



Scholastic *Big Day for PreK*

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. *Big Day for PreK* 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.

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.

Reading

Big Day for PreK provides daily, engaging lessons for the whole class and small groups that teach alphabet knowledge and 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. In daily teacher-led small groups, phonological awareness activities provide further instruction, modeling, and practice. Learning Centers activities help children explore letter knowledge through play, environmental print, and authentic reading and writing connections. The *Big Day* 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. Teachers read aloud to children daily and revisit books for multiple purposes, such as introducing new topics and exploring content-area connections.

Writing

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.

Speaking & Listening

During read-alouds, *Big Day for PreK* uses a dialogic reading approach that encourages conversational interactions and gives children opportunities to experiment with and explore language. *BookStix*, preprinted sticky notes, can be affixed to the backs of the read-alouds and big books, to provide dialogic reading prompts that promote language and engage children in conversation. Teachers use the Big Wall Chart 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.

Language

Big Day for PreK guides teachers to explicitly introduce new words with multiple repetitions each week. Each *Big Experience* includes vocabulary words from one of the following categories—Theme Words, Story Words, Math Words, Science Words, or Social Studies Words. The program places importance on new words that are likely to be used more frequently in the classroom and are necessary to be successful in school. Math Mats include prompts for using new mathematics words and the *Songs and Fingerplays* book often include selections that use Theme Words.

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 then 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:

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

Assessment & Progress Monitoring

Big Day for PreK 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.

The *Big Day for PreK* curriculum includes daily opportunities to observe children’s growth toward developmental milestones in informal ways across all parts of the day.

- *Circle Time/Story Time* 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.
- 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.
- *Show and Grow* Portfolios provide an authentic and visual representation of children’s progress in print or online.

The *Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory* (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. 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.

Scaffolded Instruction

Big Day for PreK 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 for every day. These pages 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. They 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.

Strategies for English Language Learners

Big Day for PreK 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, *BookFlix*, Big Wall charts, *BookStix*, Math Mats, Science Posters, downloadable teacher resources, family letters, *Family Space*, and more.

The *Big Day for PreK* curriculum provides support for teachers to strengthen English language learners' literacy and language skills throughout the day. The English Language Development feature in the Teaching Guides provides suggestions for explicit language instruction to help students understand new concepts, practice developing language skills, and draw connections between their home language and English. For teachers teaching in Spanish, *Bridge to English* features provide support for making connection 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.

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 learners with highly supported opportunities to practice oral language skills.

Strategies for Special Education Students

Big Day for PreK includes guidelines for modifying and extending instruction for children with identified special needs, including vision impairments, hearing impairments, cognitive challenges, physical challenges, language and communication delays, and emotional or behavioral disorders.

The Responsive Instruction pages for each day provide suggestions for both modifying *Big Experiences* to accommodate specific needs and for following up individually with students who need more tailored instruction. These suggestions are designed to increase children's access to the curriculum by offering multiple means of engaging students with content, multiple means of representing content, and multiple means for children to express learned content. Other approaches to modifying and individualizing instruction include modifying materials, modifying the environment, modifying the ways learners can respond to instruction, modifying the level and type of support, and supporting attention to the activity at hand.

Motivation & Engagement

Big Day for PreK 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. Daily Learning Centers time provides children the opportunity for intentional play, social interaction, and independent exploration. The Teaching Guides provide instructions for setting up eight different centers—Blocks & Building, Creativity, Dramatic Play, Math, Reading & Listening, Science, Technology, and Writing. The activities at each center change depending on the monthly theme and the particular focus of the each week.

Home-School Connection


Big Day for PreK promotes the home-school connection with *Big Day Family Space*, a secure website that families can log in to from any computer with an Internet connection. Using *Family Space*—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. *Family Space* 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 *Learn Together* Downloadables, *Clifford* Literacy Activities, *Clifford* Mathematics Activities, and ABC Take-Home Books.

Family Space also includes access to *BookFlix*, an online literary resource that provides children and their families 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 eBooks help build background knowledge and introduce content-area learning. Families can play interactive educational games related to the *BookFlix* book pairs, learn more about the storybook author, or explore carefully selected, age-appropriate Web links. The *BookFlix* and related activities, as well as *Family Space*, provide families with rich resources for supporting and extending children’s social-emotional, literacy, and mathematics learning in the home.

Professional Development

Big Day for PreK Implementation Training, Half or Full Day—This training provides guidance on organizing and managing the classroom, assessing children’s progress, and engaging families throughout the year.

Big Day for PreK Interactive Webinar Quickstart Training—This interactive Webinar includes using teaching resources, managing the classroom, assessing progress, and engaging families.

 For additional information about *Big Day for PreK*, please visit www.scholastic.com/bigday.