

2025-2026
VPK PARENTS

YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO
RE-ENROLL YOUR STUDENT
FOR KINDERGARTEN AT KMS

ENROLLMENT WILL
ROLL OVER TO KMS
OVER THE SUMMER

There will be a Student
Update of Information
Form pushed out in the
FOCUS Parent Portal on the
Second Day of the
2026-2027 School Year.

Join us with QR Code below for
your chance to win a
\$50 Visa Gift Card
must be present to win



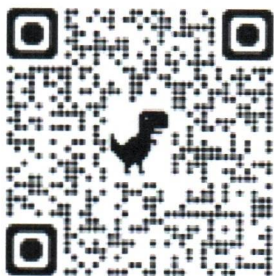
Join New Worlds Reading and
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium for a

Family Fun Night

HAVE FUN WHILE:

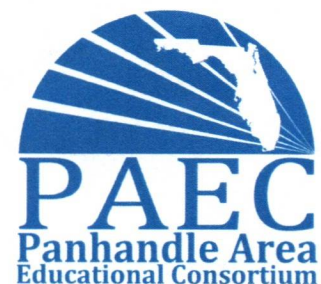
- Learning strategies, tips, and tools to support your child's reading development!
- **Enjoying a FREE MEAL and BOOK for registered participants.**
- Participating in reading activities

Pre-register with the QR code:



APRIL
20
Monday
5:00 pm

Washington County VPK Center
734 Sinclair St, Chipley, FL 32428





**new
worlds
reading**

UF Lastinger Center for Learning
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SCHOLASTIC

Help kids build reading skills

Florida offers families a completely free reading program to help VPK – 5th graders improve their literacy skills and spark a lifelong love of reading. There's no income requirement to participate!

Enrolled students get special deliveries addressed to them with:

- 9 books that they choose each school year.
- Reading activities that help build literacy skills.

Books are available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, or braille.

Has your child ever needed extra reading support? Apply and see if they qualify! If they become eligible in the future, they'll automatically begin receiving books and activities.

Apply today:
newworldsreading.com
to see if your child qualifies



VPK, PM3 and Me!

If you have a child in Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK), they will soon take the final VPK progress monitoring, known as PM3, of the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Star Early Literacy. FAST Star Early Literacy is administered three times during the VPK school year and is a quick way to see what early literacy and numeracy skills your child has gained, what they are ready to learn next and whether they are ready for kindergarten.

In Florida, children who score 707 or higher on FAST Star Early Literacy at the end of VPK are considered ready for kindergarten. If your child scores as kindergarten ready, encourage them to keep up the good work! Continue to play and read with your child to keep them on solid ground and avoid the “summer slide.” If your child is not yet kindergarten ready, there is still time and there are plenty of resources to help before they enter kindergarten.

Play and read with your child.

Check out the Division of Early Learning’s online resources (<https://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/families.html>) and select an age group to see examples of activities you can do with your child to help them develop important skills they need to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Register your child for more support.

Depending on your child’s score on PM3 of FAST Star Early Literacy, your child may be eligible for:

- Free books through the New Worlds Reading Initiative (<https://www.newworldsreading.com/en/>)
- Scholarships through Step Up for Students (<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/scholarships/new-worlds-scholarship-accounts/>)
- Additional instruction through your school district’s Summer Bridge program

*Review the FAST Star Early Literacy Parent Report from your child’s VPK teacher for more information.

Reach out if you have concerns. If you have concerns about your child’s development, speak with your child’s doctor and reach out to a Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Child Find Specialist (<https://www.fdlrs.org/child-find>) to arrange a screening. Early intervention services can make a significant difference.

For more information about FAST Star Early Literacy, please visit our website (<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/providers/fast-star-earlit.stml>) or email us at vpkfast@del.fldoe.org .

How to Facilitate a Smooth Transition to Kindergarten

Multiple large-scale research studies have found that establishing transition activities for children and families are associated with reduced stress and higher social-emotional competence at the beginning of school year. Communities, schools and educators who follow the best practices outlined in this tip sheet can help their students grow academically and increase family involvement in a child's education.

How to achieve smooth transitions

Evidence points to these important factors:

- Positive relationships for children and families with their new elementary schools
- A transition team of preschool and kindergarten administrators and educators, families and community members
- Assessments, learning standards and curriculum that align between early childhood and kindergarten settings
- Joint professional development between early childhood and kindergarten educators
- Information and communication that is shared with families and the community at large

Use three core principles:

- Approach transition collaboratively
- Involve all key stakeholders in the process
- Align children's experiences between preschool and kindergarten settings

How to start: six steps to successful transition planning

1. Establish partnerships, identify transition team members and designate leaders.
2. Identify goals.
3. Assess current transition practices used in your community.
4. Identify the data or evidence you have for practices that are or are not working.
5. Plan and prioritize: reevaluate goals or create new ones and plan appropriate next steps.
6. Implement and evaluate your plan.

Additional strategies to support transitions

Connecting with Children and Families

- The children and families in your setting want to know—what will kindergarten be like? Introduce children to the kindergarten classroom, the school environment, the new routines and their new teacher.
- Involve families throughout the transition.

Connecting with Schools

- Collaborate with kindergarten and early education staff to identify goals for children. Share information about children's progress and additional support services they may receive.
- Help kindergarten educators become familiar with incoming students, for example by planning events and opportunities for students to visit their new school (classroom visits, family events, etc.).
- Encourage alignment between the early learning setting and kindergarten—the environments, curricula, assessments and interactions.
- Be informed about school policies and procedures to help families understand decisions that may be made about placements and services for their child.

Connecting with Community

- Use resources within the community to support continuity in the transition process.



This content is provided by the Florida Department of Education.

Showing Up for Success:

Attendance Tips

Young children who are frequently absent from school miss out on friendships, learning activities and shared experiences needed for a sense of belonging and success. Scientific studies show that missing just a couple days of school every two weeks can add stress and make it harder for a child to learn and develop the skills to be successful in class. Unfortunately, 1 out of 10 children miss more than a month of school each year.

If your child has chronic attendance issues, you can use these tips to build good attendance habits:

- Setting a regular early bedtime and establishing bedtime routines will help provide your child with the rest needed to approach each day ready for success.
- Bedtime routines may include baths, brushing teeth, reading a book and should allow plenty of time for children to prepare for bed.
- Reading with children or playing soft music before bedtime quiets and calms children allowing them to fall asleep more easily. It is suggested that children avoid the use of electronic devices before bedtime.
- Establish morning routines. Families should set their alarm clocks for the same time each day to allow adequate time to complete morning routines and reduce unnecessary stress.
- Allow time for the unexpected. Have clothes, lunch and backpacks ready the night before, and get up with plenty of time to get to school.
- If you need assistance dropping off or picking up your child, ask family members, neighbors or other parents to lend a hand. Be sure to check the school's security policy in advance.
- If frequent stomachaches or headaches are keeping your child out of school, the cause could be stress or conflict. If your child seems nervous about going to school, speak with a teacher or counselor for advice on how to make them feel comfortable.
- Ask for help when you need it. School staff, after-school program providers, other families or community agencies are there to help you and address obstacles to attending school.

For Children Starting Kindergarten, the Transition Matters!

Starting preschool or kindergarten is a transition full of big and small changes for young children. With your help, this transition can be a positive experience that gives your child (and you!) a sense of self-confidence and accomplishment.

9 Practical Tips to Help Your Child Transition to Kindergarten

- 1.** Give your child fun opportunities to spend time away from you, with other adults and children.
- 2.** Talk about school in positive ways. Share some of your happy memories about starting school.
- 3.** Regularly set aside time for your child to practice skills such as counting, learning the letters in their name or using scissors. See the tip sheet "What Your Child Needs to Know to be Ready for Kindergarten" for a quick reference of additional skills.
- 4.** Read books with your child and talk about the pictures and the story.
- 5.** Encourage your child's independence by giving simple directions and letting them complete tasks on their own.
- 6.** Take a trip to kindergarten! Playing on the playground, touring the building and finding the bath-rooms can help reduce anxiety about starting school.
- 7.** With your child, select and read a book from the Transition to Kindergarten Booklist and discuss any feelings, questions or concerns about kindergarten.
- 8.** Speak with your child about morning routines, including how will they be transported to school.
- 9.** Take part in a free summer library program or another community activity to help you and your child learn and socialize with others before school starts.



Language and Literacy

- Communicates clearly with peers and adults
- Listens for personal understanding
- Follows two-step directions
- Speaks clearly, in complete sentences
- Continually increasing the understanding and use of new vocabulary words
- Uses age-appropriate grammar (e.g., *possessive pronouns, plurals, past tense*)
- Continually uses extended sentences
- Ask and answers questions
- Enjoys looking at and reading books, both independently and with others
- Understands how to care for a book
- Can retell a story
- Can identify letters
- Can separate compound words into two separate words
- Can combine two words to create a new compound word
- Can separate or combine syllables and words
- Names most letters (*upper case and lower case*)
- Can write own name



Mathematical Thinking

- Recognized sets of objects without counting (*subitizing*)
- Counts to 31
- Manipulates sets (*counting objects, separating and combining sets*)
- Creates simple patterns using different objects
- Can identify, describe and create basic shapes (*circle, square, rectangle and triangle*)
- Uses terms such as besides, below, next to, behind and under to describe the location of an object



Scientific Inquiry

- Identifies and utilizes all five senses
- Uses various technologies to support exploration and learning
- Understands the difference between and observes living things and non-living things
- Makes predictions about how an environment can change an object (e.g., *water, wind, temperature*)

What Your Child Needs to Know to be Ready for Kindergarten

Make the most of the time before kindergarten by using the *Florida Early Learning Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten*. This quick reference sheet can be used as a guide as you help prepare your child for kindergarten success and beyond. This list contains suggested skills or abilities, but should not be considered fully comprehensive of all possible skills and abilities a five-year-old child should possess.



Social and Emotional Development

- Recognizes and responds with compassion when peers are upset
- Can communicate feelings and emotions
- Has positive relationships with peers and adults
- Plays well with others
- Can problem solve with peers and adults
- Can describe personal characteristics (e.g., hair color, age, gender)



Physical Development

- Demonstrates physical play, direction and spatial awareness (e.g., running, jumping, balancing, riding a tricycle)
- Eats and drinks without assistance
- Attends to personal hygiene



Creative Expression Through the Arts

- Enjoys participating in musical activities (e.g., dance, singing, playing instruments)
- Uses drawing, painting, or other form of art to express thoughts, feelings, and experiences.



Social Studies

- Identifies themselves as an individual and how they are different from others
- Understands the use of rules within the family and classroom
- Understands the use of geographic resources (e.g., globes, maps or GPS)
- Understands the role of community workers



Approaches to Learning

- Demonstrates curiosity, eagerness and persistence to a task
- Shows creativity, inventiveness, reflection and planning for a new task