

# The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

The **Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK)** program was created in 2005 to prepare every four-year-old for kindergarten and continued educational success. The VPK program helps each child build a strong foundation through the use of developmentally appropriate curricula with an emphasis on early literacy skills. Highlights of the VPK program include manageable class sizes, program accountability and increased instructor credentials.

The VPK Education Program has received high marks on parent satisfaction surveys, with the vast majority of families stating that they were very satisfied with the program. The state has analyzed program information and determined that the more time children spend in quality VPK programs, the better prepared they are for kindergarten.

The program has been very successful because Florida recognizes that parents are children's first teachers. The partnership between families and VPK providers is the cornerstone of the VPK program.

VPK is FREE for all children four years old on or before September 1 of the program year. There are no income requirements to be eligible for VPK.

# Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program Informational Brochure



**For more information contact:**



**AWI/Office of Early Learning**

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MSC 140

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[www.flready.com](http://www.flready.com) or call toll free at: 1-866-357-3239

(1-866 FL READY)

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December 2008

## Our Vision

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

## Our 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.

## VPK Program Options

Each child may enroll in one session of the VPK Program

**School-Year Session** — 540 Instructional Hours

Class sizes not to exceed 18 students **OR**

**Summer Session** — 300 instructional hours

Class sizes not to exceed 12 students



## Early Learning Coalitions

Early learning coalitions across the state help providers meet program requirements and help families benefit from VPK. Your local coalition has applications and additional information about VPK for parents and potential providers. The coalition maintains a list of local VPK providers and public schools that participate in the program.

To find contact information about the early learning coalition that serves your county or area of counties, visit the Agency for Workforce Innovation website at [www.flready.com](http://www.flready.com)

## VPK Curriculum

Programs must offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum that meets the VPK Education Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

## VPK Providers

- VPK providers must meet the minimum requirements outlined in Florida law.
- All primary instructors must have specialized training equivalent to a Child Development Associate to teach during the school year program, or a Bachelor's degree to teach during the summer program.
- The administrator of a private program must hold a VPK Director's Credential. In addition, the provider must be either accredited by an approved accrediting association, hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation, or be licensed under the appropriate law.



## VPK Provider Readiness Rates

The State Board of Education is required by law to calculate a VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate every year for each private or public school VPK provider that offers either the school year or summer program.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well the students of each VPK provider were prepared for kindergarten based upon Florida's VPK Education Standards. The VPK Education Standards describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of their VPK experience. Visit [www.improvevpk.org](http://www.improvevpk.org) to obtain VPK provider readiness rates.

## Transportation

Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from the VPK program.