



*Director Toolkit: Decision Making
Data-Informed Decision Making*

Overview of Voluntary Prekindergarten Assessment

The Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment is a formal, progress monitoring assessment, administered three times during the year to track children's progress toward oral language, early literacy and mathematic skills. The Florida VPK Assessment provides teachers with valid and reliable feedback regarding children's progress in achieving the growth and developmental expectations defined in the *Florida Early Learning and Development Standards: Birth to Kindergarten*.

The Florida VPK Assessment was developed by the Florida Center for Reading Research and validated in 2009-10 with Florida's children. The Florida VPK Assessment was developed and field tested using select providers across the state to determine the viability of materials and data. The Bright Beginnings VPK Assessment Online Reporting system was also designed and implemented to support providers in reviewing and sharing data with teachers and parents.

The content for the three early literacy measures was decided (Florida Center for Reading Research in collaboration with the Department of Education) by identifying the best predictors of later reading success. Print knowledge, phonological awareness, and oral language/vocabulary are the best predictors for conventional early reading ability. The content for the early mathematics measure was decided by identifying the best predictors of later mathematics success. Number sense is one of the best-known informal predictors of formal mathematics ability. In addition, research demonstrates that all four skill areas (e.g., print knowledge, phonological awareness, mathematics, oral language/vocabulary) can benefit from targeted instruction during the preschool year.

The Florida VPK assessment provides teachers with information that can be used to guide the planning of instructional activities to promote children's development of important readiness skills. The use of this assessment may help preschool teachers better understand the developmental continuum of literacy, language, and math skills and the critical role they play in helping promote skill development and school readiness.

The Florida VPK Assessment is a monitoring tool for assisting directors and instructors in determining progress in attaining expected growth and developmental outcomes. The assessment data can also help guide decisions about program goals and planning for instruction.

The assessment is administered by a trained administer, instructor or staff member of the assessment with the results being entered into the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System. The online reporting system provides a variety of reports that can be used for reviewing and analyzing student data.

For additional information about the Florida VPK Assessment, please visit the website:

<https://www.brightbeginningsfl.org/Assessment/VPKAssessments.aspx>

The Decision Making section of the Director Toolkit uses the Florida VPK Assessment to guide preschool directors and instructors in the reviewing and analyzing process in order to make informed decisions about program goals and instruction.