

Best Practices for Continuity of Instruction – Guidance #9
Prekindergarten

Staff in this category may use online platforms and email with students and parents to provide Prekindergarten instruction that support academic progress and social-emotional needs of the children and families. It is strongly recommended that prekindergarten teachers interact with students, parents, and colleagues within the contractual workday.

This guidance outlines practices that should be utilized by Prekindergarten (PreK) teachers to support both our early learners' natural curiosity and their social-emotional well-being as they learn in their home and outdoor settings. Staff in this category should continue to utilize the core instructional resources (e.g., Big Day for PreK).

Integration of Regular Teaching Responsibilities

Prekindergarten staff will engage students with routine activities on a daily basis. Here, routine activities are defined as oral language, listening comprehension, numeracy/one to one correspondence, fine motor activities, and gross motor activities. **In addition to Guidance #1 and #4, prekindergarten staff's responsibilities may include:**

Supporting Students

To help students maintain their skills while developing concepts in an Electronic Learning setting, teachers are advised to plan daily activities based on *how students learn* and *what they like to play with*.

- Include *physical development tasks* (gross motor activities) such as: jumping jacks, running in place, and jump roping, as examples. In addition, embed personal hygiene tasks such as hand-washing, brushing teeth and dressing self. Integrate healthy eating tasks such as planning a menu and categorizing food (e.g., vegetables, fruits, meats, starches). Provide opportunities to practice life skills such as setting a table for a meal.
 - Address *social and emotional learning* by sharing games such as Hide and Seek, I Spy, or Red Rover. Provide activities that help students identify feelings when reading or listening to stories. Allow time for students to learn about and use self-regulation skills such as taking deep breaths, counting to ten, clenching and unclenching their hands, practicing yoga/ Mindfulness or maintaining a daily rest time schedule.
 - Expand on *communication, language and literacy skills* by “reading stories” to students in virtual settings, having parents read stories to children, having students read or tell stories, having students play “dress up” or role-play, reviewing the alphabet and sight words (orally, visually and in print), and having children give or follow oral or written/pictorial step by step directions. Books from YouTube <https://www.storylineonline.net/> can be assigned to accomplish all of these communication, language, and literacy skills.
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Supporting Students - continued

- Promote *cognition and knowledge of the world* through integrated lessons/activities/projects involving math, science social studies, the arts and technology. Examples include and are not limited to: water play at the sink or in the bath tub, measurement (using cups, spoons, bowls, feet, hands), dancing to music, matching pairs, following non-heat recipes, estimating amounts, completing computer-based programs, and participating in early childhood interactive TV programs. Additional ideas for project based activities can be found at PBS (<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/prek/>). Furthermore, teachers may assign virtual field trips and students can “journal” about their experiences.
- Encourage *quality time with family and reasoning* through games. Games such as memory, matching, or opposites help students with decision making and can be played with large groups of family members to promote spending quality time together.

Additional PreK Staff Technology Resources

ABCYa

- A free online website that covers Grades PreK – 3rd grade. Each grade is aligned to national standards and is split into 5 categories: letters, numbers, holiday, strategy, and skill.

Starfall

- A combination of free and paid content that covers ELA, Math, and Social Studies topics in grades PreK-3rd grade.

Khan Academy

- Allows students in grades Kindergarten – 3rd grade the opportunity to practice their math skills in a free online platform. Each grade level is aligned to Standards and covers a multitude of math concepts.

BrainPOP Jr.

- Geared to helping kids from Kindergarten to 3rd Grade.
- This site offers tons of educational games and videos on subjects like social studies, math, science, art and history. Full access to the site requires a subscription, but there’s plenty of free content to explore.

Fun Brain

- Offers hundreds of educational games, books, comics, and videos that develop skills in math, reading, problem-solving, and literacy. This website is geared towards students in Prekindergarten – 3rd grade.

Storynory

- This website features a vast collection of audio stories where children can read along to the text. The website’s library includes original stories, fairy tales, and classics.

PBS

- New York’s nine public television stations have agreed to provide educational resources and home enrichment for students without access to broadband during extended school closings. To find your local station visit [PBS Station Finder](#).

This guidance is designed to provide additional instructional resources for Electronic Learning. It is expected that teachers and students will continue to use Big Day for PreK, the EngageNY mathematics modules, and PATHS Social Emotional Learning. Finally, close planning with Kindergarten teachers ensures readiness for the next school year.
