

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)



Program Highlights

The Voluntary Prekindergarten program (VPK) is FREE for all Florida's four-year-olds born on or before September 1 of each year. The VPK program's quality standards include:

- Qualified instructors.
- Age appropriate curricula with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills.
- Manageable class sizes.

Program Options

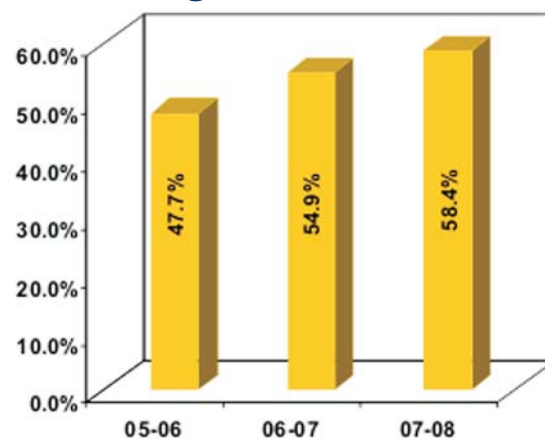
Giving parents a wide selection of choice is a priority, so both private and public providers participate. VPK providers may set their own schedules to provide the required hours for either program:

- School year program—540 teaching hours. Class sizes of 18 or fewer students. Instructors must have a minimum of a child development associates for the school year program (now referred to as the Birth to Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential).
- Summer program—300 teaching hours. Class sizes of 12 or fewer students. Instructors must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree.

VPK Providers

The private provider must hold the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential, VPK Director Credential, a child care license (child care center, family child care home, or large family child care home) or an exemption from licensure, and recognition by an approved child care accrediting association.

Percentage of Four-Year-Olds



VPK Provider Readiness Rates

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year-olds for kindergarten based upon Florida's VPK Education Standards. The VPK Education Standards describe what four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of the VPK experience.

The VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate gives parents additional information for selecting a VPK program best suited for their family, but it should not be the only factor in choosing a child's early education program. VPK Provider Profiles are available through early learning coalitions or online at www.myflorida.com/childcare.

Each profile offers information on when classes begin and what curriculum the program uses.



For more information about the *Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten program (VPK)*, please call the *Agency for Workforce Innovation* toll-free at 1-866-357-3239 or visit www.flready.com.