



PRE-K NEWS



Monthly Newsletter for DECP VPK Programs

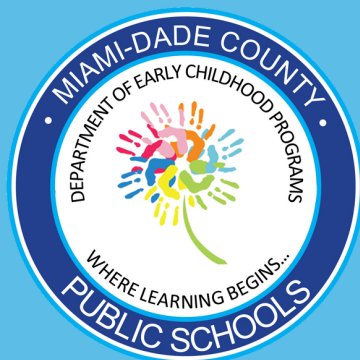
HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

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The dazzling lights in the night sky on New Year's Eve captures the attention and innate curiosity of young children. This spectacle provides an opportunity for educators and parents to integrate the excitement of fireworks into creative play experiences. From planning and creating homemade "fireworks" with colorful art materials to engaging in pretend play that mimics the sparkling patterns in the sky, children can explore the magic of this visual phenomenon. This transitional period offers a chance to emphasize the importance of resilience, adaptability, and the joy of new beginnings. From the Department of Early Childhood Programs, we wish you all the best for 2024!!!

Instructional Support-After School Sessions

In an effort to continue to stretch and strengthen our understanding of the Instructional Support Domain, our department is offering targeted virtual professional learning in January. Concept Development, Quality of Feedback and Language Modeling will be covered in depth during these sessions. Teachers will engage in an interactive review of resources, strategies, materials, and tools that will enrich students' experiences and lead to further expansion of knowledge.



How to Register

- Log into your portal.
- Click on Frontline Professional Learning Management System
- Search for Pre-K Power Hour: Instructional Support for VPK Teachers
- Sign up for the session led by your CSS

FAST PM2--Important Update

PM2: 12/7/2023 to 2/14/2024

Please check your Renaissance rosters to be sure all of your students appear in the testing platform. If you need any roster changes, students added or removed, or any other student-related issue, be sure to email Dina Westberg at Dina@dadeschools.net.

IMPORTANT!!!

VPK students **must** be given at least three (3) attempts to pass the practice items on the FAST Star Early Literacy. If a student continues to fail the items, they should be marked with a Non-Participation Status (NPS). This status may only be given after the student is provided with 3 attempts.

Small Group:

Planning and Reflecting

Reflection allows teachers to assess the experiences from that day to intentionally plan and further support the understanding of a concept. Through observing what the students **are able to do**, what they **have learned**, and what they **are curious about**, teachers can map out how to move forward. This introspective process allows teachers to take students' needs and interests into consideration to set the pace and depth of instruction while aligning to Big Day curriculum and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 Year Olds to Kindergarten.



PowerPoint Available in Curriculum Resources

F. MEASUREMENT AND DATA				
4 years-Kindergarten (48 months-Kindergarten)				
1. Measures object attributes using a variety of standard and nonstandard tools	2. Identifies measurable attributes such as length and weight and solves problems by making direct comparisons of objects	3. Seriates (places objects in sequence) up to six objects in order by height or length (e.g., cube towers or unit blocks)	4. Represents, analyzes and discusses data (e.g., charts, graphs and tallies)	5. Begins to predict the results of data collection



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Ready, Set, ENROLL

Lottery Date: **February 23, 2024**

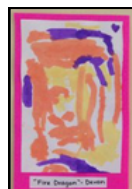
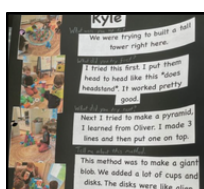
By highlighting the benefits of early childhood education, such as improved school readiness and long-term academic success, VPK enrollment strategies aim to engage families in recognizing the value of joining the MDCPS-VPK Family. Emphasizing the nurturing and knowledgeable staff, standards-based experiences, and a safe learning environment can reassure families and encourage them to enroll their children, ensuring a positive start to their educational journey.



Enrollment Toolkit with Promotional Strategies will be available in Weekly Briefing forthcoming.

Showcasing VPK Play in a Child-Centered Way

Displaying early childhood student work is a powerful way to celebrate individual achievements and nurture a supportive atmosphere that values each child's unique contributions. It provides opportunities for communication and collaboration, as students can share their projects with their classmates, teachers, and parents. Their work can also be used as a reference or springboard for new ideas or extension of previously learned concepts.



Support & PD Blast!

- **1/19 - For ALL VPK Teachers**
 - Co-Teaching in VPK-The Can-Do Approach (PLMS - Frontline Education)
 - Fostering Growth-Data Analysis in VPK (PLMS - Frontline Education)
 - Instructional Planning in VPK (PLMS - Frontline Education)
 - Quality Interactions in VPK (PLMS - Frontline Education)
 - Language Development through Songs and Fingerplays in VPK (PLMS - Frontline Education)
- **Targeted Sessions-Pre-K Power Hour:** Instructional Support for VPK Teachers (CSS) (PLMS - Frontline Education)

For questions contact **Judy Palenzuela** at jpalenzuela@dadeschools.net

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

Let's all join in on 2024 Celebrate Literacy Week Florida scheduled for January 22-26, 2024. Mark your calendars for a simultaneous reading activity on Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. to read **The Little Butterfly That Could** and teach your young learners persistence and resilience.



Access resources and activities for The Butterfly That Could **HERE**



Waterford
Learning Together Calendar
Click to Download for Families
English PDF
Spanish PDF



Fingerplay Corner



Five Bright Fireworks

Ask students to think five colors (shapes).

Five bright fireworks bursting in the sky,
The **blue** one flew up and went so high!
The girls said, "Oooh!" and
The boys said, "Oh my!"

And the bright **blue** firework fell from the sky.

Repeat using other colors (shapes).
Provoke students to think of ways they can add movement, sounds, or incorporate props.

New Year's Reading



Below is a collection of books to help ring in the new year and expose children to literacy during the month of January.

- **Feast for 10** by Cathryn Falwell
- **Peter's Chair** by Ezra Jack Keats
- **The Colors of Us** by Karen Katz
- **What I Like About Me!** by Allia Zobel Nolan
- **Who's in My Family?** by Robie H. Harris
- **You Matter** by Christian Robinson

DECP

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