

# Early Learning Outcomes Reporting



## Resources for using pre-kindergarten outcomes data with families and for smoother kindergarten transitions – July 2013

*This information pertains to PA Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, and Keystone STARS 3 and 4 groups and centers and will be posted on the PA Key website at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org).*

As you come to the end of the program year, it is important to share children's progress with families. For children entering kindergarten next year, sharing this information can help create a smoother transition for each child and family to kindergarten.

Each approved assessment company provides family-friendly reports that can be used in your conferences with families. These reports typically provide a snapshot of the child's development and tips for promoting progress. Using such reports with families meets program standards for ongoing family communication and conferencing.

Here are additional resources available to help make the most of your parent/teacher conferences and transition activities:

### **Standards Aligned System (SAS) Portal**

The SAS portal at [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org) includes resources and online forums on topics related to supporting a child's school success. For example, if you want resources for parent conferences, you can enter "parent conferences" in the search field, choose pre-kindergarten as the grade level, and receive links to Strengthening Families resources and a tip sheet for reaching out to families. If you create your own account, then you can click on "Teacher Tools" and search and join online communities.

Sharing preschoolers' progress with families at the end of the program year is a great way to support smoother transitions to kindergarten and beyond.

Take advantage of the wealth of resources as you plan your parent/teacher conferences and transition activities.

### **Tips for creating effective parent/teacher conferences**

There is a tip sheet on the PA Keys website at [www.pakeys.org/docs/PFC-09\\_Tip%20SheetConferences\\_7.1.2009.pdf](http://www.pakeys.org/docs/PFC-09_Tip%20SheetConferences_7.1.2009.pdf) for creating effective parent/teacher conferences. Some tips include:

- Prior to the conference, let the parents know what information you plan on sharing and what you would like to hear from them.
- Make a point to not just "give" information, but also ask for feedback and input from the parent. The conference should be reciprocal.
- Ask open ended questions.
- Use this time to provide some helpful tips/ideas of how the parent could support their child's development at home. Model activities/strategies for the parent if appropriate.
- Have copies of a community resource guide available for families. Highlight some community resources that might be of interest to them (for example: the local library, a recreation center, training or information nights offered at the local school district)
- Ask family members how things are going at home: Are there special occasions or upcoming celebrations in their family? Have they recently experienced any changes in their family?

- Be culturally competent in your planning and implementation of your conferences.
- Thank the parent for their time and participation.

### **OCDEL's transition toolkit**

OCDEL's transition toolkit (<http://www.pdesas.org/module/content/resources/21629/view.ashx>) includes excellent resources to develop and implement effective transition plans that address child-school, school-school, family-school, and school-community connections. Some resources include:

- **Help Me Know Your Child Template.** This is a short questionnaire that families can complete to provide to the kindergarten teacher before the school year. Families may want to include areas in which their children are doing well and areas that they feel their child needs extra work.
- **Tips on Enhancing School to School Connections.** A tip sheet for programs to use with schools to establish effective transition protocols, such as sharing curriculum and assessment information between early childhood and kindergarten teachers.
- **Transition to Formal School for Early Care (Receiving) Worksheet for Child-School.** Worksheet of practices to help during transition to foster positive attitudes toward school and learning, foster positive teacher-child relationships, and help children develop and maintain positive relationship with peers.
- **Families and Teachers as Partners.** Suggestions and strategies for families to help their child transition into kindergarten and enhance two-way communication.
- **Who is Who in Your Child's School.** A customizable template that provides families with a description of personnel and the role each individual plays in the school their child attends.
- There are also links to all of **OCDEL's parent activity guides** such as Recipes to Readiness and Kindergarten Here I Come!

### **LEARN Transition to Kindergarten Partners and online forum**

The Local Education and Resource Network (LEARN) partners that participate in the Transition to Kindergarten Learning Community provides information and supports you want to ensure a smooth transition from an early learning setting to a formal school setting, such as Kindergarten. By participating in this community, you can discover how to use the OCDEL Transition Toolkit, get school district transition information, and find out about early learning transition information. You can join this community at <http://papromiseforchildren.com/be-a-childrens-champion/learn/>.

Programs who have questions not addressed in the materials available online may email them to [ra-eln@pa.gov](mailto:ra-eln@pa.gov).