

VPK Instructor Increased Emergent Literacy Course Requirement

Frequently Asked Questions

Importance of Early Literacy

1. How will completing the three 5-hour emergent literacy courses impact or benefit my instruction?

Through the participation in an emergent literacy course, teachers will expand and enhance their knowledge and instructional strategies related to emergent literacy. Teachers will gain a deeper understanding of the emergent literacy progression and how the sequence of instruction impacts the learning process for young learners. Several of the training courses include three component areas: a content instructional component, a classroom implementation component and a virtual reflection component. It is through these various methods of delivery that teachers will expand professionally as an early childhood educator.

Course Requirements for VPK Instructors

1. What courses meet the 5-hour emergent literacy course requirement?

Courses that meet the emergent literacy course requirement can be found here. (link to Online Training doc- #2)

2. Where can instructors find additional information regarding emergent literacy professional development?

The emergent literacy course requirement information as well as other professional development information may be found on the Division of Early Learning (DEL) website at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>.

3. Are public school VPK teachers and/or certified teachers required to complete the three 5-hour courses?

Yes. All VPK teachers are required to complete three 5-hour emergent literacy courses. See ss. 1002.55(3)(c) and 1002.63(4), F.S.

4. Are substitute instructors or classroom assistants required to meet the emergent literacy course requirement?

No. Substitute instructors and classroom assistants are not required to complete the course requirement. However, it would be recommended that any person providing instruction to young children complete the trainings in an effort to increase their professional knowledge and instructional abilities.

5. Can an instructor receive credit for courses previously taken?

Yes. Teachers who have completed the following online courses, after the dates identified below, may count these courses toward the emergent literacy course requirement.

- *Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors* (5 hours) (July 1, 2018)
- *Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom* (5 hours) (July 1, 2020)
- *Preschool Language Development* (20 hours) (March 19, 2018)
- *The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy* (20 hours) (January 7, 2019)

6. How will instructor course participation be tracked?

DEL, in partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), offers course access via the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#). Instructor completion of three 5-hour emergent literacy courses will be recognized on the participant's training transcript with the following message:

"VPK Instructor Emergent Literacy Course Requirement has been completed."

Participants have access to their training transcripts in the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#).

7. **Are public school teachers required to use the Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry?**
Yes. Teacher participation and completion of course requirements will be tracked via the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#). Public and private school VPK teachers will create an account in the Registry and utilize the system to access approved emergent literacy courses. Completed courses will appear on the participant's training transcript. Once the course requirement is met, a notice of completion will also be posted to the transcript.

"VPK Instructor Emergent Literacy Course Requirement has been completed."

Additionally, school districts may add DEL training courses to their Master Inservice Plan (MIP) and offer inservice points for course completion.

8. **Can this requirement be satisfied by taking a single class that is at least 15-hours, instead of three 5-hour classes?**

Yes. The list of approved classes includes three longer classes that meet this requirement.

Course Access and Information

9. **When can VPK instructors begin taking the courses?**

Instructors may begin taking the available courses immediately.

10. **Where are the approved courses offered?**

Emergent literacy courses are available both **online** via the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#) (DCF) for \$10 per course or through the **instructor-led** trainings offered **virtually** by the VPK Regional Facilitators. The virtual instructor-led trainings are free. A schedule of **virtual instructor-led** training opportunities and registration tips are available [here](#).

Additionally, [Early Learning Florida](#) offers the following courses. Course fees are paid by DEL.

- Preschool Language Development (online)
- The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy (online)

11. **How do instructors gain access to the online training courses?**

Emergent literacy courses are available through the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#) (DCF). Instructors will set up an account in the registry if they do not already have one. Teachers will be able to access the online courses in the registry. Emergent literacy course reference numbers will be posted on the DEL professional development webpage located at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>.



12. Are there free course options?

Yes. All of the virtual instructor-led and in-person courses offered by the VPK Regional Facilitators are free of charge. Registration information can be found at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>.

13. Do the emergent literacy courses have to be taken online?

No. Teachers may complete an approved online course or register and attend a virtual instructor-led training offered by the VPK Regional Facilitators. Additional training information can be found on the DEL website at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>.

14. Where can the course reference numbers be found?

DEL course reference numbers can be found at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/professional-development-training>.

15. Where is registration available for Reading Endorsement Competency 1?

Interested individuals should contact their local school district for course availability information.

Districts and Early Learning Coalitions

16. Are districts or coalitions required to pay for the instructors to take the emergent literacy courses?

No. There are free and low-cost options available to all instructors. Online courses are available via the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#) (DCF) are \$10 per course. The Virtual Instructor-led courses are free and also available via the Registry.

17. Are coalitions or school districts required to track teacher completion of this requirement?

Teacher participation and completion of course requirements will be tracked via the [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry](#).

Coalitions and school districts may require VPK providers to upload participants' [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry training](#) transcripts to the Provider Portal. The transcript will reflect the following upon completion of the three emergent literacy courses:

"VPK Instructor Emergent Literacy Course Requirement has been completed."

18. Will DEL conduct a train-the-trainer for coalition or school district staff for the emergent literacy courses?

VPK Regional Facilitators will be available to provide virtual instructor-led trainings. Ultimately, DEL plans to utilize previously trained trainers for the *Phonological Awareness Development for Preschoolers* course. As the need arises, DEL may provide train-the-trainer sessions to train additional trainers at the local level for selected emergent literacy courses.

Directors/Administrators/Owners

19. How can directors track teacher progress towards the emergent literacy requirement?

Directors may require instructors to provide their [Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry training](#) transcripts to their director as evidence of requirement completion.

Coalitions or school districts may also accept a copy of the participant's transcript, which upon completion of the three 5-hour emergent literacy courses will reflect the following: