

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, Inc.

www.elcfh.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Prepare your child for kindergarten with VPK!

On April 7, 2010, an article ran in the **Highlands Today** regarding Florida's Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program (VPK). For families interested in VPK, it is important to note that the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, Inc. (ELCFH) is the official source for the listing of state certified VPK providers in Highlands County. Families are able to obtain a copy of this list which has the contact information for certified private child care providers and school-based programs by calling the ELCFH at (863) 314-9213.

VPK is available to all four year old children who live in Florida and will be starting kindergarten in the following school year. The ELCFH is currently issuing certificates for eligible children to enroll in the summer VPK program. Parents with children who turn five on or before September 1, 2010 and have not yet attended VPK are encouraged to contact the ELCFH for a certification appointment. Parents will be required to submit proof of residency and child's age.

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, Inc. is to support families and children in accessing high quality early care and education services via School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs. The ELCFH also serves as a point of access to resources and referrals for health care and family support services.



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