

VPK: Learning with Four-Year-Olds



Many four-year-olds have been in school or social settings, while for others this is the first school experience. We use the HighScope Preschool curriculum to set up a classroom environment that meets the needs of both.

What a VPK classroom looks like:

Four-year-olds are capable and curious. They have unique and varied interests, and the best learning opportunities emerge when teachers partner with children to explore those interests. When you peek into a VPK classroom, you will see:

- Teachers who identify each child's strengths and work through their growth areas
- Opportunities for children to work as a team and form a community
- Labels & picture cues that promote children's independence and confidence
- An environment that encourages active learning, planning and decision-making to build the skills children will need for success in kindergarten

What we want four-year-olds to learn:

Four-year-olds are becoming good communicators. They are increasingly able to build friendships and solve problems. We want them to know that God loves them and they can care for others. To help them learn skills covered in the Florida VPK Standards, we explore four units - Construction, Zoo, Supermarket and Garden. A few of the goals & objectives for VPK children:

Social-Emotional:

- See the good in others
- Recognize emotions
- Solve social problems with minimal support
- Demonstrate initiative & persist at a task
- Develop adaptability

Communication:

- Use complex vocabulary
- Know sequence of a story & parts of a book
- Identify most letters & sounds and write letters
- Write name & sound-spell other words

Cognitive:

- Question, investigate and form observations
- Recognize numbers and count to 20
- Make & extend patterns
- Identify problems and brainstorm solutions

Physical:

- Gallop, skip, pump on a swing & pedal a tricycle
- Use small muscles with coordination & purpose
- Cut lines and curves with scissors
- Maintain health & safety

The Florida VPK program pays for 540 hours of instruction. See the Tuition & Fees page for pricing on extended day.