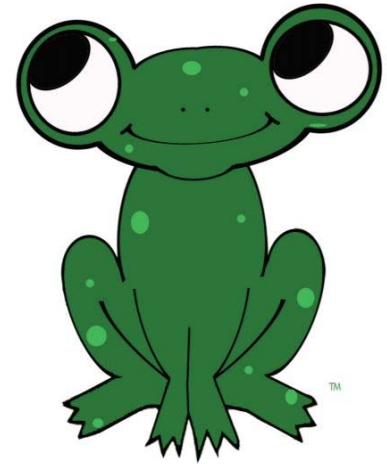


Are You Ready Freddy?

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) is partnering with early learning coalitions, local school districts, Head Start, the Children's Forum, the Florida Department of Education and other interested organizations for a state-wide initiative focused on preparing children and their families for transition to kindergarten. The Florida Transition to Kindergarten Collaborative will offer resources for early learning coalitions, elementary school staff, preschool staff and community partners to encourage their participation in supporting all of Florida's children transitioning to kindergarten. Information will be shared and local partners can plan events to encourage families to engage families in their children's education, and to inform families of the importance of their children's regular attendance at school, register their children for kindergarten, to make sure their children have health care visits and immunizations.



One of the resources available is the Ready Freddy Program, a transition to kindergarten program developed by the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh, originally for use in Pennsylvania school districts. OEL has been granted permission through a license agreement with the University of Pittsburgh to use the Ready Freddy™ materials for the Florida Transition to Kindergarten Collaborative. The basic tenets for the research-based Ready Freddy Program are:

- All children need a quality transition into kindergarten.
- Early positive relationships between parents and schools are essential to parent involvement.
- Schools need plans that are welcoming and community-specific.
- Creating a transition team engages the community and enhances resources.
- Branding with a strong theme increases public awareness and creates excitement (their brand, Ready Freddy™).

The Ready Freddy program has tools specifically developed for each of these tenets such as the [Pathways to School Success](#) transition booklet, a Ready Freddy™ transition to kindergarten calendar, [materials for schools and communities](#), [resources for families](#) and a [Family Engagement Toolkit](#). All of these resources and many more will be available on OEL's website by the end of July.

RULES

RULE 6M-8.301
STANDARD STATEWIDE
PROVIDER CONTRACT
FOR THE VPK PROGRAM
07/18/2018- WORKSHOP
07/24/2018- WORKSHOP

Remember to check our site regularly for a listing of proposed rules and notices of dates and times of workshops.

<http://bit.ly/2gkcQIN>



Florida Transition to Kindergarten Collaborative

By Melinda Webster, VPK Program Specialist



The Office of Early Learning, the Florida Head Start Collaboration Office, the Department of Education and the Children's Forum are partnering with early learning coalitions and school districts to promote successful transitions for children from prekindergarten to kindergarten. Statewide activities include four regional transition to kindergarten pilot summits in Summer 2018 including nine early learning coalition areas and 25 school district areas with a plan to expand to other regions this year. The purpose of the summits is to promote community collaboration around strategies to support children's smooth transitions to kindergarten. Individuals representing early learning coalitions, school districts, providers, schools and other key roles in the early learning community regions come together in the summits to share strategies that are working in their own areas as well as develop an action plan to support continuing conversations, plans and activities.



We're So Happy You Asked...

Dear VPK,

I'm starting to prepare my preschool classroom for the new school year and was wondering where I could find some ideas on how to encourage my children to practice their writing during center time?

Sincerely, Teaching Our Future

Dear Teaching Our Future,

We're so happy you asked!! The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has a great article about how you can promote emergent writing skills in preschool. It includes examples of what the stages of emergent writing look like as well as information on how you can add meaningful writing materials and literacy props in your learning centers. You can access the entire article at <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2017/emergent-writing>.

Sincerely, VPK



New Standards Training Available Now!



Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten

Course available online or instructor-led

This course is based on the newly revised Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards and provides an overview of the standards used in preschool classrooms serving children ages 3 years old to kindergarten. Examples of developmentally appropriate instructional strategies for preschool age children are provided throughout the training along with information about purposeful planning, reflective practice and qualities of an effective educator. Either the online or instructor-led course will meet the VPK Instructor and VPK Director Credential training requirements.



- Instructor-Led Training (3 hours) - Cost: Free.
- Online Training (5 hours) - Cost: \$10.00.
- Register for either version of the course on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Training System: <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.com/studentsite/admin/login.jsf>

“I’m not telling you it’s going to be easy. I’m telling you it’s going to be worth it.” ~ Art Williams

Be in the Loop!

VPK Learning Circles are ongoing opportunities for early childhood professionals to share strategies, research and best practices in VPK classrooms. Learning Circle activities include

- Practicing new ideas and skills.
- Professional networking.
- Sharing resources and experiences.
- Discussion and brainstorming solutions for challenges faced in the field.

Who should attend?

VPK providers, directors, teachers and administrators who would like an opportunity to network with other professionals in early childhood education.

Who do you contact for more information about Learning Circles?

Your local VPK regional facilitator organizes and facilitates the Learning Circles. You can find contact information for your regional facilitator on the OEL website.



	June Circles	June Participants	Total Learning Circles in 2017-18	Total Participants in 2017-18
Face-to-Face	7	35	147	1500
Web-Based	1	6	24	225

Professional Development

Florida's Office of Early Learning in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) offers a variety of online and instructor-led training opportunities. To register for any of these training opportunities, please visit DCF's training website at <http://bit.ly/1oHgYPm>.

Online Courses	June Completers	2017-18 Total Completers
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	360	3427
Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness	129	613
Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors	553	5635
Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom	310	1641
Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners	485	2205
Working to Create Positive Learning Environments: Preventive Strategies	336	1383
Developing the Socially and Emotionally Competent Child	230	970
English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom	155	879
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	171	1058
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	118	598
VPK Director Credential Course	227	1234

Instructor-led Courses	June Classes	June Participants	2017-18 Total Participants
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	0	0	112
Preschool Standards <i>NEW!</i>	30	546	699
Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness	3	47	304
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	1	18	369
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	1	22	271
*EMEL: Making Sense of Sets and Numbers	5	34	898
*EMEL: Counting and Operating with Numbers	5	39	784
*EMEL: Patterns, Measurement and Data	8	71	960
*EMEL: Shapes and Spatial Relationships	7	75	682

*EMEL– Early Mathematics for Early Learners