



Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Toolkit

THANK YOU

Thank you to our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Committee! Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, the following members gathered four times to research, collaborate, create, and collate the great resources available in this toolkit. We also want to thank the principals of each of the schools who encouraged and facilitated teacher attendance at these committee meetings. We hope that the following resources will be helpful to schools seeking to enrich their early learning programs.

Committee Members:

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HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

Who should use this toolkit?

The resources in this toolkit are designed for early learning directors, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers, and principals who seek to enrich and expand their early learning programs. The curriculum standards and review in section one are specific to Pre-Kindergarten programs and the Kindergarten screening tool in section three is specific to Kindergarten programs.

How is this toolkit organized?

Section	Page #s	Tool #s	Description
One: <i>Curriculum Standards and Review</i>	3	1-10	Includes Pre-Kindergarten curriculum standards in Religion, Social-Emotional Development, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. All standards are fully aligned to the Archdiocesan Kindergarten curriculum standards in each subject area. Additionally, this section includes resources to assist schools considering a new Pre-Kindergarten curriculum adoption.
Two: <i>Assessment Tools</i>	4	11-14	Includes assessment tools for both Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers.
Three: <i>Strengthening the Pre-K to Kindergarten Connection</i>	5	15-20	Includes tools for schools to improve the transition of students from Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten by creating systematic approaches to screening and welcoming students to Kindergarten.
Four: <i>Family Engagement Tools</i>	6-7	21-37	This section is organized by tool type and includes send-home activities for parents and children, communication tools, helpful articles, tools for conducting parent engagement nights, and tools for engaging families in parish life.

How can this toolkit support the accreditation self-study process?

Schools can evaluate their own Pre-Kindergarten programs to see if they are adequately addressing the Pre-K Curriculum Standards included in this toolkit. Data from the assessment tools and Kindergarten screening tools can be used to evaluate program quality in the self-study process. Many of the tools could be used as part of accreditation action planning to enhance early learning programs.

How can professional learning communities use this toolkit?

PLCs can use the curriculum standards to identify essential standards. The assessment tools can be used to monitor student progress towards these essential standards. The parent engagement tools can be used to help students make progress towards essential standards.

Resource Number	Resource Name	Resource Description
SECTION 1: CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND REVIEW		
<i>Related WCEA Accreditation Factors: 7 & 8</i>		
1	Pre-Kindergarten Religion Curriculum Standards	These standards are to be used as a guide to instruction and assessment in the Pre-Kindergarten classroom. These learning standard guides do not imply an expectation of mastery. The skills outlined may require prompting and support from the teacher.
2	Pre-Kindergarten Social-Emotional Learning Standards	
3	Pre-Kindergarten English Language Arts Curriculum Standards	
4	Pre-Kindergarten Mathematics Curriculum Standards	
5	Pre-Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum Standards	
6	Pre-Kindergarten Science Curriculum Standards	
7	Click here to Download All Curriculum Standards!	
8	WA State Department of Early Learning Curriculum Review	A thorough review of a variety of evidence-based, outcome-yielding early learning curricula. Includes both comprehensive curricula and curricula in these specific areas: Language & Literacy, Mathematics, and Social/Emotional.
9	Curriculum Review Rubric	One page, easy-to-use rubric that schools can use to evaluate and select new early childhood curricular materials.
10	Instructional “Look Fors” in an Early Childhood Classroom	This tool outlines observable teacher actions that support high quality early childhood instruction and can be used by teachers and administrators when observing other teachers.

Resource Number	Resource Name	Resource Description
SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT TOOLS		
<i>Related WCEA Accreditation Factors: 6 & 8</i>		
11	Pre-Kindergarten Social-Emotional Development Observation Checklist	A one page checklist to track social emotional progress throughout the school year.
12	Kindergarten Social-Emotional Development Observation Checklist	A one page checklist to track social emotional progress throughout the school year.
13	Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Social Emotional Observation Checklist Implementation Guide	A guide for using the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten social emotional observation checklists, including tips for implementation.
14	Sample Report Card/ Progress Report Template	<p>The Pre-K report card and progress report are the same form. They are intended to be used by the teacher to track students' growth and acquisition of skills throughout the school year. The report card is intended to be used in the Fall and Spring of the school year. The same form can be used as a progress report throughout the school year. The skills/standards under each subject area correspond to the suggested Archdiocesan Pre-K curriculum standards. The skills/standards on the report card and progress report are year-end benchmarks. Skills/standards not assessed until Spring can be marked accordingly (such as N/A or a symbol).</p>

Resource Number	Resource Name	Resource Description
SECTION 3: STRENGTHENING THE PRE-K TO KINDERGARTEN CONNECTION		
<i>Related WCEA Accreditation Factors: 5, 6 & 8</i>		
15	Committee Review of Kindergarten Screening Tools	A review of three Kindergarten screening tools: GESELL, ESGI, and TS GOLD, with an overview of the strengths and limitations of each tool, pricing, and training involved.
16	Archdiocesan Kindergarten Screening Tool	A crosswalk to an Archdiocesan Kindergarten screening tool using the ESGI assessment platform.
17	A Child's Checklist for Kindergarten Readiness	Provides questions and ideas for parents to consider as they prepare their child to enter Kindergarten. A great summer tool for incoming Kindergarten families.
18	Kindergarten Readiness Checklist for Families	A checklist parents can use to help determine if their child is ready for Kindergarten. Available in 16 languages.
19	American Federation of Teachers Kindergarten Transition Toolkit	A helpful website with a variety of tools educators can use to facilitate a smooth transition to Kindergarten.
20	Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)	Provides helpful tools to facilitate the Washington state three part Kindergarten transition: (1) Family connection, (2) Whole-child assessment, and (3) Early learning collaboration.

Resource Number	Resource Name	Resource Description
SECTION 4: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TOOLS		
<i>Related WCEA Accreditation Factors: 5 & 8</i>		
Send- Home Activities for Parents and Children		
21	Dr. Jean Warren’s Power Pak Materials	Resources for monthly send home activities; reading and activity calendars, etc.
22	Book Talk Questions	Helpful sheet for parents to use when reading to children.
Communication Tools		
23	Weekly Newsletter Template & Sample	A template teachers can use to create a weekly parent newsletter. Includes an example of a completed newsletter.
24	Family Connection Booklet	A form for parents to fill out about their child. Great for the beginning of the school year. Available in 20 different languages.
25	Beginning-of-the-Year Parent Survey	A form for parents to fill out at the beginning of the year to give teachers a better understanding of their student.
26	Mid-Year Parent Survey	A great tool to promote communication between parents and teachers. Helpful for a mid-year check in.
Helpful Articles and Resources for Parents		
<i>Health, Safety, and Nutrition</i>		
27	School-to-Home Nutrition & Health Activities for Children and Parents English Family Kit Spanish Family Kit	A guide to family activities that promote health and nutrition.
28	American Academy of Pediatrics Healthy Children Website	Parent resources including developmental guidelines, local pediatrician information, media use guide, and safety and prevention techniques.

29	Guide to Navigating Social Media	Offers helpful tips for exploring media with your child. Reviews movies, books and video games for age-appropriate content.
30	Brain Dance	A how-to guide and description of the Brain Dance, a dance parents can teach their children at home to help awaken the brain to learn.
<i>Tips for Interacting with Your Child</i>		
31	Winning Ways to Speak with your Child	Provides tips for parents regarding how to communicate positively and appropriately with their young children.
32	Love, Talk, and Play Website	A website that includes practical activities and suggestions for parents. Encourages parents to be their child's first teacher.
33	Love and Logic	Love and Logic for educators and parents is a nationally recognized program to help navigate the world of raising thoughtful children.
Tools for Conducting Parent Education Nights		
34	Toolkit to Create a Parent Engagement Program	A guide for schools to create and implement a parent engagement plan.
35	Recommendations for Early Childhood Parent Education Nights	Idea list for creating parent education nights.
36	Deepening Families' Understanding of Children's Learning Centers	An article and resources to help you plan a parent education night in which parents can experience and understand learning centers.
Tool for Connecting Children and Families to Parish Life		
37	Recommended Practices for Parish Engagement	A list of ideas for teachers to get school families more involved in parish life.