

## **VPK -Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten**

FUMC Preschool has participated in the Florida VPK program since it began in 2007. A child must be 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup> and present a VPK certificate to register and participate in their last year before kindergarten. We begin VPK registration in early spring each year. To acquire a VPK certificate, please go to the Pinellas Early Learning Coalition at: [www.elcpinellas.net](http://www.elcpinellas.net)

Our VPK program is 540 instructional hours over 3 hours per day Monday through Friday in our Preschool year. (Please see our Instructional Preschool Calendar.) The state of Florida pays our center directly for your child to participate in the VPK program. Daily attendance is monitored and expected. If a child misses more than the allotted absences for our VPK program per month and per year according to the VPK 80/20 rule, tuition will be charged for that child to complete VPK at \$25 per VPK instructional morning. All absences are counted.

Daily attendance sign-in & out forms are used and parent signatures will be monitored at all times. VPK children are ready for each day from 9:00 am to 12 noon. VPK teachers meet specified teaching requirements through the Early Learning Coalition Office. Within our Starrfall Curriculum and the VPK domains of learning, VPK includes ½ hour of outside play, ½ hour of emergent literacy skills, ½ hour of music, ½ hour of teacher directed activities, and 1 hour of uninterrupted child-choice play. VPK helps prepare your child for kindergarten in age-appropriate ways. VPK Parents are required to sign our VPK Attendance Policy before beginning VPK. Parents will also sign a monthly attendance calendar as required.

By participating in the VPK program, parents agree to: \*Provide a certificate of eligibility \*Ensure your child's prompt on-time arrival and consistent attendance \*Sign & return all VPK forms required by the state \*Attend any VPK informational meetings that are held for our VPK program. (Each month, VPK parents are required to sign the monthly VPK Calendar of Attendance required by the Early Learning Coalition. This calendar will be located on the sign-in table for your convenience in a three-ring binder and an e-mail will be sent out at the end of each month as a reminder.) And as a VPK provider, our FUMC Preschool will: \*Provide your child with an accountable and positive learning environment \*Be in compliance with VPK educational standards \*Remain dedicated to your child's success.