

Summer VPK and Children with Special Needs: What You Should Know

This fact sheet has been written to provide information about the **Summer VPK Program** and to explain what you, as the family of a child with special needs, can expect.

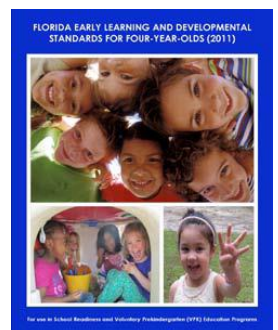
Here are some important things you should know about the Summer VPK Program.

- Your child is eligible to attend the Summer VPK Program if you are a resident of Florida and your child is eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the coming year, will be 5 as of Sept. 1 and did not attend the VPK School Year Program.
- The Summer VPK Program **must be** offered by your local school district but may not necessarily be available in every elementary school.
- The program **may be** offered by private preschool programs in your community.
- The Summer VPK Program will be 300 hours in length. School districts and participating private preschool programs in your community will decide on the starting and ending dates and the length of the Summer VPK Program school day.
- Summer VPK teachers will be certified teachers or have a Bachelor's degree in an approved area.
- One teacher is required for every 12 children. Classes may be organized so that two teachers will have a classroom for 24 children.

The Summer VPK Program is based on the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds. These standards provide guidance on ways classroom instruction and the classroom environment can promote learning. The program's instructional focus will address the following domains:

- Physical Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language, Communication and Emergent Literacy
- Cognitive Development and General Knowledge

Both school district and private preschools in your community offering the Summer VPK Program will have policies related to attendance and discipline.



There is no requirement for school districts and private preschool programs to transport children to Summer VPK. Families should anticipate that transportation will be their responsibility.

The VPK program is not special education and does not provide for specially designed instruction or related services. If your child has an individual educational plan (IEP) during the school year, the services included on the IEP will not be provided as part of the Summer VPK Program.

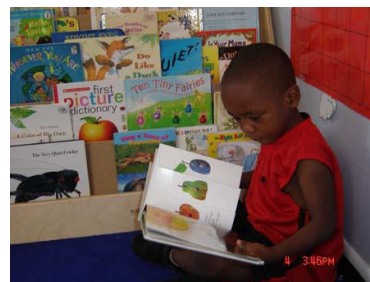
If your child has an IEP or other special needs, the school district will make the program accessible to your child. For example, ramps must be available for a child in a wheelchair, large print or other special materials must be provided for a child with a visual impairment, or special supports that are listed on a health plan must be addressed.

If your child has special needs, please make sure you share this information when registering for the Summer VPK Program.

As with any VPK program, children who are participating in the Gardiner Scholarship Program are not eligible to participate.

You can learn more about the Summer VPK Program by contacting your local school district or the early learning coalition in your area. Contact information for your local early learning coalition can be found at

http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/parents/find_quality_child_care/locate_a_child_care_resource_referral_program/countys_early_learning_coalition.aspx.



Contact Information

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

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