



### ***What does Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) mean?***

#### ***What does it look like for my child?***

The LRE is the school setting, or place, that allows a child to be educated to the greatest extent possible with children who do not have disabilities. The Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team determines the best place for the child to be educated. Parents are members of these teams. The “range of possible placements” or options where children can receive their education includes programs where the child with the disability is in a classroom with other children, most of whom do not have disabilities (least restrictive); and, at the other end of the spectrum of programs where only children with disabilities are in a separate classroom (more restrictive).

### ***What are preschool options for my child?***

Preschool children with disabilities can be educated in a school district preschool program or in an early childhood setting in the community with their typically developing peers. Different school districts may provide different options, so it is important to discuss these with your school district before deciding where your child will be placed.

### **School District Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Programs**

There are Pre-K programs for children with disabilities in every school district in the state. A list of the contact person for each district is available by accessing the following link:

Website: <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/Pre-K%2007-08.pdf>

### **Community Child Care Centers/Preschools**

Services for children with disabilities may occur at a community childcare center. A licensed childcare center must meet minimum health, safety, and staffing requirements set by the county and/or state. For more information regarding childcare options, access the following

Website: <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers>

### **Head Start**

Head Start is a federally funded program that serves children from birth to 5 years old. There are 4 program parts: Head Start (or Preschool Head Start), Migrant Head Start, American Indian Head Start, and Early Head Start. The goal of these programs is to increase school readiness of young children in low-income families. For more information, access the following link:

Website: <http://www.floridaheadstart.org/>

**Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) Education Program** VPK is a program for all children in Florida the year before kindergarten. The program allows all children who become 4 years old on or before September 1 and reside in Florida to be enrolled in a program provided by school districts or community-based providers. There is no cost to the family for their child to participate. School districts may offer a school year program and must offer a summer program. Families have the option of choosing either a school year or a summer VPK program. For more information, access the following link:

Website: <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk>



This TATS Talks gives you some highlights of preschool programming for children with disabilities in Florida, preschool options for children with disabilities, and what to look for in a quality preschool program. Other helpful resources and links for more information on topics are also included.





