# Early Learning Answers on the Go – English Version

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| **What is Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)?** |
| Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, or “V-P-K,” is a free program for 4- and 5-year-olds that prepares children for success in kindergarten, school and life. Data shows that children who participate in VPK are more likely to enter kindergarten ready for school.  Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds living in Florida, regardless of family income. The Division of Early Learning (DEL) works with 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association to administer the V-P-K program. Parents can select from one of several program options available in different educational settings from private and public providers and specialized instructional services providers. Program options include the School Year Program, Summer Program, and the Specialized Instructional Services Program.  VPK providers are held to high quality standards. Program assessment promotes effective teacher-child interactions in the classroom. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System, or CLASS is the Division of Early Learning’s measure for program assessment and is used to examine the quality of interactions between teachers and children. These interactions impact children’s development, language, and early numeracy skills.  In addition, a coordinated screening and progress monitoring system provides teachers with information to help them ensure these young learners make appropriate progress in emergent literacy and early math skills. Parents are kept informed about their children’s progress and are provided with resources and tips to inspire their children’s ongoing learning at home.  Florida is committed to providing parents access to high-quality programs and services that build a solid foundation for Florida’s youngest learners to reach their highest potential. To enroll your child, visit Florida’s Early Learning Family Portal at family services dot Florida early learning dot com. You will need an email address, proof of Florida residency, and proof of your child’s age to apply. Acceptable documents of Florida residency and your child’s age are listed on the screen.  For more information on VPK program options, eligibility, and enrollment, call the Division’s toll-free number at one-eight-six-six, three-five-seven, three-two-three-nine.   * Show DEL’s toll-free phone number onscreen: 1 (866) 357-3239. |