



PRE-K PRESS

AUGUST 2025

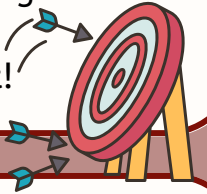


The State of Preschool 2024

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) creates a **State of Preschool Yearbook** which documents the statistics of early education for each state. I just read the 2024 report and wanted to share it with you. When you get to the bottom (where the Texas Quality Standards Checklist is found), you may be less than thrilled. I was rather taken aback, to be honest.

As educators thinking about Pre-K in Texas, what do you think we could do to make it better?

Perhaps best practices is a good start. Let's get back to the basics and stop trying to teach above what is **developmentally appropriate** for our youngest scholars. Pushing harder is not the answer. Check out TEA's [Best Practice Guides](#) for more support!



You Know the Routine...

But your brand new students DO NOT!

So... What do you do? Start the year strong by **teaching routines and procedures!** Be explicit and provide lots of opportunities through games and play to practice these new expectations. Remember, this is probably the first classroom experience your new friends have had. There are so many things to teach, it can be easy to forget the "little things." Use this [Routines & Procedures Checklist](#) as a reminder!

Additionally, here is a folder dedicated to [BOY Info & Activities](#) to support you as you focus on your classroom family, procedures & routines, and simply getting the year started on the right foot so that everyone is ready to learn!

CHECKLISTS!

TEMPLATES!

information!



samples!

activities!

VISUALS!

If you take the first few weeks to teach routines and procedures, you will be so glad you did!

DAP CENTRAL

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

Tour & Teach Centers

Like everything else, Center expectations need to be taught explicitly, and you need to model expected behavior (including how to use and care for materials). Consider a Tour & Teach approach! Cover Centers with a towel, sheet, butcher paper, etc., and include a stop sign. Explain during whole group that you will take students on a tour to teach them about Centers. If you have a paraprofessional in your room, divide and conquer by splitting the class for the tour.



Have a quick activity prepared to teach how to use each Center. A few examples:

Block Center: Build Your Letter

Show the different sized/shaped blocks; give each child a couple to hold and feel. Ask children to describe (color, shape, heavy/light). Ask them to build the first letter in their name, and - of course - be ready to assist. Have their name tag available for visual support. Discuss stacking safely and sorting blocks by shape or size during cleanup.

Dramatic Play Center: Ready for School!

Act out simple routines that students may have done to get ready for school: eating breakfast, brushing teeth, packing up and putting on a backpack. Encourage pretend talk: "Good morning!" "Time for school!" Have students help put things away when finished role-playing.



Library Center: Book Safari

Have each child choose one book to look through. Give each of them a small hand lens and ask them "hunt" for animals, letters, or colors in books. Encourage gentle hands and model how to turn pages carefully. Talk about the things they found and then model how to close the book and correctly and carefully put the books away.

ABC, Math Centers: Sort the Colors

This can be used with any Center containing manipulatives. Talk to children about the ways you could play with the manipulatives. Choose one bin (i.e., magnetic letters, bears) and a few cups/bowls. Ask children to help you sort the manipulatives according to color while you continue to talk about the items you are sorting. Model how to correctly put the items away when you are finished.

PRE-K BOOK NOOK

This series is a great way to start out the school year! With great examples of how to use manners and why it is important all wrapped up in short, rhyming stories, these are perfect for introducing read alouds!

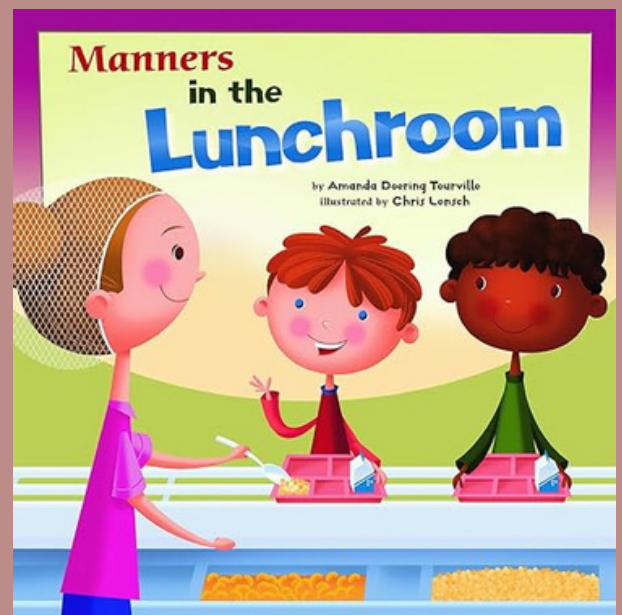


Manners at School

“Your school is a busy place. Using good manners can make nicer for everyone. Good manners can also help everyone learn. Good manners show respect for teachers and classmates. There are lots of ways you can use good manners at school.”

Manners in the Lunch Room

“It’s time for lunch! Using good manners in the lunchroom makes lunchtime comfortable for everyone. Good manners help make eating lunch more fun. There are lots of ways you can use good manners in the lunchroom.”



Manners on the Playground

“The playground is for everyone. It is a place where people go to have fun. Good manners allow everyone to have a turn. They also help people play safely. There are lots of ways you can use good manners on the playground.”



ESC 15 ECE TEAM



Carey Peacock
Early Childhood Specialist
carey.peacock@esc15.net
325-481-4046

Welcome
Back to
School!

BOY Assessments

I know, I know... The last thing you want to think about is assessments right now. However, it is paramount to remember that TEA requires all Pre-K students to be assessed for BOY within the **first 60 days of school**, AND there are **FIVE required domains** to be assessed for each student:

1. Emergent Literacy: Language & Communication
2. Emergent Literacy: Reading
3. Emergent Literacy: Writing
4. Mathematics
5. Health & Wellness



*Find which measures you need to assess based on the progress monitoring tool you use [HERE](#).



**For progress monitoring requirements, recommendations, & best practices, click [HERE](#).



***For key dates (suggested assessment windows) for PK - 2nd, click [HERE](#).



CIRCLE Progress Monitoring Training

Thursday, September 4th, 9:00 - 4:00

Click here to register: **Session #382269**

Please create an account at cliengage.org ASAP!

cliengage



Join us for Standard User PreK Training

This session is designed for teachers and other campus-level professionals throughout Texas to learn how to implement the new TCMPC PreK content.



Is your district a TEKS Resource System or TCMPC User?

If so, you'll be excited to know that Pre-K content is now available in the TRS/TCMPC system! That's right! And you can access it all at no additional cost to your district. To learn more about how to implement the new Pre-K content, sign up for the following training:

When: Tuesday, August 12th; 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Where: Online! Register at <https://bit.ly/tcmpctraining>

(Register by August 8th)