

It's Okay to Play in VPK!
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
2014-2015



Very Involved Parents Calendar

V.I.P. — Very Involved Parents

Who are we? ... We are you!

VIPs are parents who support their child's learning program which is promoting positive growth and learning of all children attending Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten in Escambia County.



Your child will become excited about the VPK program when you show excitement and support. Be enthusiastic, talk with your child about all the exciting activities in VPK. Ask your child's VPK teacher about ways to support and extend this special year of learning and fun, and what educational activities you and your child can do at home. Support your child's learning.

Become a VIP! (Very Involved Parent)

Before you begin, remember:

You are your child's first and most important teacher. Every day your child is learning as you talk, play, and work together. Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience.

Your child will develop at his or her own rate; however, your involvement will promote readiness.

Your child learns by doing. Remember that play is an essential part of learning.

Your child learns best when he or she is involved in activities that are interesting and fun.

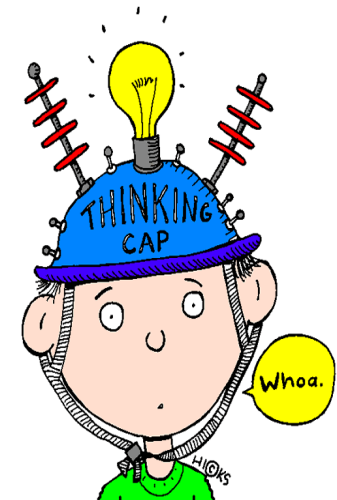


Cognitive Development

Young children construct their own understanding of concepts as they interact and work with materials, people, events, and ideas.

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...recognize and name colors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...match or sort items by color and shape?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...participate in art and music activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...understand concepts such as: in, out, over, under, on, off, front, and back?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...know his/her body parts (head, shoulder, knees, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...draw a picture of her/himself including head, body, arms, and legs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...demonstrate curiosity, persistence, and exploratory behavior?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Parents can help this process by:

- Providing age appropriate toys, that require thinking, such as puzzles, books, or sorting toys.
- Offering scraps, boxes, and other things from around the house to use for creative experiences.
- Counting objects around the house (plates and forks for the table, crackers for snacks).
- Playing games with your child using words such as :
 "Put the ball ON the chair. Get the pot from UNDER the sink."
- Playing Simon Says. Simon says, "Put your hands under your FEET. Put your hands over your HEAD."
- Allowing children to help with everyday tasks like pouring drinks, sorting laundry, etc.

August 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Read with your child DAILY	16
17	18 Talk with your child about his first day of school	19	20 Have your child draw a picture about his first week of school	21	22	23 Take your child to the library. Apply for a card, talk about proper treatment of books, and check out a few books.
24 Have your child pick out his outfit	25	26	27 Have your child set the tablet for dinner	28	29 Start a record of your child's height by marking the wall and measuring the height	30
31 Point to different body parts and see how many your child can name						



You are your child's first and most important teacher. Everyday your child is learning as you talk, play, and work together. Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience.

In order to get a library card, you will need 2 (two) forms of ID and current proof of residency (within the last 30 days). The card is free for county residents.

Health & Safety

"Children must have their basic needs for health and safety met if they are to be prepared to achieve in school." - Marian Wright Edelman

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...have a set routine and schedule for: preparing for bed (e.g., brushing teeth, taking a bath), going to sleep, and eating meals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...use good manners (e.g., closes mouth when chewing, covers nose and mouth to sneeze, washes hands after toileting and before eating)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...follow simple safety rules?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...visit the doctor and dentist regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...eat healthy foods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- Making sure your child has regular medical check-ups, up-to-date shots, and prompt medical attention, if needed
- Remembering trips to the dentist and regular tooth brushing
- Reminding your child to get rest and establishing a set bedtime
- Providing opportunities for your child to get exercise
- Modeling and encouraging healthy eating and limiting junk food
- Taking your child to swimming lessons
- Teaching simple safety rules (e.g., fire, traffic, bicycle, poisons)
- Keeping a watchful eye on your child and removing hazards from your home and outdoors
- Having home fire drills
- Practicing emergency situations that would use 911
- Alerting your child to the dangers of strangers and drugs



Information Supports Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011)

September 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Start a calendar. This will help your child learn the names of days of the week, and how many days of the week there are.	2	3 Give your child a paper plate and have your child draw a self-portrait	4	5	6 Have your child look for bugs – count how many different kinds, sizes, and colors were found
7	8	9 Listen to music and dance with your child	10	11 Give different colored socks to your child and ask him to match them	12	13 Cook a simple recipe with your child. Allow him to help you pour and measure
14	15 Make list with your child of healthy foods he'd like to try	16	17 Play a car game with your child. Have him count all the stop signs they see on the trip	18	19	20 Go on a nature walk; collect objects that can be grouped and compared
21	22	23 While at the grocery store, discuss how food gets there, who brings it	24	25 Share an evening snack, then share a bedtime story	26	27
28	29	30				



Your child will develop at his or her rate; however, your involvement will promote readiness.

Physical Development Tips

Physical development and overall good health is the foundation for every aspect of child development and learning.

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...put puzzles together?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...cut with scissors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...try to tie his/her shoes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...enjoy outdoor play such as running, climbing, and jumping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...hold a crayon or marker correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...ride a tricycle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- Taking your child to a park to play on outdoor equipment
- Allowing your child time to dress her/himself
- Providing experiences with scissors, such as cutting pictures from a magazine
- Providing opportunities to use crayons, markers, pencils, and pens
- Providing opportunities for your child to experiment with balls, tricycles, and jump ropes.



October 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Read books that rhyme, repeat, or have numbers in them. Count the animals, flowers, or trees throughout the book.	2	3 Look for patterns- anything that repeats on the rug, wallpaper, or on the furniture, and clothes. Discuss the colors, and shapes.	4
5 Make a game out of hopping on one foot, like hopscotch.	6	7 Practice galloping, skipping, and hopping with your child.	8	9 Count the number of steps it takes to walk to the corner with your child.	10	11 Take your child to a park to play
12	13 You and your child make a collage from things found around your home.	14	15 You and your child make visit to the library for a new book to share.	16	17 Take a walk or ride a bike with your child.	18
19	20 With your child count the number of doors and windows in your home.	21	22	23 Play follow-the-leader with your child.	24	25 Find different kinds of leaves lay a piece of paper over a leaf and rub the paper with a crayon.
26 Visit a pumpkin patch, talk about the different sizes of pumpkins.	27	28 Using construction paper cut out pumpkins and ghosts to decorate.	29	30 Cut open a pumpkin, pull out the seeds and toast them.	31	



When you and your child use bedtime for talking about the time you spent together and the things you did, you are creating and sharing true stories about yourselves. This helps your child learn new words and teaches her about the shape of a story, and it also helps to build your relationship.

Language Tips

The development of language abilities - listening, speaking, reading, writing - is critical to children's success throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. It is tied to everything children learn or do in school. Parents can support the development of language abilities by talking and listening carefully to children as they share their ideas and experiences.

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...talk in sentences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...follow through when you give him/her one or two directions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...use descriptive language? (tall, big, little, soft, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...sing and/or recite nursery rhymes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...pretend, create, and make up songs and stories?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...talk about everyday experiences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...ask questions about how things work in the world?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...express his/her ideas so that others understand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...recognize her/his name in print?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- Talking with your child about what interests him or her
- Using questions that have more than one answer such as: "What do you think?" or "How do you feel?"
- Playing rhyming games
- Letting your child know that what he says is important by listening, getting down on their eye level and showing interest
- Encouraging other members of the family to listen
- Encouraging your child to develop and share ideas by asking questions and offering suggestions

November 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Talk about things as you shop – use descriptions.
2	3 Read a nursery rhyme and find rhyming words (fox/box, moon/spoon, etc.)	4	5 Help your child practice writing his/her name.	6	7 Ask who, what, when, and where questions about things that are happening.	8
9 Read a Dr. Seuss book aloud with your child.	10	11 Start a “feelings” journal with your child: How he feels today.	12	13 Tell a story – ask your child to tell it back to you.	14	15 Have your child draw pictures of his favorite food; write the name of the food.
16	17 Let your child teach you a song.	18	19 Help your child trace his/her hand and make it a turkey or butterfly.	20	21 Tell your child why you are thankful for him or her.	22
23 Play dress up	24	25 Predict the number of slices in a pie and count the slices after cutting.	26	27 Share a holiday story with your child and family.	28	29 Clean out old toys and donate them to a charity.
30						



Children need adults who will listen to what they say. You can show your child your love, as well as support him/her in learning language, by being an active listener. By setting this example, you are also teaching your child how to be an active listener.

Writing Tips

To become skilled, lifelong writers, children need encouragement and support as they begin the writing process. They'll play at writing like they play at reading. Ask them to read what they've written. Children go through various stages of writing development. These stages include scribbling, drawing pictures and pretend writing.

Does Your Child:

Yes

Not Yet

...attempt to write his/her name?

...like to write alphabet letters?

...have an assortment of paper, pencils, and crayons?

...ask you to write words or notes to people?

...attempt to invent her/his own spelling while writing?

Parents can help this process by:

- Providing materials (like crayons, pencils, paper) and a space for writing
- Focusing on what your child can do
- Having a place to display your child's writing efforts
- Watching your child as he/she writes
- Answering your child's questions about writing
- Accepting trial and error (e.g., scribbles, pictures, alphabet shapes)
- Letting your child see you write
- Encouraging your child to read her/his writing to you



Special Note: Remember to respond to the message and content of what your child is writing about, not how it looks on the surface. Writing is not just copying. By providing opportunities to write as part of your daily family routine, you will keep your child interested and excited about writing.

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Share with your child one of your favorite Christmas memory.	2	3 Help your child make a Christmas shopping list.	4	5 Use magnetic letters to spell your child's name on the fridge or cookie sheet. (Both first and last)	6
7 Take your child window shopping and talk about the things they are hoping for Christmas	8	9 Go to the library and check out a book to read to your child. Try Polar Express by Chris Van Alisburg	10	11 Label your child's belongings with his/ her name.	12	13 Start making Holiday cards for friends and family.
14	15 Make puppets for a family puppet show.	16	17 Have your child make up a story and tell it using the puppets made for the puppet show.	18	19 Read a Dr. Seuss book aloud with your child.	20
21 Make handprint wreaths with your child. Give them to friends and families.	22	23 Share a seasonal poem or story with your child.	24 Make cookies with your child.	25	26 Help your child write Thank you notes to family and friends for the gifts.	27
28	29 Select one dinner item and let your child measure, pour, and stir.	30	31 Celebrate the end of an old year and the beginning of a new year.			



Our children are the source of our strength, frustration, happiness, insanity, sanity, irritability. They are the definition of unconditional love. Unknown author.

Reading Tips

Reading a book to children is an enjoyable and interesting experience. It should be part of the daily family routine.

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...have many books of his/her own and a special place to keep them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...recognize his/her first name in print?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...look at books or pictures on her/his own?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...read stories or verses to you? (reads or pretends to read his/her own books to you, shares verses or stories read at school)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...try to read in everyday situations? (e.g., street signs, store signs, cereal boxes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...try to talk about or re-tell stories or verses heard in school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...try to read along with you on favorite parts of the story or sentences that are repeated over and over again?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...see you reading? (books, magazines, newspapers, recipes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- *Providing a wide variety of books for your child, including nursery rhymes and fairy tales*
- *Obtaining a library card for your child, and giving your child books as presents*
- *Providing a special place for your child to keep his/her books*
- *Making reading part of your daily routine*
- *Providing a special place to read that is comfortable and quiet*
- *Providing a wide variety of reading materials (magazines, books, recipes, newspapers)*
- *Accepting your child's "pretend reading"*
- *Pointing out print in the environment (signs, cereal boxes, restaurants)*
- *Reading your child's favorite stories over and over again*
- *Allowing your child to select the story that she/he would like to hear*



January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day! Make resolutions to read every day.	2	3 Make a trip to the library and have your child check out 2 books to share. One for home and one for school.
4	5 Share family history and photos with child and share the story behind each one.	6	7 Teach your child his or her address, birthday, and phone number.	8	9 Read cereal boxes, recipes, and food labels to your child.	10
11 Ask your child to identify signs as you do errands.	12	13 Sit and talk with your child about his/her favorite story. Ask what, who, why and how question about the story.	14	15 Write a just because letter to your child. And just before bedtime share it with your child.	16	17 Have your child draw a picture and have him to explain it to you.
18	19 With your child take a short walk around the neighbor and talk about what you see.	20	21 Play Simon Says with your child.	22	23 Create a collage with your child; Have him label the items in the collage.	24
25 Hide items around your house and let your child go on a scavenger hunt to find them.	26	27 Help your child use words when expressing feelings or making a set of smiley faces that express feelings.	28	29 Sing silly songs with your child.	30	31 Play the name game with your child.



Everyday errands and chores provide opportunities for learning and fun with your child. Talk to him about the things you see, what you are doing, and how he can help. Children enjoy helping if the activity is a fun time spent with parent. This will also make the chores or errand more enjoyable for you!

Social & Emotional Development

Children must be socially ready for school. Parents can help their children get ready for school by giving them the opportunity to be part of a group of children, whether on a playground or in a preschool classroom. Children need to: take turns, make compromises, approach familiar children, obey those in authority (parents, principals, teachers), and generally be able to get along with others.

Does Your Child:

	Yes	Not Yet
...use words to solve problems when angry or frustrated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...use words such as "please," "thank you," and "excuse me?"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...attempt new tasks knowing it's okay to make mistakes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...do things for him/herself (e.g., get dressed, put toys & belongings away, take care of own toilet needs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...have success taking turns and sharing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...interact appropriately with peers and have friends?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...ask for help when necessary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...stay with an activity to completion (e.g., finish a picture, build something with blocks/Legos)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...follow through when you give directions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...comply with rules, limits, and routines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...interact appropriately with adults?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...respect the rights, property, and feelings of others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- *Remembering discipline is teaching your child how to behave rather than punishing him/her for misbehavior*
- *Remembering to always love your child and let her/him know it's the misbehavior you dislike*
- *Having high yet realistic expectations for your child. Understand your child's limits*
- *Letting your child know exactly what is expected*
- *Treating your child and others with respect - be a good example*
- *Being positive through the use of praise & encouragement - accept your child's honest efforts without criticism*
- *Letting your child know what he/she SHOULD do, as well as what he/she should NOT do*
- *Meeting your child's teacher*
- *Labeling ALL personal belongings with your child's name*

February 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Have a "Drop Everything & Read" time for the whole family daily.	2	3 Have a "Family Game Night". Play on of your child favorite board game.	4	5 Play a game of remembering with your child. Draw shapes on paper. Then, flip the paper over and see if your child can draw, trace in the air.	6	7
8 <u>Grocery Store</u> Count oranges, apples, or eggs with your child.	9	10 <u>Grocery Store</u> Talk about the items as you place them in the basket. Talk about the shape of the packet.	11	12 Listen to music and dance with your child.	13	14 Share Valentine cards with family and friends. Homemade cards and hearts.
15	16 Invite a friend over for a play date.	17	18 Hug your child today and let him/her know how he/she is loved. Let him know important they are to you.	19	20	21 Have a tea party with your child. Talk about the plans of the day
22	23 Catch your child being good and reward them with a special treat or small gift.	24	25 Share some quiet time with your child. Talk about something special to your child.	26	27 Practice saying "please" and "thank you."	28



Learning to use crayons and other writing tools takes time. Your child may only make a few dots on the paper at first, or he may break a crayon, or just crumple up the paper. As your child gets older, has more practice, and has the help of patient, encouraging people like you, he will learn to scribble, make lines, and eventually draw. When you give your child the materials and opportunities he/she needs to create art, he can express his feelings & understand his world a little better.

Math & Science

Math and science help children understand and make sense of their world.

Does Your Child:

- ...sort objects into groups by color, size, shape, etc?
- ...string beads in a repeated pattern according to size, color, etc?
- ...point to each object as he/she counts?
- ...identify and name simple shapes?
- ...notice and talk about changes in the weather?
- ...use and understand a number of positional words (above, below, under, behind, near, far, etc.)?

Yes	Not Yet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents can help this process by:

- Playing counting games with your child (e.g. How many forks, how many plates do we need for lunch?)
- Cooking with your child. Measuring the ingredients, following the steps (what to do first, second, next) are math skills
- Pointing out the items in your home that are shaped like circles, squares, rectangles, or triangles. Can we find more?
- Helping your child choose her/his clothes by talking about the weather - Do we need our jackets? Is it warm, can we wear shorts?
- Using positional words when giving your child simple directions (e.g., "Stand beside me." "Put the cup under the cabinet.")



March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Go outside and play with your shadows.	2	3 Ask your child to draw pictures of people he loves.	4	5 Make up silly dances and dance with your child.	6	7 Tell a story and ask your child to tell it back to you.
8	9 Drink water on a regular basis.	10	11 Make a game of hopping on one foot with your child, like Hopscotch.	12	13 Take a nature walk, and look for signs of spring.	14
15 Have your child help you to make Sunday dinner. Let your child set the tablet as well.	16	17 Use cardstock and have your child make bookmark.	18	19 Cut out letters, and have your child decorate them and hang them in his/her room.	20	21 Go to the grocery store pick up healthy foods for a family picnic.
22	23 Share breakfast with child and family, and discuss the plans of the day.	24	25 Talk to your child about safety issues. Wearing a seat belt, not talking to strangers.	26	27 Review all the letters and numbers your child has learned over the past few months.	28
29 Take a trip to one of the locate bookstores, and check out bargain books.	30	31 Show your child how to make different shapes from sticks.				



It is important for your child to spend time outdoors. Spending time together walking, talking, and playing are a fun way to teach your child about nature and are a good way to include physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

School Enrollment Information

If you are planning to enroll your child in a public kindergarten next year in Escambia County, please contact the school for which your child is zoned to find out about kindergarten registration dates.

When you register your child for the first time,
you will need the following information:

- ★ **BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR OTHER PROOF OF DATE OF BIRTH**
(must be five (5) on or before September 1 of the current school year)
- ★ **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION SIGNED BY A LICENSED EXAMINER**
(including specific dates: month, date, and year given)
- ★ **FLORIDA CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION**
(within 12 months prior to enrollment/registration)
- ★ **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**
(desired, but optional)
- ★ **PROOF OF RESIDENCY**
(recent water and/or power bill in parent/guardian name - please provide two proofs of residency)



April 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Watch a family movie.	2	3 Go for a family walk and talk about all events of the week.	4
5 Have your child draw a family picture.	6	7 Make a map and have your child find hidden treasure.	8	9 Take a walk and have your child find 5 green things, 5 red things, and 5 yellow things. Make a list.	10	11 Toss a ball with your child.
12	13 Tell your child a story about when he was "little".	14	15 Review with your child his/her phone number, address, and your first and last name.	16	17 Look for caterpillars in the yard or the park.	18
19 Sitting in front of your home, count the number of different color cars. Make a chart of the number of cars you seen.	20	21 Count how many steps wide and long the rooms in your house are. Which room is the largest and which is the smallest?	22	23 Using outside chalk, draw pictures with your child.	24	25 Mix red, yellow, and blue paint to make orange. Make other colors.
26	27 Make a Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich with your child and cut it into triangles.	28	29 Give your child a paper plate and ask him/her to draw a picture of him/her.	30		



Make sure that your child's school paperwork is up-to-date. Medical appointment need to be made early, waiting until the last minute can cause delays. Planning ahead will ensure a smooth transition when you register your child for kindergarten next month.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

- All 5-year-old students in the public schools will be screened to assess the readiness of each student for kindergarten
- The assessment will be administered in the first 30 days of kindergarten
- Your child's teacher will review the results of the screening with you
- If your child attended VPK and will attend non-public kindergarten, you are responsible for having your child screened. Please ask your child's school to assist you.



May 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Make a calendar and countdown to graduation.	2
3 Go bowling.	4	5 Visit the library, check out the upcoming summer activities	6	7 Visit the farmer's market and talk about healthy foods.	8	9 Go through toys and donate to younger classes.
10	11 Use chalk to decorate a sidewalk or driveway.	12	13 Call your local school for kindergarten registration dates.	14	15 Play catch with your child. Practice underhand and overhand.	16
17 If weather is good, play on the sprinklers.	18	19 Write peers' names on cards for graduation.	20	21 Make a spring hat.	22	23 Go on a rock hunt in the neighborhood. Sort by size, or texture, or color.
24 Make a simple instrument with your child.	25	26 Make a collage of pictures taken the past months. Talk about all the special events of the year.	27	28 Celebrate the days of graduation.	29	30
31 Celebrate family, friends, and holiday.						



Children imitate the things they see every day while they play. These play opportunities help to make sense of what they experience and observe. Through dramatic play, children are working on thinking skills, emotional and social skills, language, and creativity.

Summer Safety Tips

Now that most children are out of school and on break, summer brings endless hours of sun and fun. Yet it's also an opportunity for both small and serious injuries from playground falls and drowning. Here are some safety tips that will help keep your child's summer a safe one.

- Never leave children unattended in or near water. Use U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests, also known as personal flotation devices (PFDs), on boats, docks, and around swift or deep water.
- Make sure children always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter, rollerblading or skateboarding.
- Protect children from excessive exposure to the sun - especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- Supervise children whenever they use play equipment, such as making sure children stay clear of the front and back of swings while in use.
- Keep children away from areas where lawn mowers are being used.
- Never allow children to ride on mowers.
- Minimize the risk of bee and insect stings by having children wear shoes and light-colored clothing. Use insect repellent spray on older children, but never on infants.
- Know the plants in your yard and teach your child not to pick or eat anything without first checking with an adult. Call the Poison Control Center if you suspect a poisoning has occurred or to receive a list of poisonous plants.
- Keep children from playing near barbecues and bonfires and always have water present when fire is involved. Only adults should use lighter fluid.
- Strap children in a properly-fitted seat belt, car seat, or booster seat when traveling by car or airplane.
- BE SAFE THIS SUMMER AND HAVE FUN!
- If your child will be attending a summer VPK program, call CCR&R at (850) 595-5915 to find quality programs.



June 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Plant sunflower seeds.	2	3 Go swimming or take swimming lessons.	4	5 Make popsicles with juice.	6
7 Make sandwiches and cut them in triangles or squares.	8	9 Count flags around your neighborhood.	10	11 Make a fort with a beach blankets, towel, or sheet.	12	13 Go to the beach. Build sandcastles, collect shells. Look for hidden treasures.
14	15 Play Frisbee	16	17 Review letters, letter sounds, compound words, Count to 50 with your child.	18	19 Make a boat and sail it in the bathtub.	20
21 Make lemonade using real lemons Share with family and friends.	22	23 Family Game Night – Share a favorite board game with snacks.	24	25 Catch your child being good and reward with a special prize.	26	27 Invite a friend over for a play date.
28	29 Review letters, letter sounds, compound words, Count to 50 with	30				



Math and science are all around us. Talk to your child about nature, numbers, shapes, and sizes - these are all related to math and science. These talks will have a strong effect on your child's ability to learn math and science in school.

**See our website for more summer projects!!! WWW.ELCESCAMBIA.ORG

Getting Ready for School

The following are suggestions from kindergarten teachers:

- Visit the school and the classroom prior to the first day of school.
- Begin the “going to bed/getting up routine” a week prior to the start of school.
- Make sure your child has a good breakfast.
- Discuss arrangements for arrival and dismissal. Find out about special procedures from your child’s teacher.
- Label ALL personal belongings with your child’s name.
- Label any money your child brings to school with your child’s name and what the money is for.
- Make sure your child is dressed in clothing that he/she can manage at bathroom time.
- Provide a special place at home for school materials (backpacks, notes, lunch money).
- Set aside a special time at the end of the day to talk to your child about his/her day.
- Ask your child questions about the first day:
 - What was your favorite part of the day?
 - What did you learn today?
 - Tell me about your new friends.
- Don’t buy any supplies until you check with your child’s teacher or school.
- Teachers are very busy supervising children during arrival and dismissal. These are not good times to talk to the teacher. Make an appointment instead.



July 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Make a flag using red, white, and blue paper.	2	3 Have your child help to prepare for the family holiday celebration.	4 Watch fireworks! Share evening picnic.
5	6 Review letters, letter sounds, and compound words. Have your child count out 100 toothpicks.	7	8 Have your child draw a picture and have him/she tell you a story. Ask who, what, why, and how questions about the story.	9	10 Share one of your child's favorite books. Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the story.	11
12 Let your child help you make a garden salad with lots of veggies.	13	14 Review letters, letter sounds, and compound words. Have your child count out 100 beans.	15	16 Have your child write his name. And complete a shopping list to be used this weekend.	17	18 After shopping, take a field trip to the library. Pick out a book to share with
19	20 Make homemade ice cream and bake some cookies.	21	22 Review letters, letter sounds, and compound words. Have your child count out 100 jelly beans.	23	24 Review safety tips with your child. Talk about why we wear seat belts, and don't talk to strangers.	25 Sing the alphabet song.
26 Have your child help prepare Sunday dinner. Have child to Set the table.	27	28 Let your child help you water and count the plants around the house.	29	30 Have your child count out 2 sets of 50 beans for a total of 100 beans. Have you child write his/her name.	31	



Involving your child in school chores (getting ready for bed on time, shoes and clothes ready for tomorrow, papers and books in their backpack) teaches your child responsibility and independence. Making the experience enjoyable by working together shows your child that work is positive and rewarding.

Emergency Contact Information

Help Lines:

Poison Control	800-222-1222
Florida Abuse Hotline	800-962-2873
Crisis Line	850-623-6363

Weather Emergency:

Emergency Management Office of Escambia County	850-595-3311
Emergency Management Office of Santa Rosa County	850-983-5360

Social Services/Agencies:

Childcare Resource & Referral	850-595-5915
Escambia County Health Department	850-595-6500
Santa Rosa County Health Department	850-983-5200

In case of fire, medical emergencies, or situations that require police attention, dial

9-1-1

Notes

Kindergarten Readiness

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. This calendar is designed to help you look at your child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. It provides you with checklists and tips to help guide you as you work and play with your child.

The checklists contain items that are important to your child's success in Kindergarten. It is designed for four year olds.

The criteria for many items on the checklist should not be applied to children younger than four.

If there are items on any of the checklists that your four year old has not yet mastered, you may wish to practice these skills at home.

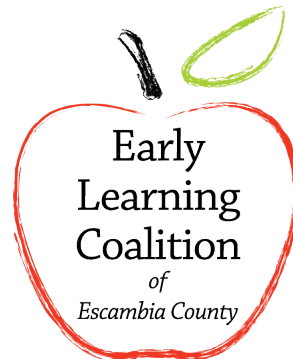
If you believe your child has a developmental delay or disability, you may wish to call the Warm Line at 850-607-8214.

This calendar was developed based on the VPK performance measures created by the Florida Department of Education. Permission has been given to modify the information for local distribution.

This VPK Kindergarten readiness calendar is brought to you by the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County.

The Early Learning Coalition includes representatives from local government, health care, child-care, and early education agencies, as well as members of the private sector. Duties of the Early Learning Coalition include oversight and coordination of all publically funded early education and childcare programs in Escambia County.

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More VPK Information



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
www.elcescambia.org

Florida Office of Early Learning
www.floridaearlylearning.com

State of Florida VPK
www.vpkflorida.org

Department of Children and Families
www.myflorida.com/childcare

Escambia County School District
[www. Escambia.k12.fl.us](http://www.Escambia.k12.fl.us)