

VPK Newsletter

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway

By: Melissa Brady, VPK Coordinator

Child Attendance and Parental Choice Certificates

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VPK Providers—The Coalition has finally received concrete information regarding the Child Attendance and Parental Choice Certificates.

You will notice the form states:

I swear (or affirm) that my child attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program during the months listed below. I certify that my child's daily attendance in the program was recorded by the private provider or public school and that I or my representative signed

the attendance record each day that my child attended the program.

Effective Immediately

Forms must not be signed or filled out in any way for the month in question before the last day of instruction for that month.

For example: The last day of instruction for January is Monday the 31st. The form must not be signed and dated prior to that date. This process must be completed by February 11, 2011 (2 weeks after the month has been completed.

VPK Readiness Rates

The Department of Education sent a letter to all VPK Providers dated December 23, 2010. Each Provider received a reset User ID and Password to visit the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate Website at <https://vpk.fldoe.org>. The target dates are as follows:

- Jan. 3-17, 2011—Provider Process
- Jan. 3-24, 2011—Coalition approval of Provider Changes
- Feb. 1-15, 2011—Dispute
- Feb. 1-22, 2011—Disputes Resolved
- Feb. 25, 2011—Final 2009-10 VPK Provider Readiness Rates posted to Web
- March 2011—State Board of Education will set minimum rate.



VPK Instructional Strategy

Provide pictures of familiar one-syllable words cut into two pieces for children to put together and separate while orally blending together and taking apart the words into **onset/rime** segments.

Reading is Essential!

Think about your favorite childhood book. Why did you enjoy it so much? Was it the story, the pictures, the way someone read it to you?

A good story is priceless. Children love to be read to and they will sit and listen if you follow a few very important steps:

- **Always pre-view the book you plan to read to the children**

- **Always practice reading the book, read with variations in your voice and interest to keep children listening.**
- **Look for vocabulary words children may not fully understand—this is a teachable moment.**

If you are animated in your reading and you have chosen a book with a good story and beautiful pictures,

you will keep your children interested and they will develop a love for reading.

“The development of early literacy skills through early experiences with books and stories is critically linked to a child’s success in learning to read.”*

*Snow, C.E. & Ninio, A. (1988) “The Contacts of Literacy: What Children Learn From Learning to Read Books”



Model excitement during story time, children will follow your lead!

Please visit our website at www.elc-fg.org in the Provider section. If you have any changes to your VPK Program, you must use these forms. Call Melissa at (386)961-0129 if you have any questions.

New VPK Applications

Beginning January 1, 2011, any changes to your current VPK program must be documented on the new and improved VPK-10 and VPK-11 applications.

These applications are editable and on our website at www.elc-fg.org in the Provider sections for your use.

The **VPK-10** application is still completed if you have any changes to your facility

such as a new director or different services, phone numbers, etc. This form has been reduced to one page instead of three.

The **VPK-11A** form is for documenting lead and secondary instructor changes as well as credentials.

The **VPK 11B** form is completed if a provider has any calendar changes to submit for approval.

The new forms should cut down on the amount of paperwork and duplication of information. These forms must be completed prior to submission to the Coalition. Please call me if you have any questions regarding the completion of these new forms.



2010 - 2011 VPK Monitoring

As many of you know, I have been out monitoring for the 2010-2011 VPK Program year. I have to say, I am pleased with the progress I have seen in many of the classrooms I have visited.

Teachers are taking more cues from the children, providing more sensory

type activities for their class and thus noticing less behavior issues in the classroom.

I have also noticed many teachers are reading the VPK Standards book and using the wonderful information and instructional strategies within.

If your teachers are not using these books, please make sure they begin to immediately. Remember the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screen (FLKRS) pulls the assessment directly from the VPK Standards.

Teaching young children can be very rewarding.



**Melissa Brady
VPK Coordinator
(386) 961-0129**