



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment Field Test Overview

BACKGROUND: [The Florida Center for Reading Research](http://www.fcrr.org/) (FCRR) in collaboration with the Department of Education has developed the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to provide teachers with valid and reliable feedback regarding children's progress in attaining the skills in the VPK Education Standards. Teachers may use this information to inform instructional decisions in the VPK classroom.

The VPK Assessment includes progress monitoring measures in the areas of Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Mathematics and Oral Language/Vocabulary. The assessment measures are being field tested throughout the state during 2009-10. Information gathered from teachers involved in the field test will be used in the development of the final assessment measures.

For information on early literacy, visit the following link:

- **Developing Early Literacy - National Early Literacy Panel Report (2008)**
<http://www.nifl.gov/publications/pdf/NELPReport09.pdf>

What is the purpose of the 2009-10 VPK Assessment field test? The 2009-10 VPK Assessment field test is a structured opportunity for researchers to conduct a "trial run" of the assessment measures they have developed. This process allows participants to use the assessment materials in their own environments. The purpose of the field test is to determine the viability of the materials and to collect data to establish a sample that represents the state. In this case, the VPK assessment measures are being administered by selected providers throughout Florida to gather feedback about the materials and incorporate the information collected into the development of the final product.

How was the 2009-10 VPK Assessment field test set-up? A total of 451 VPK providers were identified through a random sampling process that pulled from the entire *population* of VPK providers throughout the state. These 451 VPK providers were invited to participate in the field test; however, the initial response rate was lower than anticipated. As a result, additional VPK providers (public and private) were invited, by geographic region, to participate in the field test.

VPK Assessment Timeline

- Random Sample of VPK Providers chosen: September 2009
- Random Sample of VPK Providers invited to participate: September 21-28, 2009
- A total of 162 public and non-public school VPK teachers from across the state, were trained to administer the VPK Assessment for AP1: September 29 – October 28
- Assessment Period 1 (AP1): October 3 – November 4, 2009
- Assessment Period 2 (AP2): January 25-29, 2010
- Assessment Period 3 (AP3): End of March, 2010



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