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Early Learning Parents' Pages

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIVISION OF EARLY LEARNING



Back To School

It is almost time for your child to start a new school year. You want to provide all the support your child needs to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that lead to their success in school, later learning and life. Physical, cognitive and social development skills are essential for school readiness. The Division of Early Learning has resources that will help you support your child's readiness for learning at school, child care or home. Check out the resources available on the [Back To School](#) page to support your child's learning.

Remember, you are your child's first teacher. Your child's development of values, learning skills and social skills begin at birth. The [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#) have activities that will help you support your child's learning and development from birth to age five. The standards show the knowledge and skills that a child should have and be able to demonstrate at the end of an age-related timeframe. On the Families page, select the age of your child to see the standards specific to their age. In addition to the standards, you can access the First Teacher Books and Vroom tips for the specific age of your child. There are videos related to activities for the standards or websites with useful information and activities to do with your child.



Family Fun

Take time this month to focus on spending quality time with the ones you love. This is an opportune time to be creative and silly while you spend time as a family. Make this month of fun really count by including everyone in the planning. Create a list of fun activities for the entire family by using some of the ideas below:

- Camp outdoors
- Play miniature golf or kickball
- Go on a picnic
- Have a movie night
- Plan a scavenger hunt



My First Day of Voluntary Prekindergarten

The first day of VPK is an exciting time for students and parents alike. Follow the tips below for a successful start to the school year...**READY, SET, GO!**

Get READY

Preparing your child and yourself for this milestone will help set a positive tone for the program year.

- Visit the Family Portal to ensure all information is complete and documents are uploaded.
- Visit the [My First Day of VPK](#) webpage.
- Read the [Voluntary Prekindergarten Handbook](#) for information about VPK.
- Label ALL your child's belongings (lunchbox, water bottles, clothing, etc.)
- Read books about starting school. There are many great books available at your local library.
- If possible, tour the school with your child.
- Allow natural conversation to occur regarding feelings about starting VPK. Validate your child's feelings and let them know you know they can do it!
- Draw a picture for their teacher.

SET the Stage for Success

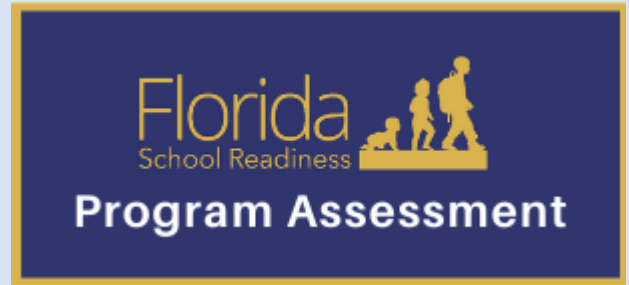
Children feel more at ease and invested when they actively participate in activities.

- Help your child learn a new routine by practicing getting ready in the morning.
- Speak words of encouragement and positivity, helping them leave for school feeling good and excited.

GO!

Celebrate the start of a great year.

- Printing this flyer [here](#).
- Use **#1stDayFLVPK** to post your photos on social media.
- Follow along using #1stDayFLVPK on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



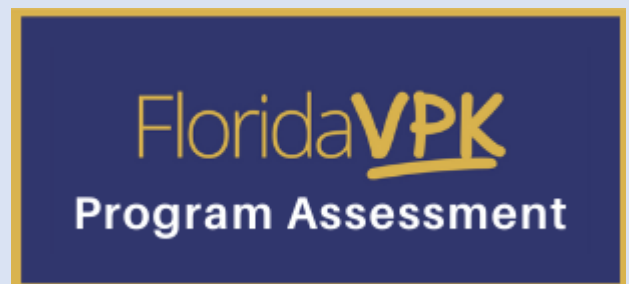
Do you have a child in the School Readiness or Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Programs?

CLASS® is an observation-based program assessment tool that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions in different domains by age groups.

- For infants (birth-18 months), Responsive Caregiving.
- For toddlers (19-35 months), Emotional and Behavioral Support and Engaged Support for Learning.
- For prekindergarten (36 months-5 years), Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

CLASS® is recognized internationally for measuring the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions that drive child learning outcomes. The CLASS® observation tool will be used in your child's classroom by a trained, certified observer.

Families may request more information about CLASS® for the School Readiness Program [here](#), and for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program [here](#).



The Family Guide to Selecting Quality Early Learning Programs

“A Parent’s Guide to Child Care”



Selecting an early learning program for your child is one of the most important and difficult choices you will make during your child’s educational journey. How can you find quality child care and what does a quality child care program look like? The Division of Early Learning provides consumer education materials to families, such as The Family Guide and other resources you may need to help you select the right child care provider for your family.

The Family Guide helps you think about the type of early learning experience you would like for your child and can assist you in finding the best child care option. Here are a few simple steps to help you choose.

- Learn the basics by understanding your child care options, how child care programs are licensed and regulated, and learning about quality standards for the program.
- Review and search for the information provided about child care programs in your area. Visit [DCF Cares Provider Search](#). This site can help you make informed child care choices.
- Match your child’s personality with the style of the early learning program.
- Look for indicators of quality, such as responsive caregiving, continuity of care, health and safety, well-trained staff, an environment for learning, and opportunities for family engagement.
- Learn more about the types of early learning providers, such as School Readiness, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, school-age care, unregulated care and summer camps.
- Locate information on financial resources, family resources, Head Start, Early Intervention, strengthening your family and more!



The Family Guide helps you feel confident that you made the best decision about quality programs for your child. You can find the full versions of The Family Guide here: [The Family Guide to Selecting Quality Early Learning Programs \(English\)](#) and [The Family Guide to Selecting Quality Early Learning Programs \(Spanish\)](#).

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