenroll his or her child in the VPK program, early learning coalitions shall adhere to the requirements in Rule 6M-8.210, F.A.C.

FS. History—New 1-19-06, Amended 5-24-07, Formerly 60BB-8.201, Amended 1-1-15, 7-28-16 Amended _____.

6M-8.2011 Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(1), 1002.79 FS. Law Implemented 1002.75(2)(a) FS. History--New 11-15-12, Repealed

6M-8.2011 Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide.

(1) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide, Form OEL-VPK 06, dated September 2012, is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained as described in Rule 6M-8.900, F.A.C., for use in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program. The Voluntary Prekindergarten Parent Guide is available at: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-01648>.

(2) Prior to distribution of this document by an early learning coalition, the coalition must add its contact information to the fourth page of the document in the final bullet under the heading "For More Information, Contact Your ELC." Contact information must include, but is not limited to, the coalition's name, phone number, and web address.

(3) Prior to distribution of this document by a VPK Program provider to a parent, the provider must add the contact information of the local early learning coalition to the fourth page of the document in the final bullet under the heading "For More Information, Contact Your ELC." Contact information must include, but is not limited to, the coalition's name, phone number, and web address.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.213(1), 1002.79 FS. Law Implemented 1002.75(2)(a) FS. History--New 11-15-12.



STATE OF FLORIDA
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN (VPK) EDUCATION PROGRAM

Child Certificate of Eligibility

SAMPLE

I. CHILD CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY *(Issued by Early Learning Coalition, through the Family Portal)*

1. VPK program year	2. Certificate number	3. Certificate issue date	4. Parent email address
5. Parent name		6. Primary contact number	7. Secondary contact number
8. Child's full name		9. Child's date of birth	10. County

II. ADMISSION BY PROVIDER OR SCHOOL *(Jointly Prepared by Provider or School AND Parent or Guardian)*

11. Name of provider or school		12. Telephone	
13. Address of VPK site		14. VPK class	15. Date child will begin attendance
The provider or school certifies that it admits the child (item 8) for enrollment in the VPK program and agrees to deliver the program for the child.		I certify that I choose the provider or school (item 11) to deliver the VPK program for my child and direct that program funds be paid to the provider or school for my child.	
16. Signature of authorized representative for provider or school	17. Date	18. Parent signature	19. Date

III. ENROLLMENT SUBMISSION AND CONFIRMATION *(Submitted by Provider or School)*

<p>TO PROVIDER OR SCHOOL: Contact the coalition upon enrollment of the child for payment. The Early Learning Coalition may issue a confirmation number for payment (below).</p>	<p>TO CONTACT THE COALITION FOR PAYMENT:</p>
	<p>IS YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)</p>

NOTICE TO PRIVATE PROVIDER OR PUBLIC SCHOOL: A private provider or public school must keep each original signed form for at least 5 years from the date of the last payment for that fiscal year or until the resolution of any related audit findings or any related litigation, whichever occurs last. A private provider must permit the early learning coalition, and a public school must permit the school district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal business hours. If required by the early learning coalition, a signed copy of this certificate must be forwarded to the coalition or a qualified contractor acting on behalf of the coalition.

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

What Parents Need to
Know and Understand about

Florida **VPK**



OFFICE OF
Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.



FAMILY PORTAL QUICK TIPS

Applying for VPK...

has never been easier. You can do it online from a computer, cell phone or other smart device. Go to <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>. You will need a valid email address to begin.



Then...

1. Click **Apply for Voluntary Prekindergarten**.
2. Create a user name and password.
3. Follow email instructions to validate your account.
4. Fill out an application.

You'll need these.

1. Proof of Florida residence.
2. Proof of child's age.
3. If you're enrolling your child in VPK Specialized Instructional Services, an individual educational plan (IEP) from your local school district.



Next?



Your local early learning coalition will review your application and email additional instructions. If your application is approved, you'll get a Certificate of Eligibility to take to any VPK provider. Need help? Contact your local early learning coalition.

VPK Handbook

What is Voluntary Prekindergarten?

Voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) is a state program designed to prepare every child in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. VPK gives each child an opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life with quality programs that include high literacy standards, accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors. All eligible children are entitled to participate in one of three VPK program options. The VPK mission is to ensure that all children are intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically ready to enter school and ready to learn, fully recognizing the crucial role of parents as their child's first teacher.

Program Highlights

- + High-quality educational program with an early literacy focus.
- + Free for all children 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 who reside in Florida.
- + Parents whose children are born from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 of a calendar year may choose to enroll their child in VPK either that year or the next when their child is 5.
- + Parent choice is a priority, so both private providers and public schools participate.



Choosing a VPK Program

Parent choice is a VPK priority. There are different program options and educational settings such as family child care homes, private centers, public schools, faith-based programs and specialized instructional services providers. All providers must meet VPK program and quality standards. Parents choose the program and setting that best fit the needs of their family.

Parent choice is a VPK priority.

Program Options

Parents may choose one of three VPK program options.

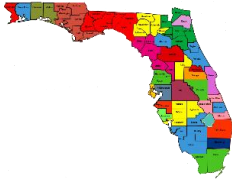
- School-year program – 540 hours of instruction with class sizes of no more than 20.
- Summer program – 300 instructional hours and class sizes no more than 12; children may participate in VPK the summer before the school year the child will attend kindergarten.
- VPK Specialized Instructional Services – Certified or licensed professionals provide instruction or therapy in individual or small group settings for eligible children with special needs. The child must have a current individualized educational plan (IEP) from a local school district.



Services vary based on the program you select. VPK providers choose the structure for the hours per day and days per week to meet the instructional hours required.

Finding a VPK Program

Resources to help you decide which is the best program



1. Visit the Department of Children and Families (DCF) website
<https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch> to view profiles for each VPK provider you are considering.
2. Contact your local early learning coalition. Coalitions work in all Florida communities to implement early learning support services and have more information about VPK. You can find coalition contact information on the Office of Early Learning website FloridaEarlyLearning.com on the map or by calling 866-357-3239 (TTY:711).
3. View a copy of the profiles of each VPK provider and school in your county at your local early learning coalition.
4. Contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral office to receive a customized list of VPK providers in your area that meet the needs of your family. You can also get information about other community resources. CCR&R services are free to anyone residing in or seeking early learning services in Florida. For the number of your local CCR&R, please call the Office of Early Learning toll free at 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711).

What to Expect from VPK

Program Guarantees

VPK is free for eligible children. Providers are not permitted to charge a registration fee or require you to agree to any additional services or wraparound services as a condition of enrolling in VPK. State law does not, however, prohibit a provider from charging fees for programs or care that is not part of the VPK program (e.g., late charges, field trips, extended care or wraparound care). If field trips are part of a VPK day, providers may request that a parent contribute, but cannot require them to do so. The provider must also have an alternative activity for a child who does not attend a field trip.

VPK programs guarantee the following:



1. An approved VPK program with no cost for the VPK hours of operation.
2. Participation in school-year, summer or specialized instructional services program.
3. The choice of paying for extended day services or *wraparound* care if the VPK provider you choose offers it. Wraparound care is any care the provider offers in addition to regular VPK hours.

Before finalizing your selection, review the VPK provider's discipline and attendance policies to learn about program policies and practices.





VPK Provider Standards

VPK providers are required to meet the following standards:

- Private providers must have a director with a VPK director credential.
- Private providers must be licensed (child care, family child care home or large family child care home); be exempt from licensure (certain private schools or faith-based providers); or be accredited by an approved accrediting association.
- Specialized instructional services providers must be licensed or certified professionals. Check with your local early learning coalition for more detail.

Parents may contact the coalition to confirm if a provider offers VPK.



VPK Class Standards

Teacher qualifications are important for delivering high-quality instruction. VPK instructors must meet minimum education standards. The ratio of instructor to children also indicates quality. When deciding, parents should ask potential providers about teacher qualifications and classroom requirements.

VPK programs must employ qualified VPK instructors and meet minimum classroom requirements, including

- Every lead VPK instructor must at a minimum have a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential for the school-year program or a bachelor's degree or higher in certain education-related fields for the summer program.
- VPK classroom ratios must be one instructor to every 11 children in the school-year program and one to 12 in the summer.
- VPK class size must not exceed 20 children in the school-year program.
- VPK class size must not exceed 12 children in the summer program.

Quality Instruction

VPK programs must deliver high-quality instruction including

- A curriculum that is developmentally appropriate with a focus on early literacy skills.
- A program that prepares children to be ready for kindergarten based on standards adopted by the State Board of Education for use in VPK.

To best meet children’s needs and prepare them for future school success, VPK curriculum must be age-appropriate and align with state performance standards. Performance standards provide guidelines to teachers about what children should know and be able to do so they can plan instructional activities for young children. The activities involve engaging in child-initiated and teacher-directed play opportunities. When deciding about the best VPK provider for their children, parents should ask about curriculum and planned activities to determine if the program activities meet the guidelines for quality early learning practices.

Changing VPK Providers

Parents may withdraw their children from VPK at any time. They may reenroll their child in another VPK program under specific conditions:

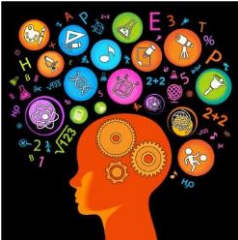
- Parents may apply for extreme hardship reenrollment for eligible children in the summer program if the children have not completed more than 70 percent of the school-year VPK hours.
- Parents may reenroll their children within the same program type as long as the children have not completed more than 70 percent of VPK hours.

If you have any questions about reenrolling your child, contact your local early learning coalition or the Office of Early Learning toll free at 1-866-357-3239 (TTY:711).

Did You Know?

Parents have the right to enroll their child in a VPK program (subject to the provider's or school's agreement to admit the child), including families

Unique Abilities



Who have a child with a disability. While IEPs are not required to be served in VPK, VPK providers are required to make their programs accessible to children with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Military Dependents



In the military, temporarily based in Florida.

Displaced or Homeless



Who may be displaced due to a hurricane or other natural disaster or are experiencing homelessness.

The only residency requirement is that children live in Florida during the time they are attending VPK. This means that children living in Florida temporarily are eligible for services.

Applying for VPK

Parents apply for their child to attend VPK online on the Family Portal at <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/>.

In the application parents must provide documentation to prove their child meets the VPK age and Florida residency requirements.



Age Requirements

A child must be 4 years of age on or before Sept. 1 to be eligible for VPK. Parents whose children are born from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year may choose to enroll their child in VPK that year or the next, when they are 5 as long as they do not enroll in kindergarten.

You will have to submit one of the following approved supporting documents that shows the child's name and date of birth:



- Original or certified copy of the child's birth record.
- Original or certified copy of the child's certificate of baptism or other religious record accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the child's parent that the certificate is correct.
- Insurance policy on the child's life in force for at least two years.
- Passport or certificate of arrival in the United States.
- Immunization record signed by a health officer or doctor.
- Valid military dependent identification card or federal, state or local government identification card.
- If none of the documents listed above are available, a parent may submit a notarized affidavit of the child's age accompanied by a letter on official letterhead signed by a public health officer or physician stating that the child's age shown in the affidavit is true and correct.

Residency Requirements

Parents must provide documentation to prove their child lives in Florida when they complete the VPK application. A child living in Florida is eligible for VPK with the proper documentation.

You have to submit one of the following supporting documents showing the name and residential address of the parent with whom the child resides:

- Utility, cable or home phone bill dated within 12 months of the child application.
- Pay stub dated within 12 months of the child application.
- Residential rental agreement or receipt for rental payment dated within 12 months of the child application.
- Government-issued document (e.g., driver's license).
- Military order issued to the parent, if the parent is a service member of the United States Armed Forces, showing that the parent will reside in Florida when the child attends VPK.
- Federal government order showing that the child's parent is a federal employee assigned to work in Florida when the child attends the VPK program.
- Florida Migrant Education Program Certificate of Eligibility (COE) form.
- COE form from the Florida Department of Education.
- Notarized affidavit by the parent of the child's residential address accompanied by a letter from landlord, property owner or property lessee confirming the child resides at the same address shown in the parent's affidavit.
- Documentation of residency for a homeless child based on other documents (e.g., letter from a homeless shelter).



If you have questions about VPK age or residency requirements, contact your local early learning coalition or the Office of Early Learning toll free at 1-866-447-1159.

Parent Responsibilities

What you need to know.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from VPK. Some VPK providers may offer transportation services at a cost. You may want to explore these options before choosing a VPK provider.



VPK Provider Policies

VPK providers have individual policies related to attendance, discipline and late fees. Parents should become familiar with policies that apply to children in VPK before enrolling their child. Ask questions about any policies you do not understand before enrolling your child.

- Parents have the responsibility to make sure their child attends the VPK program on a regular basis.
- Parents have the responsibility to understand and agree to all of the VPK provider's policies (e.g., discipline, late fees).

Gardiner Scholarship

Parents should understand how the VPK program interacts with the Gardiner Scholarship.

- Participating in the Gardiner Scholarship program (formerly PLSA) cancels a child's eligibility for VPK, including VPK specialized instructional services.

Parents considering the Gardiner Scholarship should weigh the effect on VPK eligibility before accepting the scholarship. More information about the scholarship is available at <http://bit.ly/2iJJRyf>.

Information and Resources

Early Learning Coalition

Early learning coalitions have more information about VPK, including application procedures and dates to apply in your county.

1-866-357-3239 (TTY:711) or <http://bit.ly/2gmZFJ3>

Office of Early Learning

The Office of Early Learning provides state-level support and direction for implementing the VPK program as well as other early learning programs.

1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

- VPK Information: FloridaEarlyLearning.com/vpk.aspx
- Family Resources: <http://bit.ly/2fliOXa>

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

DCF regulates licensed child care facilities, licensed family child care homes and facilities that care for mildly ill children in 60 of Florida's 67 counties.

- DCF Provider Search:
<https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch>



Florida Abuse Hotline



Florida's Abuse Hotline offers a full spectrum of services, from parenting classes and respite care to transportation and child care. The goal is to keep children safe with their own families when possible.

- Dial 1-800-96-ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873.
- Visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse.

Florida's Early Steps Directory

Statewide information and referral services for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Resource specialists provide answers and/or possible choices for services in your community.

- Dial 1-800-218-0001.
- Visit <http://bit.ly/1HhSjOy>.

Information and Resources

Florida KidCare

Health insurance program for uninsured children younger than age 19.

- Dial 1-888-540-5437 | TTY 1-877-316-8748.
- Visit www.floridakidcare.org.

2-1-1

National information and referral service that provides information and referrals to human services resources such as crisis intervention services, support groups, financial assistance and job training.

- Dial 211.
- Visit www.211.org.

Transition to Kindergarten



When families are actively engaged in their child's transition to a new learning program, the child performs better socially and academically. This is especially

important in the transition from VPK to kindergarten in order for the child to feel safe and secure. Children whose families learn about the new school setting, school policies, and have positive relationships with the teachers and other school staff show greater school readiness, less stress at the beginning of school and stronger academic growth during the school year. Here are some resources to help with the transition.

Office of Early Learning

Find resources online to support children and their families during the VPK to kindergarten transition.

- Visit <http://bit.ly/2f4OA9L>.

Transition to Kindergarten Resources

National Association for the Education of Young Children

NAEYC promotes high-quality learning for all children, birth through age 8 and has family resources to help make the transition less stressful.

- Visit <http://bit.ly/1nDBqKO>.

Ready Freddy – Pathways to Kindergarten Success

Suggestions for parents to help their child be successful in kindergarten.

- Visit www.readyfreddy.org/for-parents.

Reading Rockets

Articles and tips for parents and educators, monthly e-newsletter and more to help children be successful learners.

- Visit <http://bit.ly/2q0icqK>.

Head Start Transition to Kindergarten

The Office of Head Start promotes school readiness for young children and supports mental, social and emotional development of children from birth to 5. Head Start offers a wide variety of transition resources for parents and teachers.

- Visit <http://bit.ly/2fABZPn>.

Parent Toolkit

Useful tips and tools to support the growing child at all ages, parents will find ways to support their child during kindergarten.

- Transition to Kindergarten: <http://bit.ly/1kDAUnW>.
- Kindergarten Growth and Development: <http://bit.ly/2fJlfSJ>.



Florida VPK

What is VPK?

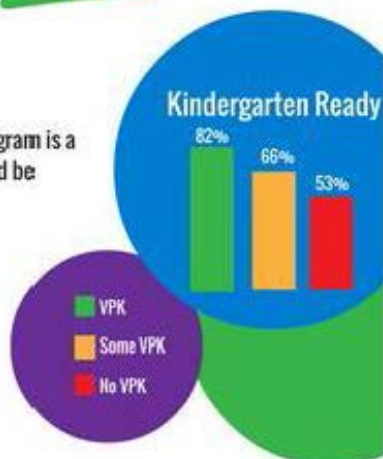
Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program is a free educational program that helps your 4-year-old be ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Why is it important?

Statistics show children who complete VPK are much better prepared for kindergarten than those who do not attend.

Who is eligible?

Any child living in Florida while attending VPK, even one who is living here temporarily.



Contact Us

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