



# Scholastic

## *Big Day for PreK*

Scholastic *Big Day for PreK* is a comprehensive early childhood education program that supports a full year curriculum for prekindergarten. *Big Day for PreK* builds upon children’s curiosity and interest and encourages them to explore, play, and learn about the world around them. The comprehensive curriculum is designed to ensure that children acquire new knowledge, skills, and understanding each day through hands-on experience, purposeful play, and teacher-led instruction. *Big Day for PreK* provides a comprehensive curriculum for full- or half-day classes, an extensive collection of classic and contemporary children’s literature and nonfiction text in a variety of formats, intensive social emotional, cognitive, and physical development, technology that connects children, teachers and families, and 100% equity in English and Spanish.

### **Instructional Content**

*Big Day for PreK* learning experiences integrate all domains, including social-emotional development, oral language, reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, art, physical development, and technology.

#### **Social-Emotional Development**

- Children have multiple, guided opportunities to collaborate in groups, resolve conflicts, and form friendships, as well as to develop self-regulation, planning, and organizational skills that aid learning.
- Routines are systemically incorporated into instruction that provide children with clear steps to follow as they develop self-concept, self-control, social competence, and social awareness skills.
- Each theme includes a month-long focus on a relevant social-emotional area such as Cooperation, Kindness, Responsibility, Respect, Attention, Initiative, Self-Awareness, Curiosity, and Persistence.
- *Big Day for PreK* books provide models of target behaviors and serve as a starting place for discussion and activity.

#### **Oral Language & Vocabulary**

- Children are engaged in meaningful conversations that build oral language in all parts of the learning day: whole group, small group, learning centers, and informal learning times.
- Each Big Experience (whole group Circle and Story Time lessons) includes vocabulary words from one of these categories—Theme Words, Story Words, Math Words, Science Words, or Social Studies Words.
- Teachers engage students in daily explicit instruction and activities to teach and practice vocabulary words and the targeted conversation, listening, and syntax skills.
- During read-alouds, the program uses a dialogic reading approach that encourages conversational interactions and gives children opportunities to experiment with and explore language.
- Teachers use the Big Wall Charts to help students demonstrate knowledge of new words and develop language as they listen, follow directions, describe, retell, role-play, and tell stories in relation to the pictures on the charts.

#### **Alphabet Knowledge & Phonological Awareness**

- Children learn upper- and lowercase letters in alphabetical order while building on their knowledge of the letters in their names and environmental print. Flexible lessons for teachers who prefer to teach letters in a different order are also provided.
- Whole group and small group lessons focus on letter formation and writing.
- Learning Center activities help children explore letter knowledge through play, emotional print, and authentic reading and writing connections.
- Phonological Awareness is integrated into every day’s Big Experiences. In daily teacher-led small group lessons, phonological awareness activities provide further instruction, modeling, and practice.

### Emergent Reading & Writing

- The *Big Day for PreK* library includes many different types of books, including big books, lap books, little books, eBooks, audiobooks, and take-home books, as well as a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, rhyming books, poetry, realistic fiction, alphabet books, and content-area books.
- Learning Centers include theme-related books to promote literacy across the content areas.
- Audiobooks and multiple “Little Book” copies are used in the reading and listening center to help children build comprehension of stories and increase their book handling skills.
- The *Big Day for PreK* Teaching Guides include writing-based lesson to engage children in different types of writing, including teacher-modeled writing; shared writing, in which students and teachers collaborate; interactive writing, in which children participate in writing one or more letters or whole words; and independent writing, in which children “write” on their own using drawings, scribbles, and letters.
- Once per week, small-group lessons focus on letter formation.
- In addition to a dedicated Writing Center, every learning center includes a “Writing Connection” to ensure children experiment with writing throughout the day.

### Mathematics

- *Big Day for PreK* includes daily math instruction focused on number sense, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, and classification and patterns, as well as foundational addition and subtraction.
- The program integrates five process skills throughout the curriculum—problem-solving, reasoning and proof, representation, communication, and making connections.
- Whole-group lessons teach and review mathematics concepts, skills, and vocabulary as teachers connect mathematics to children’s lives and other domains.
- During small-group activities, the teacher models the week’s targeted mathematics skills and helps the children to practice.
- *Big Day for PreK* includes math manipulatives such as magnetic numbers, snap cubes, number cards, pattern blocks, attribute blocks and bear counters.

### Science Education

- Children engage in Big Experiences that actively engages them in science exploration and investigation related to the week’s theme.
- Science lessons incorporate theme-related Science posters that use engaging photographs to bring science concepts and processes to life for children.
- Literature-based science lessons use engaging fiction and nonfiction books to launch the investigation and build science knowledge along with literacy.
- During Learning Centers time, student engage in further science exploration at the Science Center, which offers theme-related materials for exploration, observation, and guided activities.
- *Big Day for PreK* includes science manipulatives, such as magnifying glasses, a balance set, and healthy food magnets.

### Physical Development, Health & Safety

- During Whole Groups, Small Groups, and Learning Centers, children have opportunities to engage in movement, as they role-play, play games, and reinforce understanding through kinesthetic activities.
- Children refine gross and fine motor skills as they work with mathematics manipulatives, practice letter formation, experiment with tweezers and eyedroppers in the Science Center, or button-up clothes in the Dramatic Play Center.
- The Teaching Guides provide explicit suggestions for helping children learn the procedure for and importance of routines such as hand washing.
- Children learn to identify how to choose healthy foods, engage in fitness activities, stay safe in various situations, and communicate their needs and questions.

## Social Studies & Fine Arts

- *Big Day for PreK* social studies education connects to children’s interests to build knowledge of people, events, and culture; citizenship; geography; economics; and community.
- Weekly Big Experiences introduce children to social studies concepts and content vocabulary related to the theme, using engaging books to launch the social studies topics and build content knowledge.
- In the Dramatic Play Center, children can both explore social studies themes and engage in dramatic play as they act out family and community roles, cooperate with others, resolve conflicts, and practice storytelling.
- Art, movement, and music are integrated daily with the monthly themes and into other content areas throughout the day.

## Technology

- In the Technology Center, children access *BookFlix* where a read-aloud feature allows children to listen to the books with headphones, with or without captions. They are able to click on highlighted vocabulary words in the nonfiction books to hear a definition.
- Interactive Math, Science, and Literacy games are provided on BookFlix and Family space to further develop content area knowledge through interactive technology.
- On Family Space, parents and caregivers are able to see what children are learning and provide crucial at-home support by accessing *BookFlix*, downloading books to read together, playing online games, or accessing suggestions for literacy-building activities to do with their child.
- The Teacher Space includes a customizable lesson planner to plan daily and weekly lessons, access to *BookFlix* and downloadable activities and resources, letters for home communication, and certificates to recognize children’s achievements.

## Instructional Design

The *Big Day for PreK* curriculum is divided into eight engaging themes, each about one month long. Early in the year, the themes focus on concepts in children’s more immediate world, and they broaden over the course of the year as children understand more and more about the world around them. The eight themes integrate learning across content areas:

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Ready for School! | ▪ Imagine It, Make It  |
| ▪ My Family         | ▪ Growing Up Healthy   |
| ▪ Our Community     | ▪ Nature All Around Us |
| ▪ Awesome Animals!  | ▪ Moving On            |

Each theme is linked with a Social-Emotional focus and a Knowledge focus that identifies the learning objectives and key understandings for that month. Within each theme, four weekly subtopics build children’s knowledge in theme-specific concepts, language, and skills. Throughout, flexible content allows teachers to incorporate their own favorite themes into the classroom.

## Differentiated Instructional Strategies

*Big Day for PreK* recognizes that each preschool classroom will include children with a wide range of developmental needs and physical and cognitive strengths and challenges. The program is designed to provide teachers with consistent opportunities to modify and individualize instruction to make learning accessible to all children. The Teaching Guides include Responsive Instruction pages for every day. These pages provide suggestions for modifying and individualizing instruction for 3-year-olds and children with special needs, including those with social-emotional, visual, hearing, physical, or cognitive challenges. The pages also include suggestions for extending instruction through enrichment activities. Teachers can use these Responsive Instruction suggestions to accommodate individual needs during whole-group instruction, or to offer additional scaffolded support and guided practice tailored to students’ needs during Small Group and Individual Instruction.

## **Assessments**

*Big Day for PreK* includes easy-to-use formal and informal tools help teachers monitor children’s growth and development in key skill areas and guide instruction for each child. Teachers are provided with tools to monitor and record each child’s progress toward kindergarten readiness. The *Pathways to Readiness* provide teachers with age-appropriate, research-based indicators and benchmarks to help monitor children’s growth in Social-Emotional Development, Oral Language Development, Emergent Reading, Emergent Writing, and Mathematics Development.

### Informal Assessment Tools

- *Big Day for PreK* provides teachers with multiple opportunities to monitor children’s growth in informal ways. Easy-to-manage, curriculum-embedded tools help teachers focus attention on progress and identify children who may need additional support in a particular area. Informal assessment occurs in all parts of the day and provides meaningful ways to observe children.
- These tools include Circle Time/Story Time Observation Guides, Small Group Observations Guides, Clipboard Observation Guides, PreK 360 Records, and Anecdotal Records.

### Formal Assessment Tools

- *Big Day for PreK* includes the *Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory (SECI)*, a one-to-one formal assessment that measures progress and growth toward children’s competence in four domains—*Oral Language, Emergent Reading, Emergent Writing, and Mathematics*. SECI — available in English and Spanish — is child-friendly and presented in an engaging, game-like manner.
- Data from SECI produces seven key reports help you plan instruction and communicate with administrators and families. The reports include:
- Class Readiness Reports—Four Readiness Reports use SECI results to provide a class summary of development along the pathway to kindergarten readiness in Phonological Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge, Oral Language Development, and Mathematics.
- Progress Report—This report shows how the child’s scores correspond with developmental stages along the pathway to kindergarten readiness (Pre-Emergent, Beginning, Emerging, Developed).
- Assessment Status Report —This reports helps you keep track of which assessments have been completed for each child.
- Score Record—This report provides you with an individual child’s raw scores for each subtest within each module.

## **Motivation and Engagement**

*Big Day for PreK* is a comprehensive early childhood program that embraces children’s natural curiosity and builds the foundation for success in school and life. Grounded in responsive, integrated instruction, *Big Day for PreK* prepares preschool-age children for kindergarten through intentional and engaging learning opportunities that build the necessary foundations in essential learning domains. The program includes:

1. A curriculum organized around “Big Experiences” that engage children and integrate all learning domains, including social-emotional, academic, and physical development
2. Rich and varied opportunities for *meaningful conversations* that help children build oral language and vocabulary at school and home.
3. Big books, little books, eBooks, and audiobooks that ensure that every child has access to the very best literature and nonfiction, at school and home. Books are used throughout the program to introduce new vocabulary, springboard content-area learning, build reading enjoyment, and promote conversations.
4. Innovative technology for children, teachers, and families that invites everyone into the learning process.
5. A comprehensive program for full and half-day classes with total equity in English and Spanish.


*Big Day for PreK* also includes *BookFlix*, the online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks with theme-related nonfiction eBooks. *BookFlix* offers eBooks, in English and Spanish, with educational games that extend literacy skills. With colorful animation, rich audio, interactive games, and other animated activities, *BookFlix* engages students, reinforces early reading skills, and develops essential real-world knowledge and understanding.

### **Home-School Connection**

*Big Day for PreK* enables all families to extend learning at home with Family Space, a bilingual family resource that all families can access from anywhere that has an Internet connection. Family Space, accessible in English and Spanish, shares information about classroom learning with families, and offers resources such as downloadable books, math activities, and interactive eBooks that extend learning at home. Family letters that introduce families to the *Big Day for PreK* program and each of the themes throughout the year are provided in eleven languages to help teachers connect with as many families as possible: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Hmong, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Urdu, Farsi,

### **Professional Development**

*Big Day for PreK* includes a variety of resources to support every teacher's growth as a professional. All teachers of *Big Day for PreK* receive access to an online professional development course, *Developing Foundations for Early Childhood Success*. This course focuses on Social and Emotional Development, Oral Language Development, and Emergent Literacy and Mathematics. The Professional Handbook includes research-based guidance on modifying instruction for diverse learners, classroom management, engaging families, and assessment. Best practices for instruction across curriculum domains are presented in the Professional Handbook and are embedded throughout each Teaching Guide.

 For additional information about *Big Day for PreK*, visit [www.scholastic.com/BigDayforPreK](http://www.scholastic.com/BigDayforPreK).