



# Children's Center

*“Life is full of blessings  
when you share it with a child”*

Fall  
2018/  
Spring  
2019

Florida's Voluntary Pre Kindergarten or VPK gives children a jump start by preparing them for school and enhancing their pre-reading, pre-math, language and social skills. VPK helps children develop the skills needed to become strong readers and students at an early age. VPK classrooms offer high-quality programs that include high literacy standards, developmentally appropriate curricula, manageable class sizes, and qualified teachers. Early Learning Collision (ELC) requires strict teacher student ratios with no more than eleven children to one qualified VPK teacher.

If you live in the state of Florida and have a child who turns four and was born between September 2, 2013 and September 1, 2014, your child is eligible for the free 2018-2019 VPK Program. The school year program includes 540 hours of instructional time and begins in August and usually ends in May or early June.

## **Benefits of early education and the VPK program**

- The most important growth and development in the brain happens by the age of five.
- The early years are the learning years. A child's ability to be attentive and to follow directions emerges in the early years. Structured early learning fosters these abilities for later success in school and in life.
- Pre-K prepares children to be ready for school. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs develop better language skills, score higher in school-readiness tests and have better social skills and fewer behavioral problems once they enter school. They are also better prepared for Kindergarten, especially in the areas of pre-reading, pre-math and social skills.
- Pre-K promotes a love of learning in children. Pre-K enhances what a child learns at home and instills a love of life-long learning.



VPK Parents:

To register your child for the **2018 Summer Program** which begins in June 2018 your child must be born between: September 2, 2012 and September 1, 2013.

To register your child for the **2018-19 School Year Program** which begins August 2018 your child must be born between: September 2, 2013 and September 1, 2014.

Parents must apply online at the following link: <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>

You may use any of the following to assist you in your online application: Public School System, a VPK Program Provider or at the Early Learning Coalition.

When applying online you will need to follow the procedures below:

1. Create your account.
2. Activate your account.
3. Complete application.
4. Upload documentation, see list below of acceptable documents below.
5. Submit application.
6. Once application is approved you will then log back into your account and print your Certificate of Eligibility which will be taken it to the VPK Program Provider you have selected for your child.
7. Contact your selected VPK Program Provider to find out what their process is for their program.



**Note:** You must upload the two required documents before your application is complete for you to be able to submit your application.

#### **Documentation that will be acceptable are:**

##### **Proof of birth:**

- a. Child's Birth Certificate Florida
- b. Up to date shot record or physical (*signed by doctor/nurse*)
- c. U.S. Passport
- d. Valid child's military ID
- e. Certified copy of Child's Certificate of Baptism
- f. Life Insurance for child within 2 years



##### **Proof of Florida Residency:**

- a. Current Utility Bill
- b. Current Pay Stub
- c. Current Property Tax
- d. Military Orders
- e. Rental Lease (must have landlord's signature)
- f. Valid driver's license or state ID card with current address

**Note:** Documentation should be in parent's name. If parent does not have documentation listed in their name they should contact Hope Wilson, VPK Eligibility Coordinator for other documentation that may be used for residency by parent.

The Early Learning Coalition will review your online application, and once your application has been approved you will receive an email instructing you to log back into your account to print your Certificate of Eligibility to take to VPK Program Provider you have selected for your child. We cannot give you a time frame that your application will be ready. You can check your status from your portal account at <https://familyservices.earlylearning.com>.

*If you need assistance VPK walk-in hours are: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00AM - 3:00PM*

Contact person: Hope Wilson, VPK Eligibility Coordinator (850)607-8556 email: [hwilson@elcescambia.org](mailto:hwilson@elcescambia.org)

# **Directions for applying on line for VPK**

*(To register your child, he or she must be born between September 2, 2013 and September 1, 2014.)*

1. Contact St. Christopher's to reserve your spot in the Fall 2018 classroom. This may be done by contacting Ms. Samantha Cook or Ms. Allison.
2. Go to <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com> (or you may apply in person at the Early Learning Coalition)
3. Create an account.
4. Activate your account.
5. Complete application.
6. Upload documentation. (see other page)
7. Once your application has been approved, you will receive an email informing you your application has been approved. Next, you may log back into your account to print your Certificate of Eligibility. Once printed, please take your certificate to St. Christopher's Children's Center, and give it to the director. **Please make sure the certificate is signed by the parent who filled out the certificate.**

Please note, **Applications need to be submitted by the parent that child lives with** regardless if they live with someone else. If parent is in the home, application must be submitted by parent not the grandparent or other relatives.

If you need assistance VPK walk-in hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.—3 p.m. and your contact person is Hope Wilson, VPK Eligibility Coordinator (850) 607-8556 or email [hwilson@elcescambia.org](mailto:hwilson@elcescambia.org).

The Escambia Coalition is located 3300 North Pace Blvd.