

Professional Development and Teacher Resources



Face-to-Face Training Opportunities

Here is a look at training opportunities for directors, teachers, assistants and parents that are offered face-to-face by the Department of Education, Office of Early Learning's VPK Regional Facilitators and other DOE-approved trainers.



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards: This training provides an overview of the VPK Standards (guidelines that describe skills four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of their VPK experience) and examples of developmentally appropriate instructional techniques for four-year-old children. The overview addresses specific changes from the 2005 Standards through video clips, a PowerPoint presentation, and hands-on activities to illustrate the VPK Standards and changes. 3 hour training



What's New: Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards 2008: This training is designed for participants who attended 2005 VPK Education Standards training, but need to know what has been revised in 2008. An overview of the VPK Standards addresses specific changes from the 2005 Standards through video clips, a PowerPoint presentation, and hands-on activities to illustrate the VPK Standards and changes. 2 hour training



Emergent Literacy in the VPK Classroom: This training is appropriate for teachers, assistants, and directors, and it is open to all. An overview of emergent reading, emergent writing, oral language and communication, and environments is provided through hands-on activities to assist in understanding the concepts. Participants also learn about creative activities to be used in the classroom. 10 hour training (split into either 5 hour or 2 ½ hour sessions)

Face-to-Face Training Opportunities (Continued)



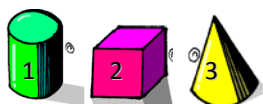
Integrating the VPK Standards: Phonological Awareness: This training is appropriate for teachers, assistants, and directors, and it is open to all. Participants have an opportunity to create a developmentally appropriate activity, related to a benchmark in phonological awareness, to be implemented in the classroom. Emphasis is on planning, implementation, teacher self-reflection, and documentation of the activity. Provides participants with a 2 hours face-to-face session and a 3-hour practicum



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards: What Parents Should Know - It's Okay to Play in VPK! Parent Train-the-Trainer Workshop: This training is appropriate and strongly recommended for all Directors who operate a VPK program. Participants are provided with helpful training management tips on how to properly prepare for the training and an overview on how to properly present the VPK Standards to parents/guardians of four-year-old children participating in the VPK program. Materials include a user-friendly manual, PowerPoint and helpful child-centered activities. 2 hour training



Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards: What Parents Should Know - It's Okay to Play in VPK! Parent Workshop: This workshop provides parents with an awareness of realistic and appropriate expectations for four-year-old children that will assist families in understanding the VPK Education Standards. Participants are provided information and hands-on activities regarding the VPK Standards. Examples of developmentally appropriate activities that support children's development at home, in the community, and in the classroom are also included. 2 hour training



Mathematical Thinking in the VPK Classroom: This training will focus on the six areas of the Mathematical Thinking standards. It will develop a clear progression of skills as well as integrating activities in the classroom will be provided. Participants will develop greater understanding of the Mathematical Thinking standards through activities, discussion, and reflection in an interactive class. Available Summer/Fall 2009.

Postponed Due To Budget Cuts



Online Training Opportunities

Training opportunities for directors, teachers, assistants and parents are offered online by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and the Florida Department of Children and Families. The courses are available on the Department of Children and Families' Web site:

www.myflorida.com/childcare/training

Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors: This course is recommended for all VPK instructors, directors, and other interested parties. It is required for all VPK instructors with a Child Development Associate (CDA) or CDA Equivalency (CDAE), consistent with section 1002.55, (3)(c)2, Florida Statutes. The goal of the five-hour Emergent Literacy Course for VPK Instructors is to provide participants with background information on emergent literacy and demonstrate instructional practices that can be used in VPK classrooms. 5 hour training



English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom: This course is for VPK teachers, directors, and staff to use as they develop culturally sensitive learning environments for children and build relationships with families who are English language learners. Although this course is designed with English language learners in mind, there are numerous best practices that can be used with all young children. 5 hour training



VPK Director Credential: All directors of private VPK programs, who have not earned a Department of Children and Families (DCF) Director Credential as of December 31, 2006, are required to complete this course as one of the components of the DOE VPK Director Credential. Providers who were issued a DCF director credential prior to December 31, 2006, are exempt from this requirement but are encouraged to participate in the training. The importance of maintaining a balance between management and leadership in a VPK setting and how to establish a high quality VPK education program by creating and sustaining an effective learning environment is emphasized. Participants gain knowledge of effective research-based prekindergarten practices, understanding the importance of integrating the Florida VPK Education Standards into instructional practices and exploring how an ongoing assessment directs instructional practices. 5 hour training



Online Training Opportunities (Continued)



Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom:

This online course is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors and provides instructional strategies for increasing language and vocabulary with young children. There are videos of VPK teachers implementing the strategies with children, in addition to activities, and resources to support teachers as they begin to use the language and vocabulary strategies in their own classrooms. 5 hour training



Mathematical Thinking in the VPK Classroom: This course is for VPK teachers, directors, and staff to develop additional knowledge and understanding of the six areas of Mathematical Thinking as defined in the VPK Education Standards.

Additional resources and strategies to incorporate the Standards into the classroom in developmentally appropriate ways will be provided. This course will be available Summer/Fall 2009.



Postponed Due To Budget Cuts



Online Teacher Resources

The Department of Education is pleased to offer online teacher resources for VPK teachers, directors, and other interested parties. Each of the resources listed below are frequently updated and added to, in response to new information and resources that become available.



Sample Lesson Plans Based on the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

Education Standards: These lesson plans, based on the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards, are designed to help develop the skills that four-year-old children should know and be able to do by the end of their prekindergarten year. The lesson plans are organized under the targeted VPK Education Standards that are included in each plan. Related VPK Education Standards are also included in each lesson plan to show prekindergarten administrators and teachers how one lesson can be easily integrated across the domains of the VPK Education Standards. The Web site can be accessed at: www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/plans.asp.



VPK Teacher Toolkit: The VPK Teacher Toolkit is new for 2009. Each Toolkit folder is created based upon what stakeholders have shared as areas they would like more information on. The direction of each topic is the result of a workgroup that includes stakeholders from across the state, as well as national experts. The information in each folder includes information and footage from real VPK classrooms across the state.

New information and resources will be added to folders as it becomes available. Available from the following Web site: <http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.



VPK Teacher Toolkit: Language and Vocabulary Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors. The Language and Vocabulary folder provides instructional strategies for increasing language and vocabulary with young children.

These strategies include Book Embedded Vocabulary Instruction, Dialogic Reading, Think, Show, Tell, Talk and Language Scaffolding with young children. There are videos of VPK teachers implementing the strategies with children, in addition to, activities, and resources to support teachers as they begin to use the language and vocabulary strategies in their own classrooms. The Web site can be accessed at:

<http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.

Online Teacher Resources (Continued)



VPK Teacher Toolkit: Mathematical Thinking Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors. The Mathematical Thinking folder provides resources, instructional strategies, and activities for each of the six areas of Mathematical Thinking outlined in the VPK Standards. These areas are: Number Sense, Number and Operations, Patterns and Seriation, Geometry, Spatial Relations, and Measurement. There are instructional videos by an expert in the field about mathematical thinking, as well as VPK teachers introducing and teaching mathematical concepts to children. The folder also includes resources to support teachers in the area of Mathematical Thinking, and is available from the following Web site: <http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.



VPK Teacher Toolkit: Problem-Solving in the VPK Classroom Folder: This online resource is appropriate for all VPK teachers/instructors, assistants and directors. The Problem-Solving in the VPK Classroom folder will provide resources, instructional strategies, and activities for teachers to approach challenges experienced, using a problem-solving perspective. Available in 2010 from the following Web site: <http://www.flvpkonline.org/teachertoolkit/>.



Bright Beginnings : This Web site is one product of the Department of Education's Bright Beginnings initiative that provides teachers and parents with resources to help children in Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) through third grade, succeed in reading and mathematics. The Web site can be accessed at:

www.brightbeginningsfl.org