

1st Day of Kindergarten Tips

- ✂ Visit the school and classroom prior to the first day
- ✂ Meet the teacher
- ✂ Begin the "going to bed/getting up routine" a week prior to the start of school
- ✂ Make sure your child has a good breakfast
- ✂ Discuss arrangements for arrival and dismissal. Find out about any special procedures from your child's teacher
- ✂ Label ALL personal belongings with your child's name
- ✂ Label all money your child takes to school with your child's name and its purpose
- ✂ Make sure your child is dressed in clothing that she/he can manage at bathroom time
- ✂ Provide a place at home for school materials (backpacks, notes, lunch money)
- ✂ Don't buy any supplies until you check with your child's teacher or school
- ✂ Teachers are very busy supervising children during arrival and dismissal. This is not a good time to talk to the teacher
- ✂ Set aside a special time at the end of the day to talk to your child about his/ her day (i.e. What did you learn today?)



Serving the needs of families and communities with children under five years of age.

Mission: All children in Okaloosa and Walton Counties will enter school fully prepared for educational success.

Vision: To promote a collaborative school readiness and early childhood service system, to deliver an integration of cognitive, social emotional, and physical development experiences that increase children's opportunities for success.

Contact Us:

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Okaloosa Phone: (850) 833-3627

Walton Phone: (850) 951-0588

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Website: www.elc-ow.org

KIDLINE: (850) 833-9333



Voluntary Prekindergarten



Preparing Children for
Successful Futures

What Is Voluntary Prekindergarten?

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program was created through a voter passed constitutional amendment in 2002. Governor Bush signed the House Bill 1A on January 2, 2005 creating a program designed to prepare 4 year olds for kindergarten and build a strong foundation for children's educational success.



Who Is Eligible?

- ☑ All Children who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.
- ☑ Parents must be able to provide proof of Florida residency (i.e. utility bill, government documents, etc.).
- ☑ A child remains eligible for VPK until the beginning of the school year for which the child is able to be admitted into Kindergarten in a public school.



What Are The VPK Program Highlights?

- ★ High quality educational program with an early literacy focus.
- ★ FREE for all children 4 years old on or before September 1st, who reside in Florida
- ★ No registration fee.
- ★ Both private and public providers may participate.

What Are The Program Options?

- ★ School Year Program- 540 instructional hours.
- ★ Summer Program- 300 instructional hours.

Who Are The Providers?

- ★ Public and Private Schools
- ★ Licensed and/or Faith-based Child Care Centers
- ★ Licensed Family Child Care Homes

(Parents have the option of choosing the provider that meets their family's needs)

Additional Program Benefits

- ★ For the school year program, all VPK Lead Instructors must have a minimum of a Child Development Associate Credential. For the summer program, all VPK Lead Instructors must have a Bachelor's degree in specific areas, accompanied by a Florida Teaching Certificate.
- ★ Teacher to Child Ratios are 1 to 10 or 2 to 18. Class size must not exceed 18 children.
- ★ Program's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and focus on Emergent Literacy Skills.
- ★ Providers must prepare children to be ready for kindergarten based on the VPK Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Is Transportation Provided?

- ★ Parents are responsible for their child's transportation, which may be purchased as a service from some providers.

For Additional Information, please call Kidline at (850)833-9333

