

Questions to Ask When Selecting a VPK Provider

Every VPK program is different. Use these questions to compare providers and find a setting that meets your family's needs and helps your child feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

 **PROGRAM
DETAILS**

- What days & hours is VPK offered?
- Do you offer extended care?
- Do you have a program calendar that shows holidays & closures?
- What are the drop-off and pickup times?

 **CLASSROOM
EXPERIENCE**

- How many VPK classrooms do you have?
- What is the student-to-teacher ratio?
- What curriculum do you use?
- What does a typical day look like, including play and outdoor time?

 **QUALITY
INFORMATION**

- What are the lead VPK teacher's credentials?
- What is your VPK Performance Designation?
- Does your program hold a Gold Seal accreditation?

*Not sure what these quality indicators mean?
Learn more on the next page.*

 **HEALTH, SAFETY &
COMMUNICATION**

- What safety and emergency procedures are in place?
- Are meals or snacks provided?
- How do you communicate with families about progress or concerns?

 **Check licensing
information**

Before enrolling, use **Florida's Child Care Provider Search** to confirm the provider's licensing information and review recent inspection records.

 **Does your child need
additional support?**

For more information about VPK Specialized Instructional Services (VPK SIS) for children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), contact us at info@elcsarasota.org.

Understanding VPK Quality Information

Quality information can help you compare VPK providers, but no single score tells the whole story. Consider these measures alongside what you observe during a visit and what matters most to your family.

CLASS[®] SCORES

CLASS[®] is an observation tool that measures the quality of interactions between teachers and children. It focuses on three areas: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. These interactions can shape how children feel, participate, communicate, and learn in the classroom.

[View Local CLASS[®] Scores >](#)

VPK PERFORMANCE METRIC & DESIGNATION

Each year, Florida's Division of Early Learning (DEL) combines three measures to calculate a Performance Metric:

50% Program
Quality

30% Student
Learning Gains

20% Student
Achievement

The total score determines the provider's VPK Performance Designation: Excellent, Above Expectations, Meets Expectations, Below Expectations, or Unsatisfactory. Providers without enough eligible data are listed as Incomplete. The metric and designation apply to the VPK provider, not an individual teacher or classroom.

GOLD SEAL QUALITY CARE

A recognition from the Department of Children and Families awarded to child care programs that meet the accreditation standards of an approved accrediting agency. Participation is voluntary for programs that choose to exceed the minimum licensing standards.