

Parent Letter - Introducing the VPK Assessment

Date: _____

Dear Parent(s):

Our school uses the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment to monitor the progress of our children as they develop important readiness skills. This assessment focuses on print knowledge, phonological awareness, mathematics, and oral language/vocabulary skills. We will assess the children at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year to plan instructional activities that meet the needs of each child.

Soon we will begin using the VPK Assessment to assess your child's print knowledge, phonological awareness, mathematics, and oral language/vocabulary skills. These skills are clear predictors of later school success and have instructional value. We will work on these skills daily in our classroom. Below you will find more information about the skills assessed on the VPK Assessment.

Print Knowledge Measure

The Print Knowledge measure assesses a child's ability to recognize the difference between letters and words, his/her knowledge of letter names (both upper and lower case) and the sounds they make.

Phonological Awareness Measure

The Phonological Awareness measure assesses a child's awareness and manipulation of the different sounds in a word. The Phonological Awareness measure also assesses the child's ability to blend (put together) a word if it is broken up into smaller sounds or syllables, blend a compound word, and recognize the remaining word when part of the stimulus word is taken away (e.g., If the teacher says to the child: "Say, football without ball." Football is the stimulus word).

Mathematics Measure

The Mathematics measure assesses a child's early numeracy skills across three different areas: counting skills, numerical relations skills, and arithmetic reasoning skills.

Oral Language/Vocabulary Measure

The Oral Language/Vocabulary measure assesses a child's ability to express him/herself in words, understand language that is heard, and his/her knowledge of age appropriate words and their meanings.

Please call me at _____, if you would like to discuss the specific readiness skills that we will be working on this year. I am glad to have your child in my class and look forward to working with you to make this an enjoyable year of learning for your child.

Best regards,