



Early Learning Coalition  
of Indian River, Fort St. and Okeechobee Counties Inc.

## Instructional Services

### Instructional Hours

The VPK Program requires 540 instructional hours during the school year, and 300 hours during the summer. In order to count as instructional hours, mealtime and outdoor play must be included in the lesson plan as providing activities to nurture and enhance children's development.

### Group Size

VPK classes must serve at least four (4) children, but no more than eighteen (18) children.

### Ratio

All VPK classes must have at least 4 VPK children in order to open the class. Family Childcare Homes, Large Family Childcare Homes and Registered Homes must follow the DCF ratio for 4 year olds and have at least 4 VPK children. All other sites must have 1:10 or 2:18 ratio including VPK and non VPK children for the 540 hour program and 1:12 for the 300 hour program.

### Curriculum Requirements

Providers must identify the curriculum used for the VPK program to meet the following criteria:

- Be developmentally appropriate
- Designed to prepare a student for early literacy
- Enhance the age appropriate progress of students in attaining the state-adopted VPK Performance Standards.
- Prepare students to be ready for kindergarten based on the statewide kindergarten screening.

Providers may select or design their curriculum, unless on probation due to failure to meet kindergarten readiness rates for two consecutive years. The Florida Department of Education will review and approve curricula for use by providers who are placed on probation.