



## Office of Early Learning: Update to the S/CDN, September 2024

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# Office of Early Learning

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- Oversees P-3 and is part of the P-12 Instructional Support Office
- Expanded the team to 25 staff over the past year and growing
- Oversees UPK monitoring and funding, which is over 600 schools with a billion dollar budget
- Works directly with districts and eligible agencies on Prekindergarten





# P-3 Newsletter: *Fall Edition*



## Back to School Literacy Resources

Looking to support early literacy development? We've gathered a selection of resources to help foster a love of reading and build foundational literacy skills in young learners. Explore the links below to access valuable information to enhance early literacy for your students.

[NYS Literacy Briefs](#)



# NYS - ADMINISTERED PREKINDERGARTEN

## FAST FACTS

### What is State-Administered Prekindergarten in New York State?

State-Administered Prekindergarten\*, also known as Universal PreK (UPK), is a state and federally funded program offered to families free of charge. The only eligibility requirement for State-Administered Prekindergarten in New York State is a child's age and residency. In New York State, there is currently enough federal and state funding available to serve approximately 100% of the state's four<sup>2</sup>-year-old population.

#### Did You Know?



Children who attend prekindergarten are more likely to graduate high school and attend college.<sup>1</sup>



Children who attend prekindergarten earn significantly more as adults, and are less likely to be unemployed.<sup>1</sup>



Studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in prekindergarten, the community sees a \$7 return on investment through decreased public spending on those children's lives.<sup>2</sup>



#### State/Federal Investment

### \$1.2 billion

\$1.2 billion in state and federal funding is accessible to serve over 190,000 four-year-old prekindergarten students in New York State annually.<sup>3,4</sup>



#### Districts

### 650

Over 650 districts in New York State currently have access to state and/or federal prekindergarten funding.<sup>4</sup>



#### Four-Year-Old Students Served

### 122,000

In the 2022-2023 school year, State-Administered Prekindergarten programs served over 122,000 four-year-old students, compared to 101,000 students ten years ago.



#### Three-Year-Old Students Served

### 6,000

\$50 million in additional state funds are allocated each year to provide prekindergarten programming to over 6,000 three-year-old students.<sup>4</sup>

# UPK Fast Facts and Data Website

- + Around 75% of all eligible four-year-olds in NY State are in UPK programs
- + Goal is to reach all eligible 4-year-old students and expand 3PK
- + Data on county, demographics, and school districts are all published on this site annually

## Are you a district looking to start a UPK program using State-Administered Prekindergarten funding?



The Office of Early Learning is here to help! OEL liaisons are available to walk you and your staff through the process of applying for UPK funding and running a successful program.

### WHAT WE COVER

- ✓ Funding Overview
- ✓ UPK Application Process
- ✓ Outreach
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Programming

### CONTACT US

📞 518-474-5807



# New to UPK? We can help!

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- + Early Learning offers one-on-one meetings to help plan how to start a UPK program
- + We provide an overview of the funding and application process
- + Some districts have the funding, but need assistance to study space and program capacity-we can help



# UPK Day: May 2024





131

Monitoring Visits Conducted



344

Sites Visited



1024

Classrooms Visited

## ***UPK News***

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- UPK Consolidation Report underway
- UPK Collaboration Council update
- 2024-2025 school visits underway
- UPK Child Counts process
- Lottery and RFP guidance out now

# NAVIGATING PREK DAY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday May 8th, 2025  
**Albany, NY**

Save the date for our annual Navigating PreK Day! District administrators and business officials can join us for a day of inspiring speakers, engaging workshops, and valuable networking opportunities.

Additional details and registration information coming soon!



# UPK Day: May 2025

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- + Join us to learn together in 2025!
- + More panel and full-group presentations with district presenters '
- + Breakout sessions and chances to meet one-on-one with Early Learning staff
- + Registration out soon



# 2024-2025 Webinar Series



2024-2025  
BEST PRACTICES IN PREKINDERGARTEN  
**WEBINAR SERIES**  
Click or scan the QR code next to each webinar to register.





**SCIENCE EVERYWHERE**  
November 6, 2024 3:00–4:00pm  
Science Everywhere is an initiative designed specifically for PreK students that emphasizes Inquiry-Based Learning. Spearheaded by NYSED's Office of Early Learning and Office of Cultural Education, the initiative aims to cultivate a love of science and nature in young children through hands-on learning while fostering important critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



**FOSTERING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN PREK**  
February 5, 2025 3:00–4:00pm  
Fostering Positive Behaviors in the Prekindergarten Classroom. Participants will delve deeper into the implementation of strategies used to address current challenging behaviors and further their understanding of how to build a positive learning environment.



**SUPPORTING EMERGENT MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS IN PREK**  
March 5, 2025 3:00–4:00pm  
Participants will learn about the importance of cultivating a culturally and linguistically responsive learning environment for Emergent Multilingual Learners (EML), identify practices that nurture language development for EML students, and hear examples of practical applications for supporting EML students from New York State school districts.





**INCLUSION IN PREK: WHY IT MATTERS AND BEST PRACTICE**  
May 14, 2025 3:00–4:00pm  
Learn why creating inclusive PreK classrooms benefits all children, explore best practices, and gain practical strategies to foster a welcoming and supportive learning environment for every child.



CONTACT US



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**Science Everywhere** – November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (3:00-4:00pm)

- [Register here for the Science Everywhere webinar](#)

**Fostering Positive Behavior in PreK** – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (3:00-4:00pm)

- [Register here for the Positive Behavior in PreK webinar](#)

**Supporting Emergent Multilingual Learners in PreK** – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (3:00-4:00pm)

- [Register here for the Supporting Emergent Multilingual Learners in PreK webinar](#)

**Inclusion in PreK: Why it Matters and Best Practices** – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (3:00-4:00pm)

- [Register here for the Inclusion in PreK webinar](#)

# Positive Behavior in Prekindergarten

## Field Guidance

### Guidance for Supporting Positive Behaviors at Home



How do I provide support for my child socially and emotionally?

- ❖ Establish strong and predictable [family routines](#) at home. A routine is an event that is completed on a regular basis, frequently involving a series of responses. You may want to develop a routine for daily activities such as getting ready in the morning, eating meals, or going to bed at night.
  - [Morning Routine](#)
  - [Bedtime Routine](#)
- ❖ Create family [rules](#) at home with your child.

How do I help prevent tantrums from occurring throughout the day?

- ❖ Give your child choices and allow him or her to make choices throughout their day when it is appropriate. You can give your child the choice between milk or juice or have them pick out their own clothes for the day. Choices empower your child and allow for control and ownership over their day. Choices will help to avoid tantrums, build confidence, add value, teach responsibility, promote creativity, and develop problem-solving skills.



# Age 3 Standards

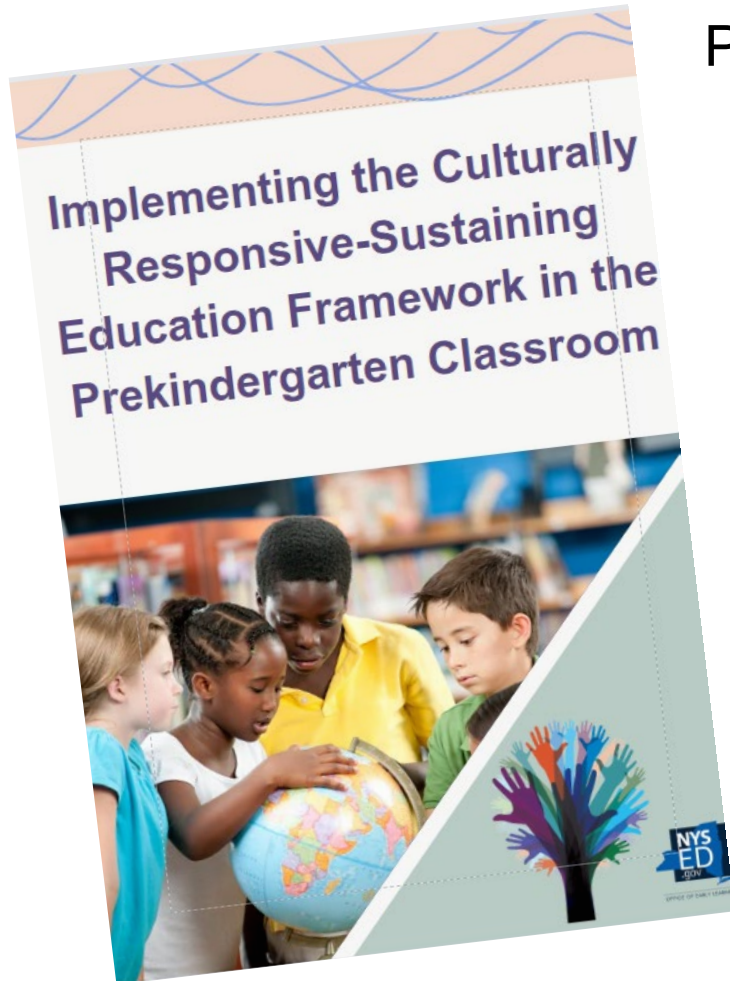
Purpose: To provide educators with a set of guidelines developed specifically for three-year-old students.



- Offers suggestions of skills that students may accomplish with adult support while participating in a three-year-old prekindergarten program
- Emphasizes play and developmentally appropriate practices
- Encompasses all 5 domains of learning, similar to the other standards resources documents
- Includes suggested classroom practices for three-year-old students



# CR-SE Toolkit for PreK



Purpose: Provide guidance to the field regarding 4 principles of CR-S and its application to the PreK context.

- Principles of CR-S include creating a welcoming and affirming environment, setting high expectations and providing rigorous instruction, providing inclusive curriculum and assessment and providing ongoing professional learning.
- Each principle has specific examples on how all educators (teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators) can promote and apply the CR-S to the PreK context.
- A reflection checklist is included to aide educators in reflecting on each domain and how to plan next steps for improving CR-S practices.

# EML Guidance

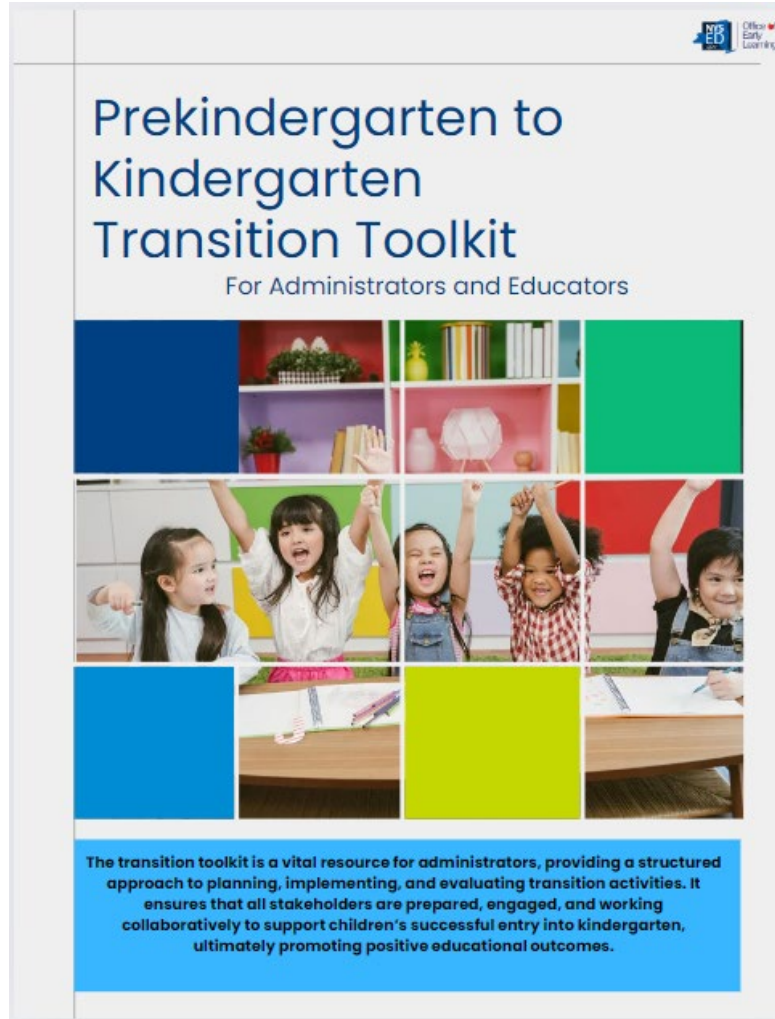


Purpose: Provide guidance to the field regarding how to support EMLs at the program/administrative level and the classroom/teacher level.

- Three contexts for supporting EMLs, which include Classroom Environment, Curriculum and Instruction, and Communication with Parents & Families
- The tips are specific and actionable practices and can be expanded upon through further resources.
- These tips can also serve as specific recommendations for us to include in our QAP Summary Reports.



# Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit



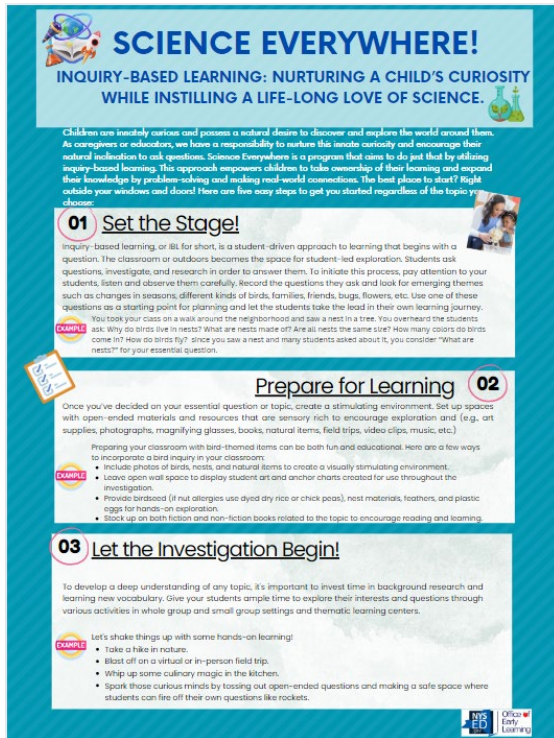
Purpose: To develop guidance, tools, and resources for LEAs that:

- Equips educators, administrators, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and families with detailed information and clear guidance to support a child's transition
- Ensures continuity in transition
- Provides Research-Based activities and strategies
- Provides a common understanding among stakeholders.

Forthcoming



# Science Everywhere!



Purpose: To develop a prekindergarten science initiative that promotes a love of science and nature for PreK children.

- Inquiry-based science and aligned to the NYS Standards
- Developed and informed by multiple stakeholders
- Consists of a webpage, tip sheet, and a bird exploration to aid in implementation
- Child-centered focus – tied to a child's natural curiosity
- Builds problem-solving skills and to make real-world connections

# P-3 Cultural Connections Toolkit

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## Cultural Connections

A framework and resource kit for P-3 learning



**Explore the arts, science, and social studies  
of New York State through cultural education!**

*Young learners thrive by sharing time and cultural  
education experiences together. Experiential learning  
boosts brain power while cultivating a sense of  
understanding and belonging in the world. Use this simple*

- Encourages cultural experiences and connections with the arts and museums in P-3
- Connected to the NYS Learning Standards
- P-3 Early Learning and Cultural Education conference in Fall 2025 forthcoming

# P-3 Literacy Instructional Best Practices

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- P-3 Literacy Instructional Best Practices to be released by January 1, 2025
- Work is underway with support from WestEd
- Working with S/CDN on feedback and suggestions for rollout



# Forthcoming



**Guidance on  
Emergent  
Multilingual  
Learners in  
Prekindergarten**



**Culturally  
Responsive-  
Sustaining  
guidance for  
Prekindergarten**



**P-3 Cultural  
Education Toolkit**



**P-3 Literacy  
Instructional Best  
Practices (in  
January 2025)**



**P-3 Instructional  
Guidance Toolkit  
and recorded  
webinars**

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**<http://www.nysed.gov/early-learning>**

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