

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or VPK is a free educational program that helps your 4-year-old be ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.



If you have a child who will soon be 4 years old, you know how curious she is or how much he may already know. VPK is a free educational program that helps your child be ready for kindergarten.

Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year to be eligible. If their birthday falls from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1, you may wait to enroll your child the following year when they are 5.

VPK helps build a strong foundation for school using educational materials appropriate for different stages in your child's development.

Your choices

Private, public and charter schools, private child care centers, and specialized instructional services providers may offer VPK. As a parent, you can choose one of the following:

- School-year program—540 instructional hours. Class sizes of 20 or fewer students. At a minimum, instructors must hold a *Birth through Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential* and complete special training on early literacy and performance standards.

- Summer program—300 hours of instruction. Class sizes of 12 or less. Instructors must hold a bachelor's degree.
- Specialized Instructional Services program—hours vary based on services provided. For children with disabilities who have current individual educational plans (IEP) developed by local school districts.

Providers

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

- Employ qualified instructors.
- Use developmentally appropriate curriculum emphasizing early literacy skills.
- Maintain required class sizes.

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

- A director with a *Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential* with a *VPK Director Endorsement*.
- A valid child care license or recognition by an approved child care accrediting agency.

Finding a VPK program

- Contact your local early learning coalition. You'll find information on the map on the Office of Early Learning website at www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com.
- Visit the DCF website at <https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch> to view various provider profiles.
- Call your local Child Care Resource and Referral office to receive a customized list of VPK providers. For the number of your local office, you may call the Office Early Learning toll-free at 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711).



OFFICE OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.