



New VPK literacy training course requirements announced

PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Florida law now requires every prekindergarten classroom to have at least one prekindergarten instructor who has completed three five-hour emergent literacy training courses.

Prior to the passage of House Bill (HB) 419 and HB 7011 in 2021, only one emergent literacy training course was required. **Continuing prekindergarten instructors, who have already completed one approved five-hour emergent literacy training course, must complete two additional approved courses. Any new prekindergarten instructors must take all three classes.**

This legislative change became effective on July 1, 2021. The Department of Education, Division of Early Learning (DEL), has officially given notice of this new requirement, and has identified ten approved emergent literacy training courses that meet this requirement.

Given the importance of this training, DEL is setting a deadline of July 1, 2022, for all prekindergarten providers to meet this requirement. **The Early Learning Coalition will be unable to initiate a contract with any VPK Provider that does not meet this new requirement.**

After completing the first three emergent literacy courses, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) instructors must complete one emergent literacy course every five years.

Instructors will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) upon completion of each course, and the completed courses will be added on the instructor's training transcript.

VPK instructors are encouraged to begin taking the emergent literacy courses in order to complete the three five-hour emergent

literacy course requirement by July 1, 2022.

[HERE](#) is a list of the dates and availability of approved literacy courses. The courses highlighted below were offered previously, but have been updated.

Any provider taking these courses after the dates listed below may count those hours. If the course was taken prior to the dates listed, the provider will need to retake the course or choose another option:

- *Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (5 hours) (July 1, 2018)*
- *Language and Vocabulary in the VPK Classroom (5 hours) (July 1, 2020)*
- *Preschool Language Development (20 hours) (March 19, 2018)*
- *The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy (20 hours) (January 7, 2019)*

We are available to assist VPK Providers/Teachers with this process. If you have any questions, please contact your VPK Contract Specialist Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.



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