



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

Overview

If you have a child who will soon be four years old, you know how curious she is or how much he may already know. Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or VPK is a free education program that helps your child be ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Children must live in Florida and be four years old on or before September 1 of the current year to be eligible.

The program helps build a strong foundation for school using educational materials that are appropriate for various stages in your child's development.

Your Choices

Private childcare centers, public schools and specialized instructional services providers may offer VPK. As a parent, you can choose from one of the following programs:

- School-year program—540 instructional hours. Class sizes of 20 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a Birth through Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential.
- Summer program—300 instructional hours. Class sizes of 12 or fewer students. Instructors must hold a bachelor's degree.
- Specialized Instructional Services program—hours vary based on the instructional services provided. For children with disabilities who have current individual educational plans developed by local school districts.

Providers

VPK providers who offer school-year or summer programs must meet these quality standards.

- Employ qualified instructors.
- Use age-appropriate educational material emphasizing early literacy skills.
- Maintain required class sizes.

Private VPK providers who offer school-year or summer programs must also have

- A director with a Florida Department of Children and Families Director Credential with a VPK Director Endorsement.
- A valid childcare license or be recognized by an approved childcare accrediting agency.

Information for Parents

Here is some information to help you choose a VPK provider who best suits your family.

- Your local early learning coalition has VPK Provider Profiles that show provider readiness rates and licensing reports.
- [*Kindergarten Readiness Rates*](#) show how well all school-year and summer providers prepare students for kindergarten using results of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).
- FLKRS is based on 2011 Florida Early Learning and VPK Standards for Four-Year-Olds that describe what a four-year-old should know and be able to do by the end of VPK.

Other Parent Resources

- [*Early Learning Coalitions Map*](#)
- [*VPK Specialized Instructional Services*](#)

