

## Back to School!

Ana Roa, South Florida VPK Regional Facilitator

VPK classes are back in session!! Teachers, children and parents are nervous of what's to come. To ease some of the nervousness, parents can visit their child's school and tour the facility. Parents should remember to write down important questions before the visit. Providers can encourage families to attend "meet and greets" with teachers and staff at the start of the year. Before school starts each day, parents can encourage their children letting them know what a wonderful place they are going to, all the exciting things they will be learning and lastly the new friends they will be meeting. There are many books that providers can share with their families that can help prepare their children for their first days of VPK.



First day of VPK book suggestions include

- "It's Time for Preschool" by Esme Raji Codell.
- "The Night Before Preschool" by Natasha Wing.
- "What to Expect at Preschool" by Heidi Murkoff.
- "I Am Absolutely Too Small for School" by Lauren Child.
- "I Love You All Day Long" by Francesca Rusackas.

According to Harvard University's Family Research Project has reported that schools must go beyond traditional methods and focus on building closer relationships with parents, immersing parents in their children's learning activities, and helping parents understand their children's development in and out of school. There are many ways to get involved in a child's learning for example, attend open houses and volunteer at school events such as fieldtrips, seasonal activities, fundraisers, parent workshops and field days.

Having a two-way communication with both parent and teacher can be one of the most important factors in a child's early learning. Opportunities for communication may include parent conferences, parent-teacher communication or school community council, phone calls, emails, school website, weekly school letter or monthly student folders and various mobile applications such as whats app, remind and class dojo.

### RULES



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

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



We are as excited as you are for Florida's newest VPK students! No doubt, parents and teachers will be taking a few pictures marking this wonderful milestone!

Click the link for printable "First Day of VPK" flyers <http://ow.ly/dze930lfJuO>. Fill in the child's name and have them pose for a photo to remember their special day.

Use #1stDayVPK when posting your photos on social media sites. The Office of Early Learning will be sharing #1stDayVPK tagged pictures on our social media pages through the beginning of September this 2018–2019 school year.



Photo credit: Heather Sargent, SE VPK Regional Facilitator

*"Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted." ~ Dr. Seuss*

## We're So Happy You Asked...

Dear VPK,

I have been teaching VPK for the last couple of years and my director just told me that there are new standards this year. Can you tell me what has changed from the previous version and where I can find the new standards for VPK?

Thanks!

Searching for Standards in Sarasota

*Dear Searching for Standards in Sarasota,*

*We're so happy you asked!! The VPK Standards were revised last year and in December 2017, The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 Years to Kindergarten were adopted for use in all VPK Programs. The revised standards address eight early learning and developmental domains (previously five domains) reflecting a child's expected age-appropriate progress – physical development, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, mathematical thinking, scientific inquiry, social studies and creative expression through the arts. You can access the revised standards as well as the newly developed Educator's Guide online at <http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com>.*

*Best Wishes, The VPK team at OEL*



# 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	July Completers	2018-19 Total Completers
Preschool Standards <i>NEW!</i>	907	907
Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness	118	118
Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors	619	619
Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom	274	274
Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners	272	272
Working to Create Positive Learning Environments: Preventive Strategies	118	118
Developing the Socially and Emotionally Competent Child	104	104
English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom	88	88
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	172	172
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	129	129
VPK Director Credential Course	207	207

Instructor-led Courses	July Classes	July Participants	2018-19 Total Participants
Preschool Standards <i>NEW!</i>	25	489	489
Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness	2	12	12
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	6	71	71
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	5	46	46
*EMEL: Making Sense of Sets and Numbers	8	78	78
*EMEL: Counting and Operating with Numbers	7	83	83
*EMEL: Patterns, Measurement and Data	2	34	34
*EMEL: Shapes and Spatial Relationships	7	94	94

\*EMEL– Early Mathematics for Early Learners