



## CARING FOR KIDS

A Quarterly Newsletter from Child Care Resource & Referral

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### Please join us for our Quarterly Provider Meeting!

These meetings will be held in-person this quarter! One person from each Provider Site should plan to attend one of the six scheduled meetings, if at all possible. Registration is required, as space is limited. Providers may choose to attend a meeting in a county that differs from where their site is located. Meetings are scheduled for 2 hours but typically last 1-1.5 hours. We look forward to seeing you!

Participants will receive important updates from Episcopal Children's Services staff:

#### SR Education Department

SR CLASS Assessments, Canvas Courses, updates and requirements

#### CCRR, Provider Services, Contracts, and Family Services

Provider Portal review, updates, and requirements

[Click HERE to view schedule and register!](#)

Registration Code: ELCNF

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### ASQs: IMPORTANT Reminders !

SR Families now have the first option to complete the ASQ and ASQ-SE (Social Emotional) within the Family Portal during enrollment. If the family defers the screening or does not complete the screening within 5 days, the provider will need to complete the ASQs within the Provider Portal. **Please be sure to check your portal account periodically and complete any outstanding ASQs.**

For ASQs that the parent/guardian are unable to complete, Providers will be required to complete ASQs annually at **redetermination** and at the time of **enrollment**. Please note that due to a recent Rule change, the ASQ-SE is now **required, if the parent chooses** for an ASQ-SE to be completed. This means providers will be required to submit ASQs and ASQ-SEs for children as specified by the parent/guardian.

**Remember: If a child has been terminated from your program, you can update their status in your Provider Portal.**

We greatly appreciate your patience as our team learns these new functionalities along with you. If you have any questions, please contact your Screening Specialist or Amanda Griffis at [Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org](mailto:Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org).

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## SR/VPK CLASS Assessments

CLASS assessments are underway! Keep in mind that **ALL VPK classrooms** must be assessed this year. Programs with SR and VPK contracts will receive separate SR and VPK composite scores. **The Contract Minimum Threshold (CMT) is 4.0**, meaning your site must reach a score of 4.0 or higher in order to contract for SR and VPK services. Please make sure you are taking advantage of the CLASS resources and assistance offered to you by your Education Specialist. We anticipate the CMT will increase to 4.5 next year. Also, for SR providers who have been under a "Biannual" status, please note that next year Biannual exemption will be eliminated and all sites will need CLASS assessments. If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Education Specialist.

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## New Provider Resource Site!

Questions?? Please check out our new Provider Resource website! We are building this site currently so keep checking back for more information. This site will be updated continuously.

[Click Here for Provider Resources](#)

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## 23-24 VPK Provider Profiles are Available!

23-24 Provider Profiles are now available! Providers must have an Active 2023-2024 profile before VPK applications and contracts can be initiated. If you have not done so, please update your 2023-2024 profile. Existing providers simply need to click 'Create 2023' and most info will populate from your previous profile for you to look over and revise, as needed, before submitting.

## VPK 23-24 Program Registration

Registration for 2023-24 VPK age eligible children is available online to families at <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/>. Parents are responsible for maintaining their log in information as well as reviewing their email accounts for status updates regarding VPK program eligibility.

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## Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Using Star Early Literacy Progress Monitoring (PM) Period

All VPK Programs are required to implement Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy, during Progress Monitoring (PM) PM1, PM2, and PM3, as described in the Administration Schedule:

**PM1:** Is the first thirty (30) instructional days of the VPK class schedule beginning with the first VPK instructional day.

**PM2:** Is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and no more than 60% of the

instructional hours have been completed.

**PM3:** Is the last thirty (30) instructional days of the VPK class schedule ending on the last VPK instructional day.

VPK Programs are **required** to provide a student's performance results from the assessment to the student's parents **within seven calendar days** after the administration of the assessment. VPK Programs must provide the Star Parent Report. The Star Parent Report provides a printable informational letter for parents or guardians and is available in English and Spanish. The link to running instructions can be found here: <https://help2.renaissance.com/reports/25027>.

Technical Assistance

**Renaissance System Support:** Users that need Renaissance System support should contact the Renaissance Place Help Desk and Technical Assistance Team at 1-800-338-4204 or by email at [FAST\\_Star@renaissance.com](mailto:FAST_Star@renaissance.com).

**Policy Questions?** Contact the Division of Early Learning with questions related to FAST using Star Early Literacy implementation requirements. Select which best describes who you are: [VPK Provider](#) or [VPK Parent](#) and your information and questions will be submitted to the Division of Early Learning [VPKFAST@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:VPKFAST@oel.myflorida.com)

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## Family Engagement: Tips to Share with Families



### Budget Friendly Ways to Spend Time with your Kids

Spring is almost here and the weather is warming. It's a great time to spend some quality time with your kids! Spending time as a family doesn't have to break the bank. There are many free or low-cost ways to create fun family time! Here are just a few:

- Go for a bike ride
- Take a walk
- Craft with items you find around the house
- Play a board game
- Attend library and free community events

For more information:

<https://snailpacetransformations.com/20-thrifty-ways-spend-quality-time-with-your-child/>

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## School Readiness Program

School Readiness Services (also known as subsidized child care) is available in Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Putnam and St. Johns Counties through Episcopal Children's Services. Families must qualify and there is often a waitlist, so it is

important to apply for services as soon as possible. All registration is done entirely online so any parent/guardian wanting to apply for the School Readiness Program will need to apply at the following link:

[Click Here To Apply](#)

**Please note:** All applicants will be required to upload *ONE* supporting document per adult in the household to verify eligibility. A list of acceptable documents will be available during the application process based on the information provided in the application. Applications cannot be approved without the supporting document.

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### CCR&R One Stop Offices

#### **Bradford County One Stop**

Phone: 904-964-1543  
1080 North Pine St., Starke, FL 32091  
Fax: 904-964-5863

#### **Putnam County One Stop**

Phone: 386-385-3450  
821 State Road 19 South, Palatka, FL 32177  
Fax: 386-530-2692

#### **St. Johns County One Stop**

Phone: 904-770-2565  
5 Clark St., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Fax: 904-429-7604

#### **Clay County One Stop**

Phone: 904-213-3939  
1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 150,  
Fleming Island, FL 32003  
Fax: 904-278-2099

#### **Nassau County One Stop**

Phone: 904-432-0009 ext. 2626  
96042 Lofton Square, Yulee, FL 32097  
Fax: 904-277-7219

#### **Baker County One Stop**

Phone: 904-259-4225  
418 8th St., Macclenny, FL 32063  
Fax: 904-259-9169

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### CCR&R

Child Care Resource and Referral offers free information and referral services to families who are looking for child care. There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the CCR&R database or for referrals to your program.

Our agency maintains a database of all legally operating child care programs in Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Putnam and St. Johns Counties and we are required to update this information annually. This information is maintained in the Statewide Provider Portal.

The Provider Portal is an online database for child care providers and Early Learning Coalitions. This database administers the School Readiness, CCR&R, and VPK Programs.

We encourage you to complete this process and share your child care program's information with us as it will be used on a statewide level to give state officials, agencies, the legislature and the governor's office a picture of Florida's child care community. Completing the provider update process is also a great opportunity to market your program, at no cost to you, to a wide range of families who may or may not know about the services you provide. Our office provides information and provider listings about available child care programs to families seeking child care. It is critical that this information be accurate to match families up with programs that most closely match their needs.

If you have not already completed the registration process for an account, please start the process now by going to the following link:

After you register for an account, an ECS staff member will activate it. Once your account is activated you will be able to complete the Provider Portal Profile, which is the online version of the Provider Update Form. Once a Provider Portal Profile is completed, it can easily be updated on an annual or as needed basis so that your programs most up-to-date information is readily available to families seeking assistance with finding a child care provider. In the future if you become a contracted School Readiness or VPK provider, information already entered into the Provider Portal Profile will prepopulate into your contract. The staff of CCR&R strives to provide families with the most up to date and accurate information possible about provider services. It is important that you call us as changes occur to report changes in your hours, vacancies/enrollment, rates, recent training, and any special services you may be providing. We want to help you succeed in your business of providing quality child care and early education services. For any additional questions, please contact Sarah March at 904-726-1500 x 2206 or Sarah.March@ecs4kids.org

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### Training Tidbits

Check out the great trainings we are offering this quarter! If you need in-service hours, CEUs for your CDA renewal, or want to keep up with the current information in the field of Early Childhood Education, visit our website to see what we have to offer! Also visit the links to other sites with information about available training opportunities and scholarships.

[Click Here for ECS Trainings](#)

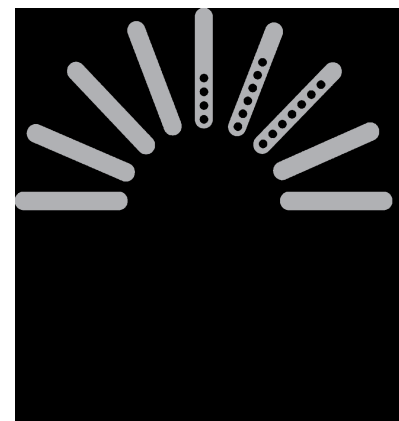
[Click Here for CDA Info](#)



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### T.E.A.C.H.

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning provides scholarships for early childhood teachers and facility/family home directors to work toward earning a degree in early childhood education (Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's), an Infant-Toddler Certificate, Florida Staff Credential, Director Credential, National CDA Assessment, or credential renewals.



Your T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will cover the majority of the cost of tuition and books, a per semester student access stipend, a tiered bonus structure for degree-seeking scholars, and much more! Contact our office today at 877-FL TEACH (877-358-3224) to see how T.E.A.C.H. can work for you.

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## Join our ECS Facebook Group

Join for updates, information, and inspiration for early childhood educators!  
Click below:

Join ECS In The Know

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### Numbers & Websites to Know

DCF Child Care Training Information Center: 1-888-352-2842 or click here: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/training.shtml>

Licensing/Accreditation information: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/provider-resources.shtml>

Central Directory/FDLRS: 1-800-654-4440  
(child screenings/evaluations)

### Florida KidCare

Florida KidCare is our state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. Eligibility for Florida KidCare is based on child's age and family income.

To receive more information, visit [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org) or call 1-800-540-5437.

### Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

If you suspect or have concerns that a child is being abused and/or neglected, you should report it **immediately to the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)**. Florida law requires that **ANY** person in Florida who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare **MUST** immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families.

Online Reporting Form: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/report-online.shtml>

Learn the signs of Child Abuse at: <http://www.onewithcourage.org/learn-the-signs/>

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### Warm Line: 1-800-238-3463

Do you have a concern about the health, development, disability, or special needs of a child? If so, please call the Warm Line: Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford-Ext. 2281; Putnam & St. Johns- Ext. 2227. The purpose of the Warm Line is to provide advice to childcare personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and environmental adaptations that allow a child to derive maximum benefit from the childcare experience.

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### Do You Suspect Fraud?

Whether it's a member of your family, a neighbor, friend or someone you don't know. Public assistance fraud is not a victim-less crime. Real people, real families are hurt when public benefits are provided to unqualified individuals who use fraudulent information or references. School Readiness is supported by state and

federal taxes and because of this, we are obligated to be good stewards of the funding. If you are aware of an individual committing fraud against the School Readiness and/or Voluntary Prekindergarten Programs, please contact ECS by either calling 1-800-238-3463 ext. 2246, or by emailing [fraud@ecs4kids.org](mailto:fraud@ecs4kids.org). Information provided will remain confidential.

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[Visit our website](#)

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