

ELC-Manatee VPK Providers Conference Call

April 8, 2010

12:30-1:05 pm

ELC Staff on call:

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Participating Provider Programs

Head Start
Primrose
SBMC
Imagine
CASWFL
Faith
MTI
Marvelous Day Care
A Readiness Learning Academy –SR 70
A+ Growing Academy
Bradenton Christian School
Busy Bee

Meeting Summary

I. Provider Issues /Questions

No questions were submitted

II. State Level Updates

- a. **DOE-Readiness Rate**-Final VPK Readiness Rates have been publicly released on the VPK Readiness Rate Website: www.vpk.fldoe.org. DOE has set the minimum score at 138.
- b. **LPP Improvement Process:**
 - LPPs received a certified letter from DOE outlining the acknowledgement process. Providers **must acknowledge no later than April 16, 2010**. Log on to www.improvevpk.org, click on Improvement Process, then click on Provider Acknowledgement. You'll be prompted to answer a series of questions that pertain to your 2008-09 VPK Program.
 - All LPPs must implement an improvement plan in order to offer a VPK program for the 2010-11 SY and/or SU. **Improvement Plans should be submitted electronically no later than May 25, 2010.**
 - Providers who have been identified as a LPP for two or three consecutive years must use a curriculum that has been approved by the DOE.

- For questions regarding the Readiness Rate contact DOE/Office of Early Learning at 866-447-1159. For questions concerning the Improvement Process contact AWI/Office of Early Learning at 866-357-3239.

III. Readiness Rate Statistics

- VPK has served approximately 654,000 children since it began in 2005 and is the 2nd largest pre kindergarten program in the nation.
- In 2009-10 it is estimated that the program will serve approximately 70% of all 4 year olds in Florida.
- ECHOS Results: 93% of children who completed Florida's VPK program were assessed as "ready" for kindergarten compared to 87% of students who completed only part of the program and 83% who did not participate at all.
- FAIR Results: 74% of children who completed VPK were assessed as "ready" compared to 59% of students who completed only part of the program and 55% who did not participate at all.

IV. AWI Updates

- Funding: **There will be funding** for the VPK programs for SY and SU 2010-11. The House and the Senate have passed individual bills regarding VPK. Stay tuned for more information as the two bills go to committee. Please visit our ELC website for information on contacting our legislators.
- House bill proposes 1% reduction in funding = \$2549 SY and \$2168 SU
- Senate bill proposes 10% reduction in funding = \$2320 SY and \$2320 SU
- VPK 10 and 11 forms: The new VPK Agreement is in the process of being revised by the state and is not expected to be ready in time for the Summer 2010 or Fall 2010-11 start dates. We have been directed to begin taking program and classroom applications on the current AWI VPK 10 and 11 forms for the summer and fall.

V. ELC Issues

- Summer VPK 2010: We are currently accepting VPK 11s for Summer Programs. All paperwork and supporting documentation must be complete to submit applications for approval. If you are interested in Advance payment for Summer VPK all paperwork is due to the coalition for approval prior to May 5, 2010.
- Fall VPK 2010-11: We will start accepting Fall applications and supporting documentation on May 3, 2010. Please visit our updated website under the Provider Forms section to download all paperwork.
- Provider Orientations: We sent out a memo that listed all the dates of the Provider Orientations. Providers are required to attend an orientation prior to starting their programs. If you attended an orientation last year we will provide updated pages for your notebook. Please contact Erin at ext 253 to register.

- **VPK Orientations are as scheduled:**

Monday, April 26	2:15-3:00
Wednesday, April 28	7:45-8:30
Tuesday, May 4	6:30-7:30
Wednesday, May 5	12:30-1:30

- Points to remember about VPK for the 2010-11 program year:
 1. ELC-Manatee cannot accept and hold paperwork that is incomplete. Please contact Cari at ext. 267 with any questions prior to turning in incomplete paperwork. **ELC recommends hand-delivering completed application packet.** Please call the Compliance Department prior to delivering at 757-2917 so a staff member can be available to make sure application packet is complete with all supporting documentation.
 2. New COEs: They look different and they are not to be turned in to the coalition – they are to be kept on site. Please submit a roster per VPK class. There are sample rosters on our ELC website.
 3. Providers who are currently on a Corrective Action Plan must complete the plan prior to beginning Summer or Fall Programs.

- New staff at ELC – Welcome Juliet Welch, Early Learning Specialist/Compliance Monitor and Beverly Vanover, Administrative Assistant.
- **Manatee Conference on Young Children at the ELC Annual Conference – Sat. April 10th at MTI.** Dr. Pam Phelps will be the Keynote Speaker along with several other presenters who will be addressing a multitude of subject matter including: Lesson Planning, VPK Professional Development and Teacher Resources, Inclusion, Parent Involvement, Professionalism in Early Childhood Education, Child Abuse Warning Signs and Reporting Methods, and much more. In addition, Mary Ann Goodrich will teach a VPK Educational Standards course. **Earn CEUs** at this “Ingredients For Success” Conference. Contact Erin for more information and to register at ext. 253.

VI. Next Conference Call is Thursday, May 13, 2010 from 12:30-1:30.