The Power of Pre-K
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THANK YOU!

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The Power of Pre-K

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I didn’t always have super powers, Stuffy. It all started when Mom said I was going to some place called Pre-K to “Get ready for kindergarten.”
It looked like a normal school at first, but it turned out that Pre-K is where all the magic happens!
When I met my teacher, Ms. Joy, I thought she was just a regular grown-up. I didn’t know she had super powers, too!
And I definitely didn’t know that she’d be teaching them to me!
Talking to the new kids in my class made me feel a little nervous and my stomach did flip flops...
But Ms. Joy taught us how to talk to new people so we can learn more about them. Now, I have the Power of Friendship!
Ms. Joy sang songs and played new instruments with our class. I didn’t know any of the words so I was afraid to sing along.
My friends encouraged me and told me to give it a try. We turned that simple song into a show-stopping performance! Now, I have the Power of Courage!
At snack time, Ms. Joy let us help prepare our own food. Some of the food, I had never tried before.
We learned to make some things for ourselves and ended up with a fantastic feast! Now, I have the Power of Independence!
When we played outside, we imagined we were exploring dense jungles. Sometimes, we found new plants and animals.
We made discoveries and conducted experiments like real scientists!
Now, I have the Power of Curiosity!
Back inside the classroom, we tried to make tall, tall towers, but they kept falling down. We thought about our school building and what made it strong.
When we used our brains like engineers and construction workers, we could turn wooden blocks into humongous skyscrapers!

Now, I have the Power of Problem Solving!
Sometimes, we used costumes to help us transform into different people. We became all kinds of things, like firefighters, doctors, and police officers!
We imagined what life might be like for other people and even practiced taking turns.

Now, I have the Power of Compassion!
Stuffy, now that Pre-K gave me all of these super powers, I am ready to head off to Kindergarten. Just imagine what I will learn next!
The End
Dear Parents,

When children attend a high quality Pre-K program, paid for through the State of Florida’s FREE VPK program, they really do develop their own super powers. They develop the powers of friendship, curiosity, problem solving, independence, courage, and compassion. Most people think of children going to Pre-K to learn academic skills, like letters and numbers. Those are very important skills, such as early literacy and beginning math skills. What many people don’t realize is that children are also learning these other skills, sometimes called “soft skills.”

- The Power of Friendship = getting along with classmates and future coworkers
- The Power of Courage = taking risks to answer a question in class, try out for a team, or apply for college
- The Power of Independence = feeling comfortable at school and at a future workplace
- The Power of Curiosity = asking questions and discovering new things, at school or at work
- The Power of Problem Solving = solving math or learning problems or negotiating conflict with peers or coworkers
- The Power of Compassion = seeing things from someone else’s point of view and caring for others
These skills, combined with academic skills, help give children the best start in life. Studies show that when children attend a high quality Pre-K program, they enter school ahead of the students who did not. They also show higher reading and math scores, are more likely to graduate from high school, have better long-term health outcomes and are more likely to earn better pay as adults. Enroll your child in VPK and help them develop their own super powers through the Power of Pre-K!
To find out how to enroll your child in Pre-K, please visit schoolreadySWFL.org

This book is made possible by the work of the FutureMakers Coalition, a regional collective impact initiative formed in 2015 around existing regional collaborations. The goal of the FutureMakers Coalition is to transform the workforce by increasing the number of Southwest Florida residents with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials by 2025. The Coalition is committed to creating a cradle-to-career pathway to ensure success for traditional students and adult learners.