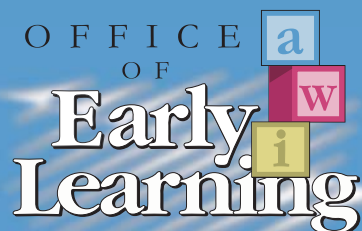


The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) legislation was signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush on January 2, 2005. This law created a program to prepare every Florida four-year-old for kindergarten and build a strong foundation for their continued educational success. The VPK program will provide each child the opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life with quality programs that include high literacy standards, accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors.

Florida recognizes that parents are children's first teachers and build their language and literacy skills by reading with them regularly, giving them a love for reading and books. So do not overlook the wonder and achievements your child will experience in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program – share and support his or her learning experience.



FLORIDA'S VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- VPK begins in the fall of school year 2005
- High quality educational program with an early literacy focus
- FREE for all children 4 years old by September 1, who reside in Florida
- No registration fee
- Both private and public providers will participate

VPK PROGRAM OPTIONS

- School Year Program – 540 instructional hours beginning fall 2005
- Summer Program – 300 instructional hours beginning summer 2006

EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS

There are Early Learning Coalitions (ELC) across the state. Each ELC helps providers meet the requirements of Florida law. Your ELC has additional information regarding the status of your application. The ELC will have a list of local providers and public schools participating in the VPK program. Your ELC contact information can be found at www.vpkflorida.org.

PROVIDERS

- All VPK providers must meet high standards required by Florida law
- Parents have the option of choosing the provider that meets their own family's needs
- Options for parents include: public schools, private child care centers and licensed family child care homes

INSTRUCTORS

- All lead VPK instructors must have a minimum of a Child Development Associate for the school year program or a Bachelor's degree for the summer program
- Ratios are 1 instructor to 10 children
- Class size will not exceed 18 children

CURRICULUM

- Must be developmentally appropriate
- Focus on early literacy skills
- Prepare the child to be ready for kindergarten based on standards adopted by the State Board of Education

TRANSPORTATION

- Parents are responsible for their child's transportation



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE VISIT THE AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION – OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING VPK WEBSITE AT www.vpkflorida.org OR CALL US TOLL FREE AT: 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

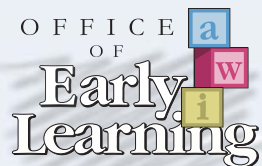
HOW DO I APPLY?

To enroll your child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program, download an application from www.vpkflorida.org and email or mail the application to your Early Learning Coalition. You may also contact your Early Learning Coalition directly for an application. Your Early Learning Coalition will provide you with a list of eligible providers in your area.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

Please visit the VPK website at
www.vpkflorida.org
or call us toll free at:
1-866-357-3239 (TTY:711)



For more information, contact:

PARENTS

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN

Agency for Workforce Innovation
Office of Early Learning



Providing every 4-year-old child
in Florida a high quality Voluntary
Prekindergarten program

OUR VISION

That Florida's children are eager to learn and ready to
succeed when they enter kindergarten

OUR MISSION

To ensure that all children are intellectually,
emotionally, physically and socially ready to enter
school and ready to learn, fully recognizing the
crucial role of parents as their child's first teacher