

MAKING THE LITTLE THINGS COUNT

Children are natural math thinkers. Knowing the right answer is not always the most important thing. Rather, it is essential for children to be able to explore mathematical concepts and talk about what they know and how they know it. In order for children to do this, prekindergarten instructors must have core knowledge of early learning mathematical concepts.

To facilitate this, the Office of Early Learning has developed one online course and four instructor-led trainings focused on Early Mathematics for Early Learners. The five-hour online course titled *Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners* was released in fall 2015 and more than 3,000 participants have completed the course successfully to date.

Last month, the first of four instructor-led math trainings titled *Early Mathematics for Early Learners: Making Sense of Sets and Numbers* was presented to nearly 50 trainers across the state from early learning coalitions and school districts. These new trainers learned how to offer this new training to preschool teachers and directors in their regions with the goal of helping early childhood educators develop a greater understanding of foundational early math skills and how to teach math to young children following a research based learning trajectory and in developmentally appropriate ways.

Over the next six months we will be working with trainers across the state and begin offering the remaining three instructor-led math trainings:

- *Early Mathematics for Early Learners: Counting and Operating with Numbers.*
- *Early Mathematics for Early Learners: Patterns, Measurement and Data.*
- *Early Mathematics for Early Learners: Shapes and Spatial Relationships.*



RULES

Currently Open

Rule 6M-8.300, Provider and Class Registration Procedures; Application; Eligibility Determination

Rule 6M-8.201 Child Enrollment Procedure for the VPK Education Program

Rules Opening Soon

NEW RULE about Equivalent Credentials for VPK Instructors

Remember to check our website regularly for a listing of proposed rules and notices.

[HTTP://BIT.LY/2GKCOIN](http://bit.ly/2GKCOIN)



FAMILY RESOURCE: EARLY LEARNING PARENT PAGES

The Office of Early Learning provides monthly Early Learning Parents' Pages for families of children ages birth through preschool. This resource offers information on family engagement activities and upcoming events. Program providers are encouraged to share the Parents' Pages with families each month. They can be found at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2gCivaN>.

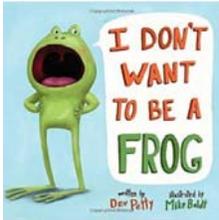
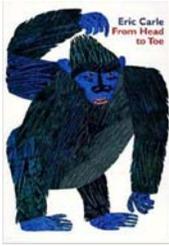
The more that you Read, the more things that you will Know.

The more that you Learn, the more places you'll Go! ~ Dr. Seuss

SAVE THE DATE 2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

The Just Read, Florida! office and FLDOE, in partnership with OEL, school districts, early learning coalitions and numerous other state agencies, are pleased to announce the ninth annual statewide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!: LITERACY CHANGES OUR WORLD.*

The event will take place the week of
Jan. 23-27, 2017.



Please join the Office of Early Learning in celebrating literacy by encouraging providers to participate in our **Simultaneous Reading Activity on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, at 9 a.m. (EST).**

More information regarding book selection and related expansion activities will be sent to all infant/toddler (birth to 3) and preschool (3 to 5) program providers, districts and early learning coalitions in December.

FLORIDA EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARDS REVISION PROJECT



The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Office of Early Learning (OEL) will soon begin work to revise the 2011 Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten. These standards reflect the expectations regarding a child's age-appropriate progress. There will be opportunities for input from state/national experts and early learning stakeholders. The revised standards are anticipated to be approved by the State Board of Education in fall 2017.

PROJECTED TIMELINE

Fall 2016

- FLDOE OEL staff meet regularly to identify activities and timelines for revising the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten.

Spring 2017

- FLDOE OEL hosts panel of experts to work toward revising the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten for 2017.

Summer 2017

- FLDOE OEL hosts rule development workshops based on panel of experts' work.
- Based on rule development workshops, revisions are finalized.
- Coordinated training plan is developed.

Fall 2017

- State Board of Education approval of the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten (2017).

Spring 2018

- Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten (2017).
- Revised training on the standards available statewide.

Fall 2018

- Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards-Birth to Kindergarten (2017) become effective.

OEL is committed to providing periodic status updates to coalitions, school districts, providers and other early learning stakeholders. Please visit the OEL website at <http://bit.ly/1MRws39> for the most up-to-date information regarding the revision process and timelines.

For questions regarding standards revisions, contact Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning: 1-850-717-8696.



VPK LEARNING CIRCLES

Be in the Loop!

VPK Learning Circles are ongoing opportunities for early childhood professionals to share strategies, research and best practice in VPK classrooms.

Learning Circle activities include

- Practicing of new ideas and skills
- Professional networking
- Sharing resources and experiences
- Discussion and brainstorming solutions to challenges faced in the field.

Who should attend?

VPK providers, directors, teachers and administrators who would like an opportunity to network with other

professionals in early childhood education.

Who do you contact for more information on Learning Circles?

Your local VPK Regional Facilitator organizes and facilitates the Learning Circles. You can find contact information for your regional facilitator on the OEL website at <http://bit.ly/2h2of1D>.

	November Participants	Total Participants for
Face-to-Face	225	1316
Web-based	27	330

The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out. ~ Bill Gates Sr.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online Courses	November	Total Completers for
Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners	86	880
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	210	1940
Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors	366	2417
VPK Director Credential Course	70	637
Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom	71	585
English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom	48	412

Florida's Office of Early Learning in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) offers a variety of online and instructor-led training opportunities. To register for any of these training opportunities, please visit DCF's training website at <http://bit.ly/2qbd7Q5>.

Instructor-led courses	November Classes	November Participants	Total Participants for
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	1	7	101
Integrating the Standards: Phonological	3	7	284
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	1	9	425
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	2	9	315
*EMEL: Making Sense of Sets and Numbers	17	179	987
*EMEL: Counting and Operating with Numbers	12	120	223
*EMEL: Patterns, Measurement and Data	5	35	49
*EMEL: Shapes and Spatial Relationships	3	23	23

*EMEL– Early Mathematics for Early Learners