

## Staying Kindergarten-Ready through Summer

By Amanda Moore, Northeast VPK Regional Facilitator



Illustration by The Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop

**The end of the VPK school year is approaching fast**, and, as we celebrate gains, it is important to continue providing activities to help children maintain learned skills over the summer. Whether children are participating in camp or spending time with family, there are many authentic opportunities to showcase and extend kindergarten-readiness. Here are a few ideas for teachers and families to help avoid summer “brain drain.”

- 1. Measure everything.** Fill a plastic bag or container with measuring tape, cups, spoons, egg timer, stop watch, etc. Don't worry about over planning – children will be eager to discover their own ways of finding out “how long” or “how much” for any activity!
- 2. Invent something.** Gather string, tape, scissors, staplers, boxes, tubes, plastic bags, junk mail, clothespins, and anything else you can find or recycle. Let their imagination do the rest.
- 3. Make the most of drive time.** Create a scavenger hunt list of things on your route: field of cows, large flag, pond, yellow car, etc. Play the alphabet game, taking turns to find A-Z on road/business signs or vehicles.
- 4. Embed reading and math.** Encourage children to read and count things for you such as recipes or map directions. Document summer activities, wish lists, or hopes and fears about kindergarten in a special notebook. Sort dishes and laundry. Provide a calendar to count down the days to kindergarten.
- 5. Establish routines early.** Don't wait until the week before the first day of school to enforce bedtime. Model how to lay out clothing for the next day, set an alarm clock, or sing Happy Birthday three times while washing hands. Allow 10 minutes of quiet reading time in bed before “lights out.”

You invest a lot in preparing children for kindergarten; we hope you use some of these ideas to keep learning lasting over the summer.

### RULES

#### [Open for Development](#)

6M-8.204, Uniform Attendance Policy for Funding the VPK Program

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

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

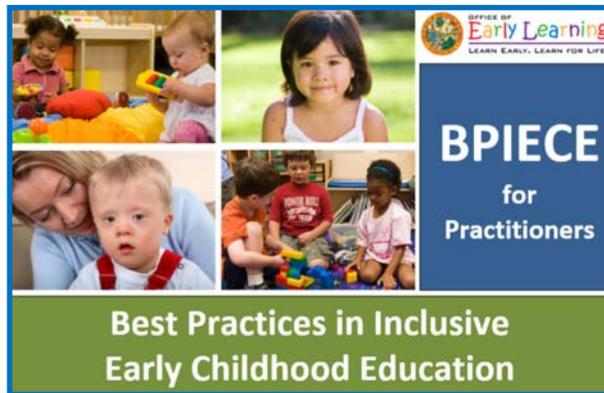
<http://bit.ly/2gkcQIN>

## How would you rate yourself when it comes to practicing inclusiveness in your early learning setting? Find out with this self-assessment tool!

Developed for early learning practitioners who work directly with young children birth to 5, this voluntary self-assessment tool helps you identify your areas of strengths and your priorities when serving children with special needs. The practices build on a high-quality setting that can be individualized for each child's needs. Practitioners rate themselves in seven areas and then decide which practices to focus on and improve. There are also resources for practitioners to learn more about serving children with special needs.

Questions about BPIECE? Contact the inclusion specialist at your early learning coalition or the Office of Early Learning at 1-866-357-3239.

Find the BPIECE for Practitioners in English and Spanish at [http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider\\_resources.aspx](http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_resources.aspx).



## SUMMER EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCES

**Save the Date!**



**Enhancing Our Minds... in 2017**



**FFCCHA**  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference | June 21-25, 2017  
Embassy Suites Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746

[www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org)

**2017 Summer Conference**  
One Goal: Building The Future Together  
"Putting Families And Children First"



Hilton Tampa Downtown • Tampa, Florida

**July 19, 20, 21, 2017**

[www.onegoalsummerconference.org](http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org)



## VPK LEARNING CIRCLES

### Be in the Loop!

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

- Practicing new ideas and skills.
- Professional networking.
- Sharing resources and experiences.
- Discussion and brainstorming solutions for 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 about 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/2o6PGpW>.



	April Participants	2016-17 Total Participants
Face-to-Face	360	2461
Web-based	0	342

*“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”*  
- Malala Yousafzai

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online Courses	April Completers	2016-17 Total Completers
Mathematical Thinking for Early Learners	204	1775
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	270	3084
Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors	515	4851
VPK Director Credential Course	124	1169
Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom	135	1116
English Language Learners in the VPK Classroom	105	853

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/1oHgYPm>.

Instructor-led Courses	April Classes	April Participants	2016-17 Total Participants
Standards for Four-Year-Olds	2	34	194
Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness	9	65	519
How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment	9	74	658
VPK Assessment Instructional Implications	7	36	506
*EMEL: Making Sense of Sets and Numbers	12	114	1583
*EMEL: Counting and Operating with Numbers	7	55	513
*EMEL: Patterns, Measurement and Data	6	76	316
*EMEL: Shapes and Spatial Relationships	8	84	252

\*EMEL– Early Mathematics for Early Learners