



Welcome to SBP!

Thank you for considering Smart Beginners Preschool for our 2021 Summer VPK program or or the Fall 2021-2022 VPK Program!

Please read ahead to learn more about our VPK Program and enrollment process:

### What is VPK?

VPK stands for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program is a FREE educational program created to prepare every four-year-old in Florida for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. The VPK program offers each child an opportunity to perform better in school and throughout life by offering quality programs that include developmentally appropriate curricula with a focus on early literacy skills, developmental standards, accountability, substantial instruction periods, manageable class size, and qualified instructors.

### How many school hours are included in SBP VPK Program?

- **Summer:** 300 instructional; 8 hours per day are **Totally FREE – No registration fee**
- **School Year:** 540 total instructional hours; 3 hours per day are Totally FREE
- **SBP offers the Extended VPK Program**, which complements the 3 free hours, for a full immersion in our learning experience.

### What does Summer VPK Program offer?

If your child didn't take advantage of the Fall VPK Program, he/she is eligible for Summer VPK Program.

- 300 instructional hours
- No Registration fee to enroll in Summer VPK Program.
- 5 Days a week, 8 hours a day: FREE!
- Lead instructor with bachelor's in early childhood education.
- Internationally renowned VESS Educational Model (as explained below)
- Bi-Lingual Program English - Spanish
- Free Babysitting
- Educational Field Trips (included)
- Living the Arts
- Hands on, Minds On
- Open Door Policy for parents
- Daily School-Parent communication via our platform (Class Dojo)
- Classes can have a maximum of 11 students with one lead instructor or a maximum of 20 students with a lead instructor and an assistant.

### What does SBP School Year VPK Program offer?

- 540 instructional hours
- No Registration fee to enroll in VPK Program.



- Lead instructor with extensive experience and training in Early Childhood
- Classes can have a maximum of 11 students with one lead instructor or a maximum of 20 students with a lead instructor and an assistant.
- Graduation Ceremony and End of the Year Show.

### What does SBP Extended Program offer?

SBP Extended Program enriches the VPK program by providing a full immersion into our educational environment and culture. The Extended Program includes everything in the VPK Program, PLUS:

- Bilingual Program: English Spanish
- Internationally renowned VESS Educational Model, which includes:
  - Fun, sensory-based activities as provocation for learning
  - Thinking as a Pedagogical Strategy
  - Visible Thinking routines from Harvard University
  - Mental Dispositions
  - Concept Maps
  - Thinking Keys
- Extracurricular Activities (Included and Extra ones)
- Open Door Policy for parents
- Field Trips (included)
- Free Babysitting
- Parental involvement activities
- Daily School-Parent communication via our platform (Smartcare)
- The children who attended our extended VPK program will be able to take advantage of **keeping the same schedule and continuing to pay the same amount they paid throughout the year for the whole summer session (if the explorers program is chosen)**, even though the VPK has already been completed.

### Why chose SBP VPK Program?

Smart Beginners Preschool VPK program highly exceeds all minimum Florida VPK standards. We are leaders in the implementation of The Visible Thinking Methodology from Harvard University in Early Childhood Education. Our revolutionary bilingual Early Childhood Program promotes creative thinkers and builds a culture of thinking in a happy and safe environment. By identifying individual's needs and targets, we promote fulfillment of each child's potential while striving for excellence. Through our world-renowned, research-based educational model, VESS, we foster inquisitive and analytical minds, so that they may learn skills, concepts and technology that will guide their studies and approach to life, long after they have left us. At SBP, children discover knowledge and develop their skills through inquiry and exciting experiences!

Our Extended VPK Program complements the regular program for an amazingly provocative and enriching learning experience. Please read ahead to learn more about our VESS educational model and philosophy!

### Who is eligible for Florida's VPK Program?

Any child who lives in Florida and who turns 4 by September 1st, 2021 is eligible for Florida's FREE VPK Program.



**Recent Changes in VPK Eligibility:** A new law extends VPK eligibility for 4-year-olds with birthdays from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 in a calendar year. Parents can enroll their child in the state's free, voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) education program that year or wait until the following year when their child is 5. This allows parents of younger 4-year-olds to postpone the year their child begins VPK, enabling the child to begin kindergarten and start first grade as a slightly older, more mature student.

Children in Florida are not required to attend either the state's prekindergarten or kindergarten programs but are required to attend school the year they turn 6 by Feb. 1. The new law takes effect July 1.

Four-year-old children with birthdays from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1 will be eligible to enroll in VPK that year or postpone it to the next. Four-year-old with birthdays from Sept. 2 through Feb. 1 are eligible to enroll in VPK the following program year as long as the child has not yet been admitted to kindergarten (please see chart below):

Your child remains eligible until kindergarten admittance, or unless they reach the age of 6 years by February 1 of any program year.

4 Years Old	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
2/1/19 thru 9/1/19		Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
9/2/19 thru 2/1/20		Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
2/2/20 thru 9/1/20*			Not eligible	Not eligible
9/2/20 thru 2/1/21	Not eligible		Not eligible	Not eligible
2/2/21 thru 9/1/21*	Not eligible			Not eligible
9/2/21 thru 2/1/22	Not eligible	Not eligible		Not eligible
2/2/22 thru 9/1/22*	Not eligible	Not eligible		

\* Two years of eligibility

### If parents think their child is not ready for Kindergarten:

There are a few points of information to consider:

1. If the child has not attended the VPK program yet and their date of birth falls between February 2nd and September 1st, they qualify for a VPK Postponement.
2. If the child has attended the VPK program, then a VPK Re-enrollment must be submitted along with required documentation to determine if the child is eligible to be re-enrolled in the subsequent program year.
3. A child may only re-enroll in a subsequent program year if:



- The child attains the age of 4 years old between February 2 and September 1 of his or her initial program year of eligibility; and,
- The child has not yet been admitted to kindergarten; and
- The child is granted a re-enrollment

### **Registration and Enrollment:**

For registration and Enrollment in SBP VPK Program, follow these steps:

- 1. Register your child for the VPK Program** at the following link: [www.vpkhelp.org](http://www.vpkhelp.org). Families may register any time before August 21st.  
To register, you must have proof of the following:

**Proof of age:** A child must be four years old on or before September 1st of the schoolyear to participate in VPK during that schoolyear or the following summer. Parents must provide proof of their child's age. An example of proof of age includes an original or certified copy of the child's birth certificate or immunization records.

**Proof of residency:** Children must live in Florida to participate in VPK. Parents must show proof that the family lives in Florida. Examples of this include a parent's driver's license, utility bill or paystub.

- 2. Enroll your child in SBP VPK Program. It's as easy as 1,2,3:**

1. Fill out our Registration Application
2. Bring signed VPK Certificate, and...
3. Bring your child's Blue and Yellow Form (Immunization records)

Once you enroll, you will receive a Welcome e-mail with the school calendar year, a copy of our Statement of Policies and an invitation to Smartcare - our online platform where you can see photos of your child in school!

### **Vpk Calendar:**

**Summer VPK 2021** - from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Starts: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Ends: July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**School Year VPK**

Starts: on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Ends: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

FREE VPK Schedule is from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm / 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**(Lunch is available for the Free VPK hours: weekly lunch fee is \$35.)**



### Extended

### Program

SBP is open from Monday – Friday, from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.

Extended hours are available as follows:

Part Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (FREE 3 hours of VPK + Lunch + Snack + Two Extra Curricular Activities)

Before Care: 7:30 am - 9:00 am (For Morning Extended Program only)

Full Time: 7:30 am – 6:00 pm (FREE 3 hours of VPK + Lunch + Afternoon Snack + Two Extra Curricular Activities)

Extended Fees can be found on the Tuition Sheet attached to this package.

**Days of No VPK Program:** The VPK Program follows the Broward County Public School's calendar. As such, there will be No VPK Program on the following days:

- Sept 6th, 2021 - Labor Day
- Sept 7th 2021 - Teacher Planning Day
- Sept 16th 2021 - Teacher Planning Day
- October 20th 2021 - Teacher Planning Day
- Nov 11th, 2021 - Veteran's Day
- Nov 22nd–26th 2021 - Thanksgiving Week
- Dec 20th-31st 2021 - Winter Break
- Jan 11th 2022 - Teacher Planning Day
- Jan 17th, 2022 - Martin Luther King Day
- Feb 21st, 2022 - Presidents Day
- Mar 18th 2022 - Teacher Planning Day
- Mar 21st-25th, 2022 - Spring Break
- Apr 15th, 2022 - School Closed- Good Friday
- May 30st, 2022 - Memorial Day
- June 10th, 2022 - End of the Year Graduation Ceremony and Show

Smart Beginners Preschool remains open for some of the days in the above calendar. Holiday Weeks fees can be found in the tuition sheet.

### **What to wear:**

We understand that children need to be in comfortable clothes, appropriate for indoor activities. For their safety, sandals, flip-flops, jellies, or boots may not be worn to school. We recommend that all children wear sneakers. To foster independence, we encourage children to use clothing that they can easily manipulate. School uniform (Blue Polo Shirt) is mandatory for VPK Extended Program. It is not mandatory for VPK Only Programs.

### **What to Pack?**

Children can bring a re-usable, spill-proof water bottle. Extra snacks from home are allowed, always peanut-free and healthy options. If you need ideas for snacks, please feel free to ask us!

### **VPK Attendance:**

VPK is a FREE program. 540 hours must be completed during the Fall School Year. Absent days are permitted but regulated with a daily classroom attendance that must be signed by parents every month. A prolonged



number of absences could result in the finalization of the FREE VPK program and families would need to re-apply with Early Learning Coalition in order to continue the program.

Once again, we thank you for your interest in enrolling your child in a Culture of Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Finally, please allow me to share a couple of highlights about our school:

- Smart Beginners Preschool is a full-service preschool serving children from three months to five years of age.
- We are leaders on the implementation of The Visible Thinking Methodology from Harvard University in Early Childhood Education.
- Our revolutionary bilingual Early Childhood Program promotes creative thinkers and builds a culture of learning in a happy and safe environment.
- By identifying individual's needs and targets, we promote fulfillment of each child's potential while striving for excellence.
- We foster inquisitive and analytical minds, so that they may learn skills, concepts and technology that will guide their studies and approach to life long after they have left us.
- Children discover knowledge and develop their skills through inquiry and fun and exciting experiences!

I also would like to invite you to contact us if you have additional questions at 754-400-8145 and visit our website [www.smartbeginnersprechool.com](http://www.smartbeginnersprechool.com) for more information. Please also feel free to email us at any time.

We look forward to seeing you soon, Once again thank you and kind regards,

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