

# Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

## What is the Voluntary Prekindergarten education program?

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free, high-quality education program designed to prepare Florida's 4-year-olds for kindergarten and build a foundation for their educational success. High-quality VPK providers deliver age-appropriate curricula, including early literacy and math standards, in manageable class sizes led by qualified instructors. State data shows that children who participate in VPK are better prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) partners with 30 early learning coalitions and Redlands Christian Migrant Association to deliver the VPK Program.

## Who is eligible?

Children who live in Florida and are 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current year are eligible. Families with children born between February 2 and September 1 may postpone enrolling their 4-year-old until the following year when their child is 5.

## What are the benefits?

Children who complete VPK:

- Are more prepared for kindergarten.
- Have better school attendance rates.
- Develop lifelong social skills.
- Are more likely to advance to the next grade.
- Are more likely to graduate high school.

## What program options are available?

Parents can choose from private centers and schools, public schools, family childcare homes and specialized instructional services providers. Parents can select from one of several program options.

### **VPK School-Year Program: 540 Instructional Hours**

Class size is 11 students or fewer with one lead instructor or up to 20 students with a lead instructor and an assistant. Instructors must have a minimum of a Florida Child Care Professional Credential.

### **Specialized Instructional Services Program: Hours Vary Based on Services**

VPK Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) is a program option for VPK-age children with current individual educational plans (IEPs). This option allows parents to choose additional therapy services consistent with the child's IEP in lieu of attending VPK in a traditional classroom setting.

### **VPK Summer Program: 300 Instructional Hours**

Class size is 12 students or fewer with one lead instructor and an assistant. Instructors must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

***Children who participate in VPK are better prepared for kindergarten.***

**How to apply?** Visit <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com> or call at 1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711).



**Link to sign up for VPK**



**Link to DEL Website**