



Transitioning to Kindergarten

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Introductions



Workshop Focus

- To provide increased communication between preschool and kindergarten teachers in the Keystone Central School District
- To provide an awareness to the preschool teachers regarding the high-stakes curriculum and assessments expected of the kindergarten teachers
- To provide an awareness to the kindergarten teachers regarding the abilities of the preschool children prior to their entrance into the preschool
- To compile a list of materials and methods for preschool teachers to utilize in their classrooms
- To determine a communication method between preschool teachers and kindergarten teachers regarding their students

Why aren't students ready?

- What are the characteristics of our children?

Who is the Clinton County Kindergarten?



The Life of the Child Before Kindergarten

- Pennsylvania does not require teachers in child care centers/family care centers to have any Early Childhood pre-service training or licensure.
- Childcare workers earn an average hourly rate of \$8.34 (about \$17,340 annually.)
 - These low wages are closely linked to rapid turnover
- Keystone Stars: 7 programs in Clinton County
 - Only one 4 star program
 - 2 are 3 star programs
 - 1 is a 2 star program and
 - the last 3 are 1 star programs
- There are additional Head Start programs and PreK Counts programs, however, there are often long waiting lists for these programs.
- Many children do not attend child care programs.

Culture, Rules, & Language

- 5 Registers of Language
 - Frozen
 - Formal
 - Consultative
 - Casual
 - Intimate
- Rules of the Middle Class
- The Patterns of discourse and storytelling
- The value of resources

Patterns of Discourse

- Formal-Register Discourse Pattern



Get right to the point

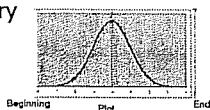
- Casual-Register Discourse Pattern



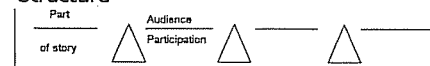
Go around the issue before finally coming to the point

The Story Structure

- Formal-Register Story Structure



- Casual-Register Story Structure



Consider This Scenario..

- What resources are available
- How do they impact the learning environment?

Resources	Yes	No	?
Financial			
Emotional			
Mental			
Spiritual			
Physical			
Support Systems			
Knowledge of the cultural 'rules'			
Role Models			

What preschool teachers want you to know:

- Some students come to them with no knowledge of colors, numbers, or letters.
- Some don't even know their last names, or how to hold a pencil.
- To go from this to learning to read in one year is a huge leap.
- More...

What they do

- Provide a print-rich environment
- Assess using Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum, or other curriculums as a guide.
- Teach numbers, shapes, colors, writing their name, social skills.
- Work on coping skills, gross motor development, fine motor development
- More...

The Standards

- The PA Early Learning Standards
- Crosswalk

Preschool Assessments

- Examples include: Work Sampling
 - Work Sampling is a portfolio system which uses observational assessments that are based on developmental guidelines. Student performance is monitored and recorded using authentic assessments. Performances are rated as *Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Needs Development.*
 - <http://www.worksamplingonline.com/>

What kindergarten teachers want you to know

- The children are reading in October.
- Writing is key to reading success.
- Background knowledge is a key factor in reading success.
- And...

What they do

Early in the year:

- Language Arts: beginning sounds, ending sounds, vowels, rimes, high frequency words, concepts about print, sight words, main idea, sequencing, story retelling...
- Math: count by ones to 20, writing numbers to 5, naming shapes, math vocabulary (more, less, first, last)...

Kindergarten Assessments

- KCSD uses a variety of assessment and curriculum tools including:
 - DIBELS <https://dibels.uoregon.edu/>
 - Pacing guides
 - Their own assessments based in research and guided by the PA State Standards.
- <http://www.kcsd.k12.pa.us/curriculum/office/resources.html>

Kindergarten Assessments

- DIBELS is one example of a reading test that is given to the students.
Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
- They are brief tests that measure skills for reading success.
