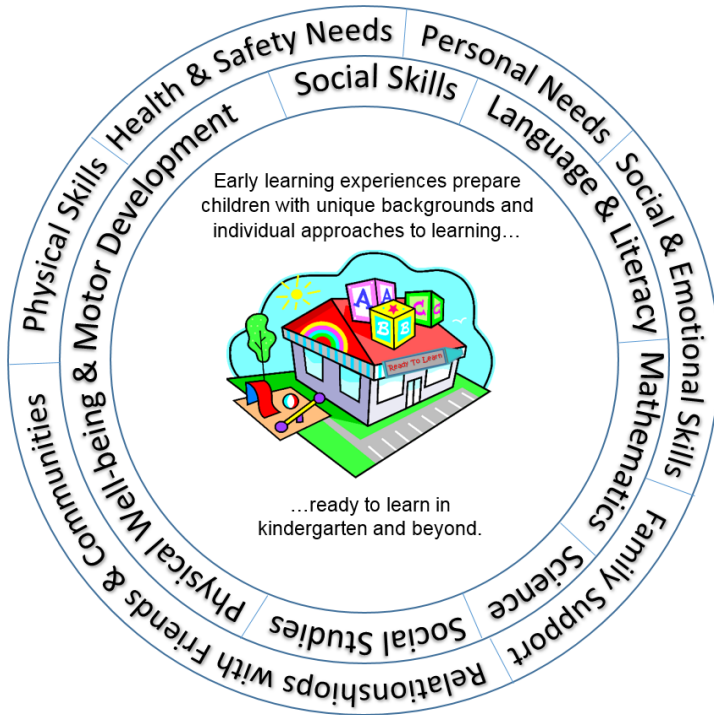


Welcome to Preschool

HOW WILL TEACHERS GET TO KNOW MY PRESCHOOL CHILD?



In order to ensure that all Ohio children have access to high quality opportunities to learn, Ohio has created the Early Learning Assessment for use in preschools. The Early Learning Assessment is aligned with Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.

Close monitoring of a child's growth and development while in preschool is necessary to ensure all children enter school ready to learn. In preschool, children learn to interact with others, follow rules, become independent and begin to understand the foundational concepts of numbers and letters. All these skills are necessary to be successful in school.

High quality child care includes access to a high-quality learning environment. Such an environment requires an appropriate curriculum and an assessment aligned to that curriculum to monitor progress. For young children, this looks like a safe, developmentally appropriate space with stimulating toys and other children. An assessment in this context is a set of research-driven observations that early education professionals use to learn where the children are in their growth and development.

All children develop differently and most children experience delays in some areas of development. Early education professionals can provide age-appropriate interventions to help children achieve their full potential. The Early Learning Assessment is a tool teachers can use to monitor the progress children are making and identify interventions.

Early education professionals will review Individual Student Reports with families, so that families will be able to support their children's growth and development at home.

WHO?	WHEN?	HOW?
Ohio's Early Learning Assessment is for all children enrolled in preschool.	Early education professionals collect information for the Early Learning Assessment throughout the year. Early education professionals use this information to ensure that children are on the path for kindergarten readiness.	The Early Learning Assessment is a research-based series of observations that early learning professionals use in the classroom every day. Your child may not even be aware that he or she is being assessed as the early education professional observes the child's typical activities throughout the day.

Early education professionals use the assessment to measure your child's skills, knowledge and abilities in Social Foundations, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Language and Literacy, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development and Fine Arts throughout preschool.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF THE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES MY CHILD WILL EXPERIENCE?

Your child's early education professional may choose to use the Early Learning Assessment with your child one-on-one or in a small group. The early education professional will also watch your child interact with other students in class or on the playground. Below are just a few examples of activities where your child may demonstrate their knowledge in the areas of Social Foundations, Mathematics, Language and Literacy, and Physical Well-Being & Motor Development.

Social Foundations

Joey and Sam decide together where and how to dig their "river." The early education professional standing nearby can observe their interactions with peers, planning skills, and cooperation.



Mathematics

Jamar demonstrates knowledge of number names, one-to-one correspondence, count sequence, and the relationships between numbers by counting the pennies as he puts them in the piggy bank.



Language and Literacy

Ms. Jones' class demonstrates an awareness of the sound structures of spoken language, including rhymes and syllables.



Physical Well-Being & Motor Development

Darcy demonstrates her ability to use small muscles to perform fine motor skills by painting different colors on both her hands.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about the Early Learning Assessment, talk with your child's child care/ school administrator or teacher. For additional resources to help understand how you can support your child's preschool success, visit www.education.ohio.gov and search the keywords "Early Learning Assessment," or send your question to ELSR@education.ohio.gov.