

Glossary

Adaptive education

modifying programs, environments, curricula, and activities to provide learning experiences that help all students achieve desired education goals.

Algebra

math are that provides tools for picturing, stating, and simplifying relationships; generalization of arithmetic ideas by which unknown values and variables can be found in problem solving. Young children build a foundation for later algebra learning through activities with pattern, relationships, mathematic situations and structures, and change

Alliteration

the same consonant sounds at the beginning of words in a sentence or a line of poetry. For example, the sound of P in Peter Piper picked a pack of pickled peppers.

Alphabetic knowledge

the knowledge that letters have names and shapes and that letters can represent sounds in language.

Alphabetic principle

awareness that each speech sound or phoneme in a language has its own distinctive graphic representation and an understanding that letters go together in patterns to represent sounds.

Anecdotes

are brief factual descriptions of a child's behavior and language

Anecdote Form

is an organizational tool to help teachers link their written anecdotes to the expectations/standards.

Assessment

the process of collecting information about children's development, learning, health, behavior, academic progress, and need for special services, in order to plan and implement curriculum and instruction. It is an on-going process of gathering evidence in order to make informed decisions

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

a behavioral disorder in which children display cognitive delays as a result of difficulties with attention, impulse control, and hyperactivity

Attributes

characteristics like shape, size, color, number of parts, weight.

Authentic assessment

evaluation of the actual learning and instructional activities in which children are involved.

Balance Literacy

each day includes time for both guided instruction and independent work

Bar graph

graph in which data are represented by horizontal or vertical bars

Big books

oversized books that allow children to see the print and pictures as we read them.

Bilingual education

serves students whose first language is not English or whose English skills are limited. English and other subjects are taught in the student's native language if necessary. The goal is for the child to gain knowledge and be literate in two languages

Book Discussion Card

cards include probing questions to help teachers nurture the critical thinking skills, guidance for emphasizing vocabulary and supporting social-emotional development, showing teachers how to conduct multiple effective read-alouds, ensuring that children are getting the most out of these experiences.

Child development

the various stages of physical, social, and psychological growth that occur from birth through young adulthood

Child development associate

has completed a CDA assessment and received the CDA credential of the National Credentialing Program, Child Development Associate Assessment System and Competency Standards

Child initiated

activity led by child's interest

Classification

the process of sorting and grouping objects by a common attribute or property, such as color or size.

Closed-ended questions

questions which can be answered finitely by either "yes", "no" or answered in a few words. Examples: How may/can I help you? Where have you looked already? How are you today? What color is the ball?

Cognitive development

children's developing knowledge skills, and dispositions, which help them to think about and understand the world around them

Collection period

there are four collection periods, they are referred to as:

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring
- Summer

Color-coded age bands

in *Objectives for Development & Learning* and the *Child Assessment Portfolio*, the colored bands or lines (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple) that each represent a year of life

Complex sentences

a complex sentence contains a clause (a statement) that is not a complete sentence. This is in addition to the complete sentence. Example: Mrs. Biggs, a teacher at Lakeview School, enjoys teaching

writing.

Comprehension

in reading, the basic understanding of the words and the content or meaning contained within printed material

Common Core State Standards

clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade

Conservation

the concept that objects remain the same in amount despite perceptual changes. For example, children who are able to conserve know that a cookie broken in half is equal in amount to another cookie left whole, or that a cup of milk (8 ounces) in a tall, narrow glass is equal to a cup of milk in a short, wide glass

Constructivist process

the continuous mental organizing, structuring, and restructuring of experiences in relation to schemes of thought, or mental images, which result in cognitive growth.

Cultural diversity

the diversity between ethnic groups. The extent of group identification by members of ethnic groups varies greatly and is influenced by many factors such as skin color, social class, and professional experience.

Culturally fair education

education that respects and accounts for the cultural backgrounds of all learners.

Curriculum

Is subject matter that teachers and students cover in class. These days, the best curriculums focus on how and why as well as what. Curricula are sometimes used as the plural

Curriculum-embedded performance assessment

the data for the assessment is collected during the on-going activities of the classroom.

Cylinder

a three-dimensional figure with one curved surface and two parallel, congruent circles as bases

Data

facts, such as measurements, collected about people or things; for example, how much the plants in the window grew over a one-week period or how many children in the class have pets

Decoding

the translation of the letters in written words into recognizable sounds and combining these sounds into meaningful words

Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS)

a multipurpose agency of many state and county governments; usually provides such services as administration of state and federal monies, child care licensing, and protective services for children of all ages

Developmentally appropriate practice

teaching based on how children grow and develop

Differentiated instruction

is a framework or philosophy for effective teaching that involves providing students with different avenues to acquiring content; to processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas; and to developing teaching materials and assessment measures so that all students within a classroom can learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability. See individualize instruction

Dimension

a specific aspect or sub-skill of an objective

Diversity

refers to and describes the relationships among background, socioeconomic status, gender, language, and culture of students, parents, and communities

Documentation

is a preliminary stage in the assessment process and focuses on identifying, collecting, and describing the evidence of learning in an objective, non-judgmental manner. Teachers use documentation to identify new curriculum strategies and new questions about children.

Dual Language Learners, DLL

children who acquire two or more languages simultaneously, as well as those who learn a second language while continuing to develop their second language

Early childhood assistant teacher

assists the teacher in conducting a developmentally and educationally appropriate program for a group or classroom. Also known as instructional assistant, teacher assistant or paraprofessional

Emergent literacy

the view that literacy learning begins at birth and is encouraged through participation with adults in meaningful literacy-related activities

Emotional development

to help children experienced pride and self-confidence developing independence and self-control and have a positive attitude toward life

English as a Second Language (ESL)

programs take children whose first language is not English out of regular classrooms to study English

Evaluation

is a secondary stage, is the process of comparing documentation to a standard in order to make a decision or a judgment

Environmental print

printed materials that are part of everyday life. They include signs, billboards, labels, and business logos

Estimate

to use judgment to find a number close to an exact amount

Expectations and Standards

are learning outcomes defined by the state of New Jersey

Experimental writing

young children experiment with writing by creating pretend and real letters and by organizing scribbles and marks on paper

Explicit instruction

teaching children in a systematic and sequential manner

Expressive language

a preschooler's developing ability to talk fluently and articulately with teacher and peers, the ability to express oneself in the language of the school, and the ability to communicate needs and ideas.

Fluency

the ability to identify letters and words automatically

Full inclusion

the mainstreaming or inclusion of all children with disabilities into natural environments such as playgrounds, family day care centers, child care centers, preschool, kindergarten, and primary grades.

Graph

a drawing or diagram showing a numerical relationship or displaying data

Grapheme

a letter or letters that make up an individual sound or sounds.
Examples: A, B, Th, Sh

Growing pattern

a pattern that increases by at least plus one and continues to increase

Guided Reading

reading instruction in small, flexible groups of students with similar instructional needs

Hexagon

a polygon with six sides.

Home language

a language spoken in the home that is different than the main language spoken in the community

Higher level question

a question that stimulates thinking and requires a more extensive elaborate answer. Examples: What might happen if...? What do you think...? How can we...?

IDEA

is a basic federal law covering special education. In the 1970s Congress guaranteed children with physical and mental disabilities a “free and appropriate public education.” In 1990 the law was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA. It describes when a student is entitled to special education services and supports and what they are

Indicators

descriptions of knowledge, skills or behaviors that children demonstrate at four levels of each developmental progression

Individualized education program (IEP)

a plan created to specify instruction for children with disabilities

Individualized instruction

is a method of instruction in which content, instructional technology (such as materials) and pace of learning are based upon the abilities and interests of each individual learner

Informal reading

when a teacher sporadically reads to a student throughout the day without it being on the schedule

Intentional teaching cards

playful and engaging activities that can be implemented throughout the day, with directions to help teachers individualize each activity to meet the needs of every learner

Instruction

refers to the methods teachers use. Common methods are lecture, discussion, exercise, experiment, role play, small group, and writing assignments. The most effective teachers use many methods because not all are effective with all students

Integration

the education of children with disabilities along with typically developing children. This education can occur in mainstream, reverse mainstream, and full-inclusion programs

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Interactive writing

the process in which a teacher shares the pen with a child to write down a child's spoken words, while making explicit decoding and print features and forms

Invented spelling

phonemic based spelling where children create their own non-conventional spelling

Journals

Writing books in which young learners scribble, draw, and use their own spellings to write about their experiences

Least restrictive environment (LRE)

children with disabilities are educated with children who have no disabilities. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily

Levels

in objectives for *Development & Learning* and the *Child Assessment Portfolio*, the rating scale that describes specific points along the progression for each objective

Line symmetry

characteristic describing a figure or shape that can be divided along a line so that the sections on either side of the line match exactly

Literacy

Includes all the activities involved in speaking listening, reading, writing, and appreciating both spoken and written language

Literacy Prompt Form

is an organization tool that provides a means for including meaningful anecdotal information related to a specific book related prompt

Literacy prompts

one type of documentation used to elicit specific types of learning from the child using a children's book and asking a child or small group to respond to a specific aspect of the reading

Looping

assigning teachers to spend two or more years with the same group of same-age children

Manipulatives

easily handled concrete objects, such as beads, puzzles, and peg boards, that children can work with in ways that help them understand or explore mathematic concepts. For example, putting together a puzzle promotes children's understanding of one-to-one correspondence

Mighty Minutes

can be used to intentionally teach language, literacy, math, science, social studies, or physical skills.

Modify

cause to change; make different; cause a transformation in the lesson to meet the needs of diverse learners

Morning message

a message that is written each day about an event or an interesting question. Discussion of skills and/or concepts of print follow this

Multicultural awareness

appreciation for and understanding of people's

cultures, socioeconomic status and gender

Multiple intelligences

Howard Gardner's concept that people are "smart" in many ways; those intelligences include linguistic, musical, logical mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalistic, and existentialist

Nonstandard measuring tools

tools that are not formal measuring tools. e.g. paperclips

Objective

a statement of expectations of knowledge, skills and behaviors

Objectives for Development & Learning

describes in detail the 38 objectives in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool*. Based on an extensive review of the latest research and professional literature in early childhood education

Observation

the intentional, systematic act of looking at the behavior of a child or children in a particular setting program, or situation

Octagon

a polygon with eight sides

On-demand assessment / On the Spot

means that children have one chance to show what they know and can do. For young children, the results of on-demand assessments have potentially misleading results

Open-ended questions

Questions which provoke students to answer in more detail and are not restrictive to one-word answers. An answer to an open-ended question gives us a window Examples: What else can you do with the play dough? What could you use to make the tower stand up? What do you think would happen if...?

Operation

four basic operations in arithmetic are used to solve problems: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Oral Language

use and knowledge of words in spoken language

Pentagon

a polygon with five side

Phonemes

the smallest parts of spoken language and that combine to form words. For example, the word *hit* is made up of three phonemes (h-i-t) and differs by one phoneme from the words *pit*, *hip*, and *hot*.

Phonemic awareness

the ability to hear spoken words as a sequence of spoken sounds and the ability to identify and manipulate those sounds

Phonics

the relationships between the sounds of spoken language and the individual letters or groups of letters that represent those sounds in written language

Phonological Awareness

the ability to notice and work with the sounds in language. Phonological awareness activities can involve work with alliteration, rhymes, and separating individual syllables into sounds

Physical development

to help children increase their large and small muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do

Pictograph

graph using pictures to represent data.

Portfolios

a purposeful compilation of children's work samples, products, and teacher observations collected over time

Position

an indication of where a person or object is located in relation to someone or something else

Predict

to tell what might happen

Print awareness

the knowledge that printed words carry meaning and that reading and writing are ways to obtain ideas and information. A young child's sensitivity to print is one of the first steps toward reading

Print rich environments

a setting in which many different kinds of print are displayed that have meaning to the children. Signs, labeled centers, wall stories, word displays, labeled murals, bulletin boards, charts and poems are just a few ways to display print. This does not mean putting labels on everything in sight such as door, window, tables, etc. nor does it mean making word walls which have no meaning

Progress

how children have changed from one time to another

Property

feature or characteristic common to several items – for example, both blocks are red

Reading

to speak aloud printed or written words

Read Aloud

a variety of carefully selected literature that is read aloud to whole class or small group

Reading comprehension

to understand the meaning of written or printed characters, words, or sentences

Rebus charts

a chart that has representation of words in the form of pictures or symbols

Receptive language

skills that toddlers and preschoolers develop, such as listening to the teacher and following directions

Reflection

is the process of studying, thinking about, and making decisions about the documentation teachers collect.

Reflective practice

professionals employ a reflective practice cycle to improve their work. They think about what and how they will teach before they teach, think about their teaching as they teach, and think about what they taught after they teach

Repeating pattern

a sequence of colors, shapes, sounds, or other attributes that occurs again and again, such as red-red-blue, red-blue-blue...; loud-soft-soft, loud-soft-soft...; circle-square, circle-square...

Rhyme

repetition of the ending sound in two or more words.

Example: Hat – cat – sat.

Scaffolding

the process of helping a child build knowledge and understand with assistance or support of some kind from a teacher, parent, caregiver, or peer to help children complete tasks they cannot complete independently

Self talk

private speech, the language an adult uses with children to describe their actions at the time they are being performed

Seriation

the process of ordering or creating a sequence based on a specific attribute, such as length, height, capacity, weight, or amount of time.

SGO-Student Growth Objective

are measures of student learning included in the evaluations of all teachers, principals, and assistant/vice principals in New Jersey

Shared reading

adult and child reading a book together using context and picture cues

Sight vocabulary

words that a reader recognizes without having to sound them out

Skip-counting

counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, or other intervals, beginning with any whole number. Example: 5, 10, 15, 20; 7, 9, 11, 13

Social competence

the ability to build positive relationships with others

Social development

to help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends and feel they are part of the group

Socioeconomic background

relating to, or involving a combination of social and economic factors

Sorting

creating collections of objects that share a common attribute

Spatial orientation

understanding and operating on relationships between different positions in space

Spatial relationship

the positions of objects and people in space relative to each other

Standard measuring tools

tools that mark units of measurement with numerals e.g.rulers

Subitize

to quickly glance at a small group of objects and identify the quantity without counting the objects one at a time

Syllable

A vowel, either by itself or with one or more consonants that produces a single sound

Tally

count data using slash marks, with every fifth slash mark crossing the prior four

Teacher directed

an activity or lesson led with the teachers intentions

Teaching sequence

enable teachers to quickly adapt an activity to make it more or less challenging, thereby enabling every child to participate successfully

Teaching strategies

what teachers can do to support and scaffold children's learning as it relates to a particular objective

Teaching Strategies Book Collection

book collection includes beloved classic tales, contemporary works by well-known authors, and original nonfiction books created especially to complement the studies featured in the *Teaching Guides*.

Teaching Strategies Teaching Guides

six guides in total, The first guide is The First Six Weeks of School, the remaining 5 feature studies, which are project-based investigations

Trapezoid

a quadrilateral with one pair of parallel sides.

Two-dimensional shape

a figure that has width and height only eg. circle

Vocabulary

The words we must know in order to communicate effectively. *Oral vocabulary* refers to words that we use in speaking or recognize in listening. *Reading vocabulary* refers to words we recognize or use in print

Work Samples

are illustrations of children's learning. They may be drawings, writing, journal entries, or photographs of their work

Work Sample Form

is an organizational tool that provides a means for including meaningful annotation (description/explanation) on children's products and photographs

Word recognition

Using any one of a number of strategies such as recognition by sight or decoding so as to figure out their meaning

Word wall

A type of display that features challenging and or high frequency words that are usually organized alphabetically. These lists should be generated by the children and may relate to a particular topic.

Example: if it starts to rain outside the teacher may ask the children to think of all the words related to raining (umbrella, raincoat, puddles, etc). This is not meant to be a drill wall, or words with no relevance to children making it wall-papering