



Make Learning Bigger


Big Day for PreK

Aligns to IDEA, Part B

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The purpose of *IDEA, Part B—Formula Grant Programs* is to assist states in providing a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities ages 3 through 21. The following chart shows how **Big Day for PreK** can support children with disabilities under IDEA, based on key components and recommendations from IDEA, Part B, Section 611. The criteria are drawn from the Federal *IDEA, Part B Final Rules and Regulations*, posted at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepgts/index.html>

Components of a IDEA, Part B Program	Big Day for PreK
<p>Provide research-based and scientifically validated interventions</p>	<p>Big Day for PreK is a comprehensive early learning program that embraces children’s natural curiosity and encourages them to explore and connect with the world around them. The program provides a comprehensive early learning 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.</p> <p>RESEARCH</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> approach to learning is grounded in cognitive research and builds on young children’s knowledge of and curiosity 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. <i>Big Day for PreK</i> learning experiences integrate all domains, including social-emotional development, oral language, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, and physical development.</p> <p>Grounded in responsive, integrated instruction, <i>Big Day for PreK</i> prepares preschool-aged children for Kindergarten through intentional, engaging learning opportunities that build the foundations in essential learning domains. Development of <i>Big Day for PreK</i> was informed by a team of expert researchers and practitioners, led by Dr. Anne Cunningham, an early childhood researcher and professor at the University of California, Berkeley whose areas of expertise include the cognitive and motivational processes underlying reading ability and the interplay of context, development, and literacy instruction.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> Research Foundation Paper presents information about relevant research and expert opinions, alongside descriptions of how the research has been translated into the program design and curriculum.</p> <p> To download a copy of the <i>Big Day for PreK</i> Research Foundation Paper, please see: http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/early-learning-program/big-day-for-prekindergarten-research-authors.htm</p>

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<p>Provide access to the Core Curriculum taught in General Education classrooms</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> is a comprehensive early childhood program that embraces children’s natural curiosity and encourages them to explore, play, and learn about the world around them.</p> <p><u>Language & Literacy</u></p> <p>In <i>Big Day</i>, oral language and vocabulary development activities are integrated throughout the day and across the curriculum to provide children with opportunities to explore and develop language for a broad range of purposes—including language related to the month’s theme, knowledge focus, and social-emotional focus. Children learn upper- and lowercase letters in alphabetical order while building on their knowledge of the letters in their names and environmental print.</p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides daily opportunities to build children’s emergent reading skills across all content areas by sharing engaging stories and informational texts. The program includes a diverse collection of literature, with total equity in English and Spanish. This library encompasses many different types of books—including big books, lap books, little books, eBooks, audiobooks, and take-home books—and a variety of genres—including fiction, nonfiction, rhyming books, poetry, realistic fiction, alphabet books, and content-area books. Teachers read aloud to children daily and revisit books often for multiple purposes, such as introducing new topics and exploring content-area connections. During read-alouds, <i>Big Day for PreK</i> uses a dialogic reading approach to promote children’s active participation in the story.</p> <p><u>Mathematics & Science</u></p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> approach to mathematics education builds upon children’s natural interest, curiosity, and enthusiasm for understanding their world, and sets the foundation that they will need for later success in mathematics. The program focuses on the four strands of mathematics that have been shown to be early predictors of later success—Number Sense, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Measurement, as well as, Classification and Patterns. <i>Big Day for PreK</i> integrates five process skills throughout the curriculum and across the mathematics strands—problem-solving, reasoning and proof, representation, communication, and making connections. Teachers connect mathematics to children’s lives and use the <i>Make Learning Bigger</i> ideas to connect mathematics to other domains.</p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> approach to science is designed to help children develop a scientific way of thinking through inquiry and to cultivate curiosity and a desire to seek answers and share new ideas. Each week, children engage in a <i>Big Experience</i> that actively engages them in science exploration related to the theme. Literature-based science lessons use engaging fiction and nonfiction books to launch the investigation and build science knowledge along with literacy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Provide access to the Core Curriculum taught in General Education classrooms <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><u>Social Studies and Fine Art</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> social studies education connects children’s interests to build their knowledge of people, events, and culture; citizenship; geography; economics; and community. Weekly <i>Big Experiences</i> 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 central social studies themes and engage in dramatic play as they act out family and community roles, cooperate with others, resolve conflicts, and practice storytelling.</p> <p>In <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, fine arts and music education draw on children’s inclination to engage in hands-on exploration and to express themselves through multiple means. The Teaching Guides provide guidelines for setting up activities in the Creativity and Writing Centers that allow children to experiment and create with a variety of art materials, and to begin to gain control of fine motor muscles and practice eye-to-hand coordination. The <i>Songs and Fingerplays</i> books and CDs provide an additional resource that the teacher can use to incorporate music, rhythm, and movement into instruction, transitions, and informal learning times.</p> <p><u>Health, Physical Development, & Safety</u></p> <p><i>Big Experiences</i> provide many opportunities to engage children in gross and fine motor movement during learning. For example, when exploring animal habitats and life cycles, children transition between activities by moving like their favorite animal (pretending to slither, fly, or climb); in learning about fire safety, children learn the important safety practice of stop, drop, and roll—and they also practice it repeatedly, building gross motor skills.</p> <p>During Small Group lessons and Learning Centers, children have many opportunities to engage in movement, as they role-play, play games, and reinforce understanding through kinesthetic activities. Teachers also promote movement daily through guided games during outdoor and indoor play. Children refine 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.</p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> introduces important health routines at the start of the school year. The Teaching Guides provide explicit suggestions for helping children learn the procedure for and importance of routines such as hand washing. Throughout the year, children learn to identify how to choose healthy foods, stay safe in various situations, and communicate their needs and questions.</p>
<p>Use Supplemental Instructional materials, where appropriate, to strengthen the efficacy of the comprehensive core curriculum</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides daily opportunities to build children’s emergent reading and writing skills across all content areas by sharing engaging stories and informational texts. The program includes a diverse collection of literature, with total equity in English and Spanish.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Use Supplemental Instructional materials, where appropriate, to strengthen the efficacy of the comprehensive core curriculum <i>Continued</i></p>	<p>This library encompasses many different types of books—including big books, lap books, little books, <i>eBooks</i>, audiobooks, and take-home books—and a variety of genres— including fiction, nonfiction, rhyming books, poetry, realistic fiction, alphabet books, and content-area books. Teachers read aloud to children daily and revisit books often for multiple purposes, such as introducing new topics and exploring content-area connections.</p> <p>Also, In <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, children have daily opportunities to use technology to practice literacy skills and extend their learning. One of the Learning Centers is the Technology Center, where children can independently access <i>BookFlix</i>. On the <i>BookFlix</i> site, children can click on any of the theme-related reading pairs in English or Spanish; each pair consists of a fictional video storybook and a nonfiction <i>eBook</i>. A read-aloud feature allows children to listen to the books with headphones, with or without captions. They can click on highlighted vocabulary words in the nonfiction books to hear a definition. Children can further extend their learning by playing literacy games or exploring links to carefully selected, theme-related websites.</p>
<p>Educate students in the least restrictive environment consistent with their educational needs</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> lessons are organized into eight engaging and child-friendly themes, covering four weeks of instruction per theme (32 weeks of instruction total). Each theme includes materials and activities that build knowledge, skills, and concepts that foster integrated learning. Early in the year, the themes focus on concepts in children’s more immediate world, and then broaden over the course of the year as children understand more and more about the world around them. These eight themes integrate learning across content areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ready for School! ▪ My Family ▪ Our Community ▪ Awesome Animals! ▪ Imagine It, Make It ▪ Growing Up Healthy ▪ Nature All Around Us ▪ Moving On <p>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.</p>
<p>Implement a multi-tiered strategy designed to provide increasingly intensive interventions to those students who are not making adequate progress in the Core Curriculum</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> recognizes that each preschool classroom will include children with a wide range of developmental needs, as well as physical and cognitive strengths and challenges. The program is designed to provide teachers with consistent opportunities to modify and personalize instruction to make learning accessible to all children. The Teaching Guides include Responsive Instruction pages that provide suggestions for modifying and personalizing instruction for 3-year-olds and children with special needs, including those with social-emotional, visual, hearing, physical, and cognitive challenges. 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.</p>

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<p>Provide ongoing progress monitoring of students' responses to high-quality, research-based intervention, and use it to guide the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> includes multiple informal and formal measures that are appropriate to children's development, to help provide educators and families with a comprehensive picture of each child's strengths and progress along the path to kindergarten readiness and school success. Assessment in the program is based on five Pathways to Readiness—developmental continuums with research-based indicators and benchmarks in five domains—Social-Emotional Development; Oral Language Development; Emergent Reading; Emergent Writing; and Emergent Mathematics Development. These developmental continuums for each domain identify a discrete set of key skills that indicate key stages of development—Pre-Emergent, Beginning, Emerging, and Developed.</p> <p>The <i>Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory</i> (SECI) formally assesses progress and growth toward competence in four domains that have been shown to be predictive of kindergarten readiness—Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge, and Mathematics.</p> <p>The SECI can be administered at three points in the school year—beginning, middle, and end. The first administration places every child along a developmental continuum for each of the key domains; subsequent administrations track progress along the developmental path. Data from SECI produces seven key reports to help the teacher plan instruction and communicate with administrators and families. The reports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Class Readiness Reports</u>—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. ▪ <u>Progress Report</u>—This report shows how a child's scores correspond with developmental stages along the pathway to kindergarten readiness—Pre-Emergent, Beginning, Emergent, and Developed. ▪ <u>Assessment Status Report</u>—This report helps teachers track which assessments have been completed for each child. ▪ <u>Score Record</u>—This report provides teachers with an individual child's raw score for each subtest within each module. <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> curriculum includes daily opportunities to observe children's growth toward developmental milestones in informal ways across all parts of the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Circle Time/Story Time</i> Observation Guides help teachers to monitor children's progress and plan one-to-one follow-up. ▪ Small-Group Observation Guides help teachers focus their observations of children and plan for Small Group Intervention. ▪ Clipboard Observation Guides help teachers track each child's performance of important skills within key domains throughout each theme. <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Provide ongoing progress monitoring of students' responses to high-quality, research-based intervention, and use it to guide the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) <i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PreK 360 Records are graphic organizers that help teachers organize their notes about each child and summarize observations when preparing for family conferences. ▪ Anecdotal Records help teachers keep ongoing daily records for each child. ▪ <i>Show and Grow</i> Portfolios provide an authentic and visual representation of children's progress in print or online.
<p>Include literacy instruction that targets English Language Learners who have not yet been identified as needing Special Education services</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides complete equity in English and Spanish. Over 1,000 components are available in both English and Spanish, including the Teaching Guides, print books and audiobooks, <i>BookFlix</i>, Big Wall charts, <i>BookStix</i>, Math Mats, Science Posters, downloadable teacher resources, family letters, and <i>Family Space</i>. The curriculum provides support for teachers to strengthen English Language Learners' literacy and language skills; the English Language Development feature in the Teaching Guides provides suggestions for explicit language instruction to help English Language Learners understand new concepts, practice developing language skills, and draw connections between their home language and English.</p> <p>For teachers teaching in Spanish, <i>Bridge to English</i> features provide support for making connections in English during Whole-Group lessons. Small-Group Instruction provides time for teachers to work more closely on specific language skills while Learning Centers provide opportunities for English Language Learners to play and practice communicating with their English-speaking peers.</p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> provides formal and informal opportunities throughout the day to develop vocabulary and oral language—essential for English Language Learners. New vocabulary is always introduced in context, which is particularly useful for supporting the understanding of students whose home language is not English. Structured interactions, such as dialogic reading, provide English Language Learners with highly supported opportunities to practice oral language skills. The Teaching Guides help to guide the teacher in monitoring students' language skills by elaborating on and extending their statements.</p>
<p>Inform parents of General Education services that would be provided and strategies to support their child's rate of learning</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> promotes the home-school connection with <i>Big Day Family Space</i>, a secure website that families can log in to from any computer with an Internet connection. Using <i>Family Space</i>—available in English and Spanish—families stay informed about what their child's class is learning each week. Using the downloadable list of Kindergarten Readiness Indicators, families can understand and monitor their child's development throughout the year. <i>Family Space</i> also provides suggestions for theme-related books in both English and Spanish, as well as Downloadable Books for parents and caregivers to read with their children. Families can print downloadable, bilingual resources to help their children build mathematics and literacy skills, including <i>Learn Together</i> Downloadables, <i>Clifford</i> Literacy Activities, <i>Clifford</i> Mathematics Activities, and ABC Take-Home Books.</p>

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<p>Inform parents of General Education services that would be provided and strategies to support their child’s rate of learning <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><i>Family Space</i> also includes access to <i>BookFlix</i>, an online literary resource that provides children and their families with access to literature and related activities. The animated fictional and storybooks provide audiovisual support to build and strengthen literacy skills and make learning fun, while the nonfiction <i>eBooks</i> help build background knowledge and introduce content-area learning. Families can play interactive educational games related to the <i>BookFlix</i> book pairs, learn more about the storybook author, or explore carefully selected, age-appropriate Web links. The <i>BookFlix</i> and related activities, as well as <i>Family Space</i>, provide families with rich resources for supporting and extending children’s social-emotional, literacy, and mathematics learning in the home.</p>
<p>Provide a high-quality professional development plan to support teachers providing Special Education services, as well as those implementing RtI</p>	<p><u><i>Big Day for PreK Full or Half Day Implementation Training</i></u> This training lets teachers experience <i>Big Day for PreK</i> teaching resources and technology and provides guidance on organizing and managing the classroom, assessing children’s progress, and engaging families throughout the year.</p> <p><u><i>Big Day for PreK Interactive Webinar-Quickstart Training</i></u> This interactive Webinar helps teachers and administrators get started using <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, including: using teaching resources, managing the classroom, assessing progress, and engaging families.</p> <p>In addition to the Implementation Training all <i>Big Day for PreK</i> teachers receive access to a <i>Scholastic U</i> online professional course called “Developing Foundations for Early Childhood Success.” This course focuses on developing teachers’ knowledge of children’s development in the social, emotional, and behavioral domains, in communication and language, in early literacy, and in early mathematics.</p>
<p>Coordinate with activities funded by and carried out under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)</p>	<p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> can be integrated with funds from state, local, private, and other sources. The federal funding programs for which it qualifies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title IA—Improving Basic Programs ▪ Title I—School Improvement Grants ▪ Title III—English Language Acquisition ▪ IDEA, Part B ▪ Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC)