



The Power of Early Learning: A Strong Foundation for Long-Term Success

November 7, 2024



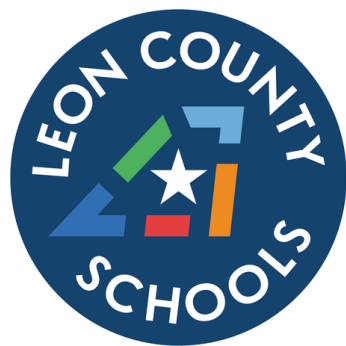
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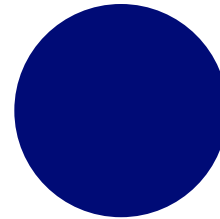
Early Learning Benefits



- Early learning enhances cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- It fosters a love for learning and builds a strong educational base.
- Early learners are better prepared for school and life challenges.

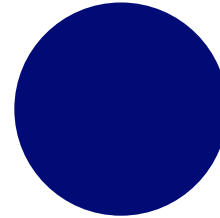


Building Success with Early Learning Principles



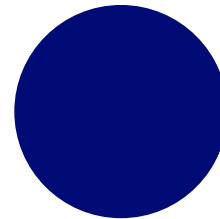
Communication

Language develops through play as children practice vocabulary, communication, and expression in social interactions and role-playing scenarios.



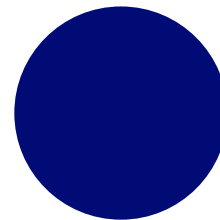
Creativity

Creativity and innovation are developed through play as children explore new ideas, experiment with different approaches, and solve problems in imaginative ways. Play encourages risk-taking and thinking outside the box, fostering flexible and inventive thinking.



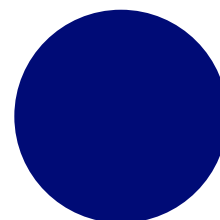
Critical Thinking

Critical thinking skills are developed through play as children analyze situations, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes based on their actions. Play encourages them to question, reason, and reflect, fostering deeper cognitive processing and logical thinking.



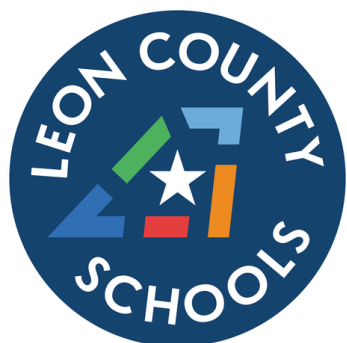
Problem-Solving

Problem-solving is developed through play as children encounter challenges, experiment with solutions, and learn to think critically about how to overcome obstacles. Play provides a safe space for trial and error, helping them build resilience and strategic thinking skills.



Interpersonal Skills

Interpersonal skills are developed through play as children learn to communicate, cooperate, and resolve conflicts with others. These interactions help them understand social cues, practice empathy, and build relationships, laying the foundation for effective teamwork and collaboration.



Early Learning Matters



Children that
attend VPK are
better prepared
for Kdg



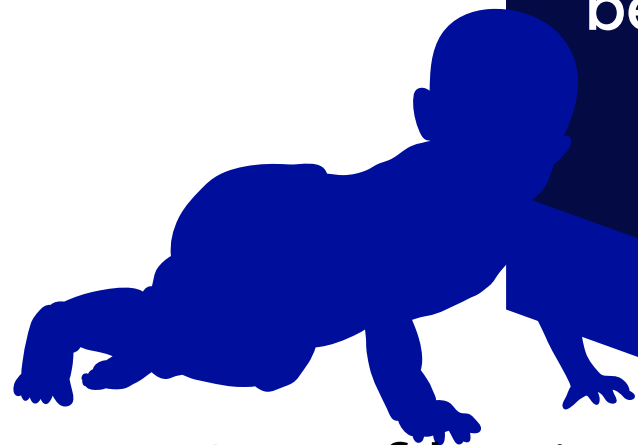
Kdg Readiness
Rates are a
predictor for 3rd
grade Rdg
scores



3rd grade Rdg
scores are a
predictor for 8th
grade Rdg
scores



8th grade Rdg
scores are a
predictor for
graduation rates



90% of brain
development
occurs **before**
kindergarten



Importance of Kindergarten Readiness



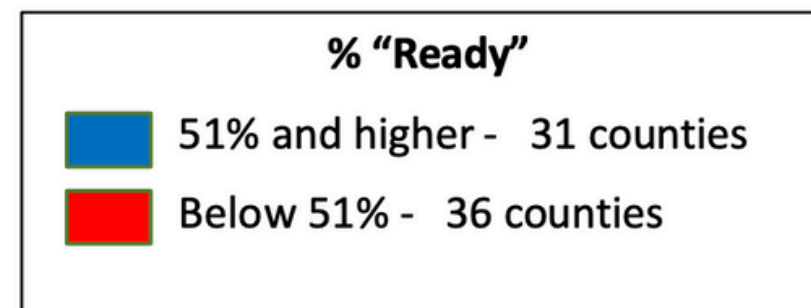
- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.
- State and local **prekindergarten programs**, almost without exception, **improve academic readiness for school.**
- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.
- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases** high school **graduation rates.**

2023 FAST PM 1 Kindergarten Results by County

Early Learning in Florida

Percentage of Fall 2023 Public Kindergarten Students at or above the Statewide Average

Statewide Percentage
"Ready" = 51%



53% of Leon students Kg Ready

Early Learning in Florida

2023 FAST PM 1 VPK Completer Results by County

Percentage of Fall 2023 VPK Completers at or above the Statewide Average

Statewide Percentage
"Ready" = 51%

% "Ready"

- 51% and higher - 61 Districts
- Below 51% - 6 Districts

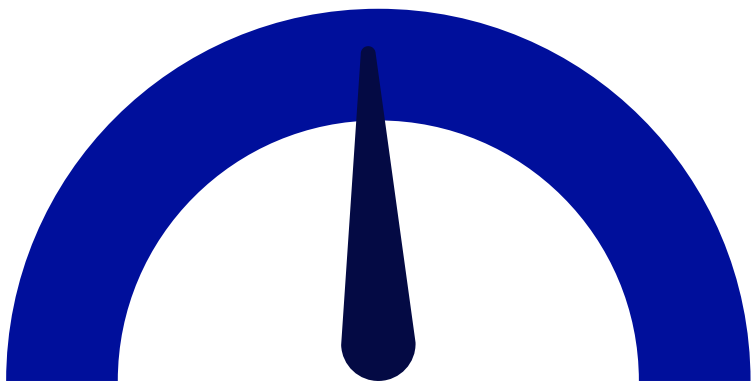
VPK Completers "Ready" = 64%

70% of Leon
VPK
completers
Kg Ready

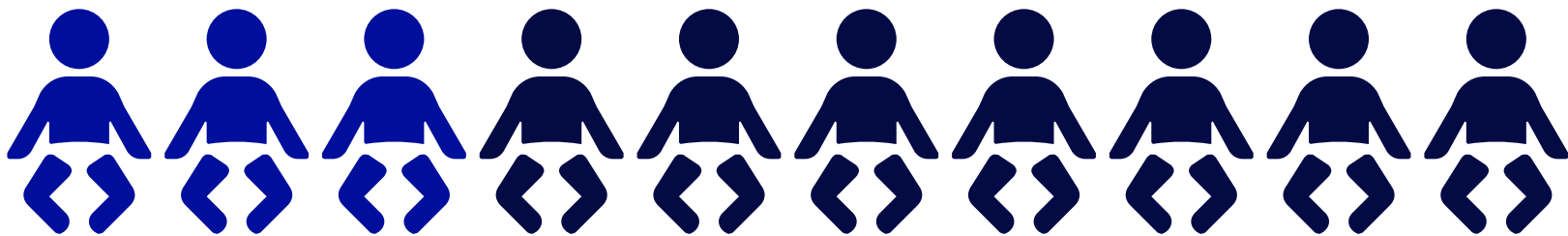


Early Learning In Leon County

53% of Leon County kindergarteners are ready for school



Only 3 out 10 Title I students are ready for kindergarten



Littles to Leaders

HOW DOES IT WORK?



Parent Education. Every parent of a new born child receives brain development education & community resources to help with the development of baby.



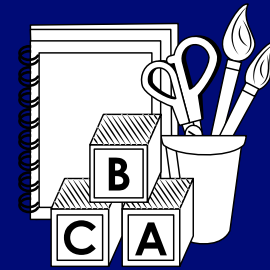
Brain Bag. Every family will receive a brain bag at the hospital following the birth of their baby. This bag contains resources & information to support your baby's brain development.



Intensive Support. Need more help? Sign up for FREE in-home support from one of our four local home visiting programs.



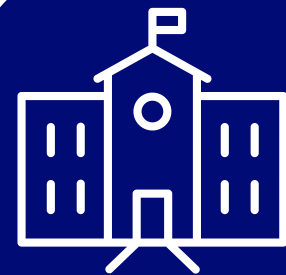
Leon County Schools Early Learning Programs



Pk ESE, provides early
intervention ~600 students



VPK ~300 students



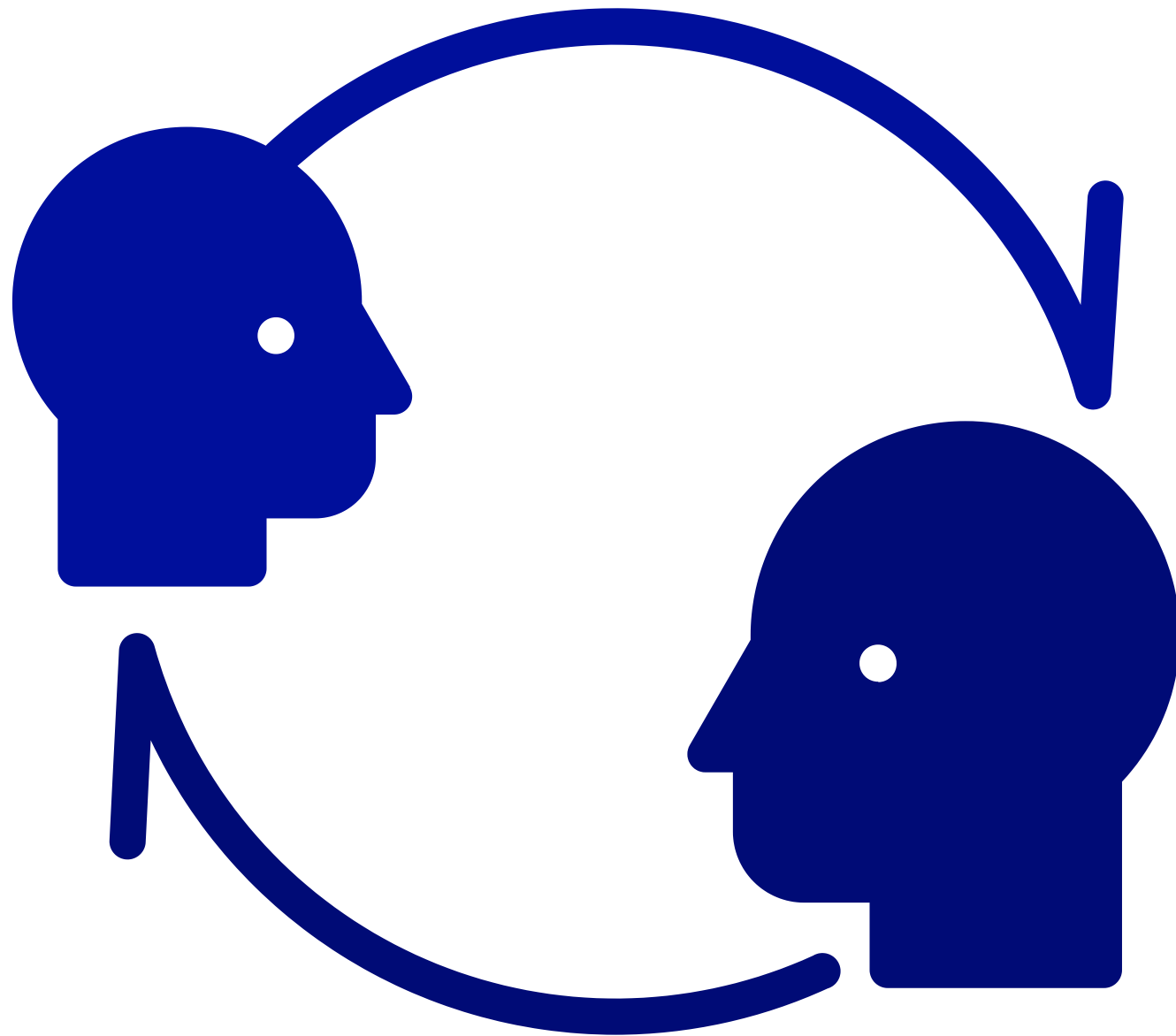
VPK All Day for Title I Schools

Classroom on Wheels



The STEAM Stops is a mobile unit that “pops up” in neighborhoods where quality early learning experiences for children, birth to five, are not currently available, accessible or affordable. The primary focus is to **reinforce ‘parents as first teachers’** by providing a two-generational approach to quality early learning. This includes delivering age-appropriate, play-based learning activities in an outdoor environment, coaching parents on how to participate and lead their child’s learning, and connecting families to vital community resources based on their individual family needs.

Did You Know?



School Readiness –tuition assistance for childcare

CSC tuition assistance

VPK –provides 3 hours of voluntary pre-kindergarten instruction for free



Return on Investment: Every Dollar Invested Pays Off



ROI
**RETURN ON
INVESTMENT**

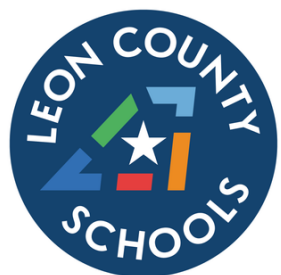
For every \$1 invested in early childhood education, there is a \$7 to \$12 return in the form of:

- Increased earnings for participants.
- Lower costs for special education, criminal justice, and public assistance.
- High-quality early learning also supports the local economy by enabling parents to participate in the workforce.

Early Learning: The Smart Investment for Our Future

- Early learning is not just an educational issue, it's an economic one.
- Long-term impacts include a more skilled workforce, healthier community, and a more vibrant local economy.
- Together, we can build a stronger future for Leon County by investing in our youngest learners today.





Leon County Schools

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