

UNDERSTANDING YOUR EARLY EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR O TO 5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN IN CARE

The chart below lays out those hours, calendars, and prices that are typical of each provider, but it is always best to check when you sign your child up.

Provider Type	School Readiness Provider	Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)	Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Head Start/Early Head Start	Hillsborough County Public School (HCPS) Head Start	Eckerd Early Head Start
Description	Participating providers accept the school readiness voucher, which subsidizes the cost of child care for children under protective supervision, among other groups. School readiness providers must be licensed, but also have to meet higher standards than basic licensing. They can be center-based or family child care homes.	VPK is designed to prepare children for kindergarten. It includes standards for literacy skills, strict accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors. Providers can be center-based or family child care homes, or public schools.	Head Start and Early Head Start are locally-run, federal programs that offer comprehensive, quality early education to at-risk children. BOCC providers can be center-based or family child care homes (only YMCA and Lutheran Early Head Starts are in family child care homes).	Head Start is a locally-run, federal program that offers comprehensive, quality early education to at-risk children. HCPS providers operate at various elementary school sites.	Early Head Start is a locally-run, federal program that offers comprehensive, quality early education to at-risk children. Eckerd Early Head Start providers are family child care homes located in the 33604 and 33605 zip codes.
Enrollment Age	Birth to 5 years old. Will vary by provider.	4 years old by September 1 st of the school year in which you are enrolling.	Early Head Start: You can enroll a child between 6 weeks and their 2 nd birthday. Once enrolled, the program lasts until they are 3 years old. Head Start: 3 years old to 5 years old.	Head Start: 3 years old to 5 years old.	Early Head Start: You can enroll a child between 6 weeks and their 2 nd birthday. Once enrolled, the program lasts until they are 3 years old.

Out-of-Pocket Cost	Ask the child care provider. The School Readiness Program covers much of the cost, but additional costs to the caregiver vary greatly by provider.	Free.	Free.	Free.	Free.
Daily Hours and Yearly Calendar	Depends on the provider. Call Child Care Resource & Referral, check the licensing website (https://cares.myflfamilies.com/PublicSearch), or call the provider directly.	You may choose only one of the following options for an eligible four-year-old: (1) school-year program for 540 hours over 180 days - usually about 3 hours a day, five days a week in the morning, but schedules vary; or (2) summer program for 300 hours total - usually a full day, four to five days a week.	Full-day (10 ½ hrs)/full-year, with a few weeks break about summertime and some other holidays.	Part-day (6 hrs)/part-year – these programs track the school calendar and day.	8am – 5pm, but individual providers may vary.
Developmental Screen	School Readiness providers must do an Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screener on the child within 45 days of enrollment and every 6 months thereafter.	The VPK program does not require a developmental screen. The individual providers would use whatever tool is required by the other programs they may participate in, like School Readiness or Head Start.	BOCC Head Start providers use the Brigance developmental screener.	HCPS Head Start providers use the Brigance developmental screener.	Eckerd Early Head Start screens development using the Brigance and/or Ages and Stages Questionnaire. They also use the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment to screen social-emotional development.

Contact	<p>(813) 744-8941</p> <p>www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/school-readiness</p>	<p>(813) 515-2340</p> <p>https://www.elchc.org/programs_services/vpk-families/</p>	<p>(813) 272-5140</p> <p>BOCC Head Start:</p> <p>https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/families/education-and-schools/action-folder/head-start</p> <p>Lutheran Family Services Early Head Start:</p> <p>https://www.lsfnet.org/children-families/head-start/</p> <p>YMCA Early Head Start:</p> <p>http://tampaymca.org/3cmby/index.php/our-programs/childcare/early-head-start</p>	<p>(813) 740-7870</p> <p>www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/departments/180/headstart</p>	<p>1-888-898-7978</p> <p>www.Eckerd.org/EarlyHeadStart</p>
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