

VPK Teacher Learning Circle
Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, or Hernando Counties
Spring 2026

The University of South Florida College of Education in partnership with the Florida Division of Early Learning and the Tampa Bay History Center will be hosting a Learning Circle - a free, peer-engaged experience for VPK teachers. The Learning Circle will provide strategies and resources to foster preschoolers' exploratory learning and play-based inquiry using interdisciplinary activities that include community-based historical photographs from the Tampa Bay region that support Florida's Early Learning and Developmental Standards (2017).

This exciting opportunity offers you not only professional development, but also participating teachers will earn a stipend (\$400) upon successful completion. To be eligible, you must be employed as a VPK instructor at a school that maintains a VPK contract with an early learning coalition in one of the following counties: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, or Hernando.

Each session, we will meet for approximately 90 minutes to engage in activities that allow you to explore a teaching strategy along with learning resources. We will then work collaboratively to practice new skills and reflect on how to apply these approaches into VPK classrooms. You will have opportunities to share new ideas and strategies, network with other early childhood professionals, share resources and experiences, and brainstorm solutions to challenges you may have encountered.

The Circle will run from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on the following dates: January 21, January 28, February 4, February 11, February 18, and March 4. All sessions will be delivered via Zoom, and participants must attend all scheduled sessions. **Participation is limited to 15 VPK teachers, so please complete your application form as soon as possible.** If you want to join the Learning Circle, **please fill out the form at this link: <https://forms.gle/YmWXTXn5D3i1oPWU8>**. We will send you an email to confirm your participation status.

Please pass this message on to anyone in your community who you think might be interested and get in touch if you have any questions. For more information or questions, please contact Dr. Ilene Berson at iberson@usf.edu.