



Policy Snapshot: SR/ VPK Curriculum / Character Development Requirement and Monitor

This policy provides guidelines to help SR and VPK providers select or develop a curriculum that will meet the standards required by law for SR and VPK programs.

Providers have their choice of a single developmentally appropriate curriculum that includes character development or a combination of more than one curricula or provider created curricula.

Subject: SR/VPK Provider Curriculum/Character Development Requirement and Monitor 4.3.1 and 4.3.2		Policy/ Procedure # SR/ VPK-04
Page: 1 of 3	Adoption Date: 12-20-06	Revision Date: 6.2.09 (corrections and formatting only)
Approved by: ELCFH Board	Title: Andrew Bible, Chair	

Distribution: All VPK Client Services Policy/Procedure Manuals, ELCFH Analysts
Authority References: ELCFH Board, Federal and State Statutes

I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish specific expectations for use of developmentally appropriate curriculum and character development by all School Readiness and Voluntary PreKindergarten Providers serving SR and VPK children, in Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee and Highland counties.

II. **REVIEW HISTORY:** This policy supports the December 2004 Voluntary Pre- kindergarten Education Program legislation and supersedes any former monitoring practices.

III. **CONTACT:** Anne Bouhebert, Executive Director.

IV. **PERSONS AFFECTED:** SR/ VPK Education and Eligibility Staff; and all Early Learning Providers serving SR/VPK children, including licensed, license-exempt and family child care providers.

V. **POLICY:** This policy sets minimum standards for compliance of offering a developmentally appropriate curriculum and character development component of all School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Providers serving SR and VPK children.

VI. **RATIONALE:** State law requires School Readiness and Voluntary PreKindergarten providers meet specific standards and responsibilities. Providers sign the Statewide Provider Agreement with the Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Heartland, and agree to meet those standards and responsibilities.

VII. **CROSS REFERENCES:** Chapters 402.301 – 402.319 and Chapter 1002.51-79 of the Florida Statutes; Rule 60BB-8.100-300, Florida Administrative Code, the “State of Florida Voluntary PreKindergarten Education Program Statewide Provider Agreement”, and all policies issued by the Agency for Workforce Innovations on the VPK program.

VIII. DEFINITIONS:

“**Coalition**” refers to the Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Heartland (ELCFH) which is responsible for Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee and Highland counties.

“**Provider**” means the individual or facility responsible for the provision of Voluntary PreKindergarten services.

“**SR**” means School Readiness Education Program as referenced in Chapter 411.01, Florida Statute

“**VPK**” means Voluntary PreKindergarten Education Program pursuant to Chapter 1002, Part V, Florida Statutes

IX. PROCEDURES:

GENERAL

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM/CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

1. All Early Learning directors and teachers, providing SR and VPK services, are required to select and adhere to a developmentally appropriate curriculum and including a character development component, which is based on research and follows the appropriate Florida School Readiness Standards for each respective age group.
 - Florida Birth to Three Learning and Developmental Standards for infants and toddlers;
 - The Florida Standards for Preschool (VPK) children; and
 - The Florida School Readiness Performance Standards for 3, 4 and 5 year old children.
2. The VPK provider attests, in the VPK Provider Agreement that their selected curriculum and character development component is developmentally appropriate and is aligned with the appropriate VPK standards. Ongoing mentoring and monitoring visits are conducted by the Coalition staff to ensure that providers are following their agreement and developmentally appropriate practice. If questions arise concerning any chosen curriculum as to its alignment with the Standards and developmentally appropriate practice, the training and technical assistance assigned to the provider will consult with the provider to review the criteria, re-evaluate the curricula and provide appropriate guidance and/or resources specialist.
3. In addition, parents, providers, or monitoring staff who question the also request developmental appropriateness of observed classroom teaching or activities may a formal review to determine whether or not the curriculum used by the provider follows the approved VPK Standards.
4. When a request is made to the Coalition for review and approval of a curriculum for this purpose, the Coalition Executive Director will immediately convene a workgroup to review the proposed curriculum and character development against the criteria below, and make a formal recommendation to the ELCFH Board for approval or disapproval. The workgroup must have not less than 3 participants and no more than 7 participants. The ELCFH Board will then render a written decision to the requestor within 45 days of submission for review.

Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum/VPK State Approved Curriculums

Providers have their choice of developmentally appropriate curriculum along with a character development component, or a combination of curricula, or provider created curricula, to use in their School Readiness and VPK Programs.

Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

- Montessori*
- Reggio Emilia-Emergent Curriculum*
- Beyond Centers and Circle Time (includes Beyond Cribs and Rattles)
- High Scope
- Active Learning Series
- Kindness Curriculum*
- Peaceable Classroom
- Wee Learn*
- Creative Curriculum*
- Sparkle & Shine*
- Open Court
- Kelly Bear Series (Character Development only)

* denotes a character development component is included

DOE Recommended Curriculum for VPK Programs

- Beyond Centers and Circle Time
- Creative Curriculum
- Developmental Learning Materials (DLM)
- Wee Learn
- High Scope
- Doors to Discovery
- Kaplan Guide to Literacy
- Let's Begin with Letter Dolls
- Links to Literacy
- School Literacy Express
- Scholastic Early Child
- Literacy Express