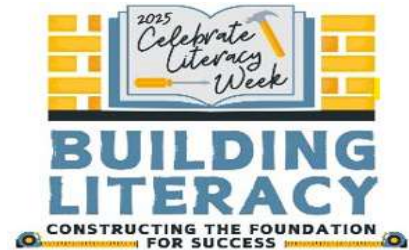




Celebrate Literacy!

The Department of Education is committed to raising awareness about the importance of reading and to inspiring families to make reading part of their daily routines during [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](#), which is January 27 - 31. Early literacy development is an essential part of a child's education and it begins at birth. This year's theme is Building Literacy: Constructing the Foundation for Success.



The Division of Early Learning supports Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! from an early learning perspective in partnership with providers. The division's focus is interactive reading and play to deepen children's foundational knowledge.

Early learning child care providers and preschools incorporate early literacy skills into age-appropriate topics related to families and their communities.

Mark your calendars for a simultaneous reading on Wednesday, January 29, at 10 a.m. (EST). Providers will spread the love of literacy in their homes, centers and schools by reading *Little Excavator* by Anna Dewdney to infants/toddlers (birth to 3-year-olds) and *Dig Dig Digging* by Margaret Mayo to preschoolers (3- to 5-year-olds).

#DELCelebratesEarlyLiteracy

Tips for Using CCR&R Resources

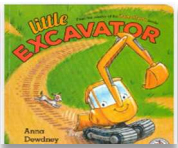
Providers:

- Provide literacy resources to teachers for use in their classrooms.
- Create a literacy-rich environment that supports opportunities for children to practice skills based on the language and literacy standards and benchmarks.
- Incorporate and pair books into other lessons including art, math and science. You can have a book on construction vehicles near the blocks or books on nature during a science experiment.

Coalitions:

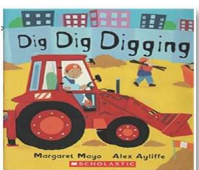
- Create a lending library at your coalition for families and providers to check out early literacy books during the week.
- Promote early literacy by providing your families with free children books throughout the year.
- Coordinate with an early learning provider to read the book *Little Excavator* or *Dig Dig Digging* to a class during the simultaneous reading activity on Wednesday, January 29, at 10 a.m.
- Offer a family early literacy workshop to share information on early language and literacy standards and benchmarks.

Little Excavator by Anna Dewdney



Join the construction crew and a little excavator, sharing the message no matter how little you are, keep trying!

Dig Dig Digging by Margaret Mayo



Explore a work day with construction workers as they engage with a variety of machines.



Resources for Providers

Professional Learning Modules

The Division of Early Learning has added two new modules to the **Professional Learning Modules: Preschool Director Toolkit** that focus on executive functioning skills and the use of technology in the preschool classroom. These modules, along with four previous ones, provide professional learning for early childhood educators on topics that are relevant to the preschool classroom. The content within each module is based on the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (2017)* and uses developmentally appropriate evidence-based practices to support young children in reaching expected learning outcomes.

The modules are designed to support a variety of delivery methods for professional learning. Directors, early learning coaches and trainers can use the modules in a community of practice with their instructors or as a small group training experience. In addition, instructors can independently review and learn from each module based on interest and professional learning needs.

Visit the Professional Learning Modules: [Preschool Director Toolkit](#) for more information on resources and training opportunities as well as the following modules:

1. **NEW!** Intentional Use of Technology and Interactive Media in Early Learning
2. **NEW!** Supporting Executive Functioning Skills in the Preschool Classroom
3. Developing a Reflective Practice
4. Emergent Writing in the Preschool Classroom
5. Integrating Learning Throughout the Preschool Day
6. Mathematical Thinking: Rethinking Calendar Time



The New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI) is a **free** Florida literacy program for VPK students and K-5th grade public and charter school students scoring below grade level on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (STAR) assessment. Thanks to the support and investment of the Florida Legislature, this statewide book delivery program is a collaborative effort with the Florida Department of Education, school districts, other local and state organizations and the University of Florida Lastinger Center. Don't miss the chance to discover more about NWRI. Enrollment flyers are available in [English](#) (PDF), [Spanish](#) (PDF) and [Haitian Creole](#) (PDF).

It's Okay to Play in VPK!

Be sure to check out the newly revised and updated ***It's Okay to Play in VPK! for Educators***. Participants engage in a virtual (part 1) and hands-on (part 2) learning experience to gain new strategies, instructional knowledge and skills to provide a developmentally appropriate play-based learning environment.

Training content and learning goals align to the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards* and provide at home tips for educators to share with families on play-based learning.

Additionally, the ***It's Okay to Play in VPK! Family*** module offers trainings to family members or guardians on the importance of play at school and at home. Parents/guardians attend sessions with ***It's Okay to Play in VPK!*** trainers and experience firsthand the fun and learning that occurs in the preschool classroom. Families also gain knowledge on how to support impactful play-based learning at home.

For more information on ***It's Okay to Play in VPK!*** trainings, contact your [Early Learning Coalition](#).