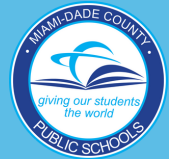




PRE-K NEWS

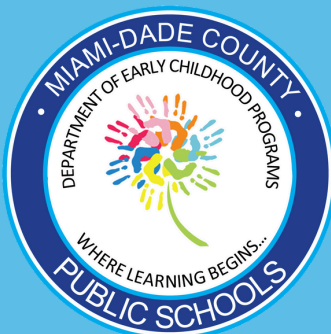


Monthly Newsletter for DECP VPK Programs

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- Pretend Play in VPK
- F.A.S.T. PM1-Next Steps
- 2026-2027 VPK Application Window
- Routines and Structure In VPK
- Fingerplay Corner
- Instructional Support Teacher Tips
- Jumpstart's Read for the Record
- Attendance Requirements
- Ready Rosie
- Vision Screening
- Waterford
- Support & PL Blast!
- Learning Together Calendar

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Pretend play in early childhood classrooms is a vital component of learning and development, fostering creativity, social skills, and problem-solving abilities. Through imaginative scenarios, children explore different roles and perspectives, enhancing their communication and cooperation with peers. This form of play not only stimulates cognitive growth but also helps children process their emotions and experiences in a safe environment. By incorporating elements like costumes, props, and thematic areas, educators create rich opportunities for children to engage in meaningful, hands-on learning that supports their overall development.

F.A.S.T. PM 1--Next Steps

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) using Star Early Literacy, Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1) was administered from **8/14-9/26**. As outlined in [Weekly Briefing # 48435](#) Pre-K teachers should begin scheduling parent-teacher conferences to discuss the **Star Parent Report**. Parent-teacher conferences should be completed **by 10/24** and documented using the [VPK Parent Report and Conference Log](#). Any VPK student who has not completed FAST testing must be assessed, as soon as they appear in the Renaissance platform, even though the PM1 window has closed. Student data is essential for identifying individual strengths and areas for academic growth. While Progress Monitoring Plans (PMPs) are not required at this time, teachers should begin providing targeted support for students who scored in the red category (below the 10th percentile).



All students who score below the 40th Percentile Ranking **OR** are exempt from taking FAST Star Early Literacy are eligible for the **New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI)** Book Distribution. Each month during the school year, eligible children receive a free book tailored to their interests.

[Click language to share information with families](#)

Families can apply today:

[ENGLISH](#)

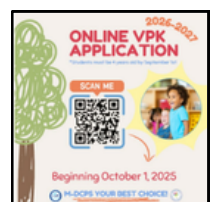
[HAITIAN-CREOLE](#)

[SPANISH](#)

2026-2027 VPK Application Window

Opens October 1st

The 2026-2027 school year Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program Lottery and Registration site will open for new applications beginning Wednesday, October 1, 2025. This marks an important step in welcoming new families into our programs and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to start school ready to learn. Thank you for continuing to support families through this process and for the vital role you play in helping children begin their educational journey with confidence.



Briefing # 48806

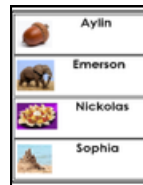
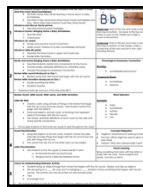
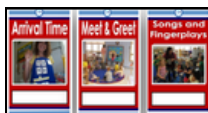
[Online VPK Application Toolkit](#)

How Structure And Routines Support Student Engagement

A well-structured early childhood classroom, built upon consistent routines, is essential in young children's development. It provides a sense of security, promotes self-regulation, and maximizes learning opportunities by creating a predictable environment where children can thrive and confidently navigate their day-to-day activities.

Key Elements of a Structured Classroom:

- **Visual Schedule**--Daily Routine cards should be at eye-level and as segments of the day are completed, cards should be removed to show the passing of time.
- **Defined and Organized Centers**--This allows children to explore independently to gather the materials needed for their plan while still having clear boundaries.
- **Classroom Helpers**--Throughout the day, students should all help to make the classroom run efficiently. Students should be doing a majority of the tasks with support from adults if needed.
- **Flexible Seating**--While students can sit in a way that supports their autonomy, the goal is for them to be engaged in the lesson. Small groups should be assigned but there is freedom in where the students sit at small group.



Concept Development:

- Intentionally sustain interactions that deepen and expand understanding.
- Connect new information to what they have already learned or experienced.

Quality of Feedback:

- Focus on the process of learning rather than getting the "right answer."
- Provide specific information to help clarify incorrect responses.

Language Modeling:

- Encourage children to talk to one another.
- Connect new vocabulary to familiar words...make it relatable.

Attendance Reminder

All VPK Providers are required to complete a VPK Child Attendance and Parental Choice Certificate (Long Form) for every VPK student, every month. A parent must sign the form in **BLUE INK** no later than the 5th day of the following month. Additionally, a monthly electronic attendance record must be printed from PF7 in DSIS and attached to each student's form. All forms must be stored in the school's office and retained for five years for audit purposes. Each school should designate a staff member, assigned by the principal, to be responsible for preparing these forms monthly.



[Click here for Briefing #48406](#)

Ready Rosie

We are Ready for Rosie!! Before sending out family invitations, parents will need to fill out and sign the ReadyRosie Family Invite Letter. These are available in English, Spanish, and Creole. Once families opt-in and are added to the ReadyRosie portal by the teacher, they will begin to receive Modeled Moment videos of parent/child interactions.

Must be maintained in the classroom to verify parental consent.



[Click here for Briefing #48610](#)



Vision Screening

REMINDER!!! Vision Screenings are to be completed by the end of October for all VPK students using the [Prekindergarten Screenings Consent \(FM-5490\)](#) signed by parents during registration. Vision Screening guidance may be found in Schoolology/Curriculum Resources under Pre-K/VPK/HEALTH SCREENINGS. Contact your CSS with any questions.



New Teacher Trainings

- **October 2-** Math 1 & 2 (All Teachers)
- **October 2-** CLASS - Concept Development AND Quality of Feedback (Veteran Teachers)
- **November 3-** Math 1 & 2 (Veteran teachers ONLY)
- **November 3-** CLASS Overview (New Teachers ONLY)



Waterford



Our department is happy to introduce our new Waterford Support Consultant, Ms. Marian Surriel. Check out the new Waterford [Padlet Link](#) that includes Waterford guidance and resources to support your implementation of Waterford in your classroom and at home.



Marian Surriel



A friendly reminder that students should **only access Waterford through Clever**, our secure MDCPS system.

Learning Together Calendar



[Click to Download for Families](#)

[English PDF](#)

[Spanish PDF](#)

Fingerplay Corner

Pumpkin, Pumpkin (Chant)



**Pumpkin, pumpkin
Big and round**



**I'm glad you live upon the ground.
I'm glad you don't live in a tree.**

**Because if you did,
You'd fall down on me.**

Encourage students to use their bodies to show how big and round their pumpkin is. Use the parallel talk strategy to narrate the ways students act out the chant.

Jumpstart's Read for the Record 20th Anniversary

October 13, 2025 - February 26, 2026

In honor of its 20th anniversary, Jumpstart's **Read for the Record** will expand into a special 20-week celebration. This extended event will invite educators, families, children, authors, and others to engage with the program's rich literary legacy. The celebration will begin on **October 13, 2025**, and will conclude with the annual **Read for the Record Day** on **February 26, 2026**.

[Click for Details](#)



SHARE YOUR CLASSROOM'S LOVING ACTIVITIES BY SENDING PICTURES TO NABREU@DADESCHOOLS.NET

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