



Big Day for PreK

Aligns to 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is to support the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. The following chart shows how **Big Day for PreK** can support a 21st CCLC program. The criteria are drawn from the Federal 21st CCLC Non-Regulatory Guidance, posted at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/legislation.html>

Components of a 21CCLC Program	Big Day for PreK
<p>Activities that provide remedial education activities, including additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their academic achievement</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><i>Big Day for PreK</i> learning experiences integrate all domains, including social-emotional development, oral language, reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, art, physical development, and technology.</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> 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 <i>Big Day</i> library includes many different types of books—including big books, lap books, little books, <i>eBooks</i>, 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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Activities that provide remedial education activities, including additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their academic achievement <i>Continued</i></p>	<p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>The <i>Big Day for PreK</i> Teaching Guides include writing-based lessons 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.</p> <p><u>Language</u></p> <p><i>Big Day for PreK</i> guides teachers to explicitly introduce new words with multiple repetitions each week. Each <i>Big Experience</i> 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 <i>Songs and Fingerplays</i> book often include selections that use Theme Words.</p> <p><u>Speaking & Listening</u></p> <p>During read-alouds, <i>Big Day for PreK</i> uses a dialogic reading approach that encourages conversational interactions and gives children opportunities to experiment with and explore language. <i>BookStix</i>, 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.</p>
<p>Programs that are based on scientifically based research that provides evidence that the program will help students meet state and local achievement standards</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>Academic activities aligned with the school’s curriculum in the core subject areas</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>Academic activities aligned with the school’s curriculum in the core subject areas <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>Technology education programs</p>	<p>In <i>Big Day for PreK</i>, children have daily opportunities to use technology to practice literacy skills and extend their learning. In the Technology Center, children can independently access <i>BookFlix</i>, an online literacy resource that pairs classic video story books from Westin Woods with theme-related nonfiction <i>eBooks</i> from Scholastic.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Technology education programs <i>Continued</i></p>	<p>Children can click on any of the theme-related reading pairs in English or Spanish; 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>Activities for limited English proficient students that emphasize language skills and academic achievement</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 students 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 ELL students 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>Ongoing staff training for implementing the academic support and enrichment services</p>	<p><u><i>Big Day for PreK Full or Half Day Implementation Training</i></u></p> <p>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></p> <p>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, communication and language, early literacy, and early mathematics.</p>

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<p>Programs that promote parental involvement</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> <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>Periodic evaluation of the academic progress of children participating in the 21st CCLC program</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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED</p>

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<p>Periodic evaluation of the academic progress of children participating in the 21st CCLC program <i>Continued</i></p>	<p>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 also 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. ▪ 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>Coordination of Federal, State, and Local services and programs</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)