# Early Learning Answers on the Go 32e. - English Version

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| **32e. Information on becoming a VPK and SR child care provider.** |
| Are you a child care provider who is interested in offering the School Readiness Program, Voluntary Prekindergarten Program or both programs for the families and children you serve? The Florida Department of Education’s Division of Early Learning partners with 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association to offer these programs.  Each year, these programs serve approximately 346,000 children and help prepare them for school success.  **The School Readiness Program** is a financial assistance program that helps income eligible and at-risk families pay for a portion of their child care costs. It serves children ages birth to twelve years of age. The main goal of the program is to prepare young children to start kindergarten ready to learn.  You may contact your local Early Learning Coalition’s Child Care Resource and Referral number or the Division’s toll-free number at one-eight-six-six, three-five-seven, three-two-three-nine .  Ask them to provide a copy of the statewide School Readiness contract. It is a sample contract that includes the terms and conditions for being a School Readiness provider. Your local early learning coalition will answer questions about provider eligibility, health and safety, required teacher trainings, approved School Readiness curricula, developmental screenings, reimbursement rates and much more.  **The Voluntary Prekindergarten Program or VPK** builds a strong educational foundation and prepares children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn. Children who live in Florida and are 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the school year are eligible for the program. Also, if the child’s birthday is between February 2 and September 1, parents may choose to postpone VPK enrollment until the age of five.  Your local early learning coalition will also be able to answer questions about becoming a VPK provider.  After you have decided that becoming a School Readiness provider and/or VPK provider is the right decision for your business and community, you will need to register your program in Florida’s Provider Portal, by completing and submitting the CCR&R provider profile. This profile will need to be reviewed and approved by your early learning coalition.  After your profile is approved, you will complete and submit the official School Readiness and VPK contracts within the Provider Services Portal. Your early learning coalition will assist you with the process.    For more information and questions about becoming a School Readiness and/or VPK provider, call the Division’s toll-free number at one-eight-six-six, three-five-seven, three-two-three-nine.  The project described was supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5) Award Number 90TP0068-03-02 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. |