

**PreK On My Way,** is a <u>comprehensive PreK program</u> developed specifically for Texas students, educators, and families. PreK On My Way incorporates instructional practices which are research based and designed to ensure a child's successful social-emotional and academic development across all ten domains found in the Texas PreK Guidelines. PreK On My Way was reviewed and found to meet 100% of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines.

Scholastic acknowledges the thoughtful review of PreK On My Way by the Texas Resource Review members. The review highlights many of the unique strengths and instructional benefits provided by the program. To fully explore the program, please visit the <a href="mailto:PreK On My Way Texas Reviewer's Site">PreK On My Way Texas Reviewer's Site</a> (username: <a href="mailto:txprekreview@scholastic.com">txprekreview@scholastic.com</a>; password: Scholastic1).

PreK On My Way ensures all children develop the skills necessary to flourish as readers, writers, critical thinkers, and explorers of the world in which they live. We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize some program benefits that are not fully reflected in the final TRR report:

## Literacy

 Phonological Awareness - The PreK On My Way Phonological Awareness paper outlines the program's research-based phonological awareness continuum and TPG alignment, with specific content examples from throughout the program, and a bibliography of research citations. Instruction progresses from larger to smaller units of sound (words within sentences, compound words, syllables, rhyme, alliteration, onset-rime, and individual phonemes). The PA paper references the 2019 International Literacy Association position paper *Phonological Awareness in Early Childhood Literacy* Development including this quote that strongly aligns to the PreK On My Way approach, "Purposeful, efficient, and developmentally appropriate instruction in phonological awareness can support young children's literacy and language development and help them understand how to decode and spell words, particularly when combined with instruction in both alphabet and vocabulary knowledge." In Prek On My Way, phonological awareness instruction and practice are authentically integrated throughout the program on Large Group Cards (Circle Time, Story Time, Extended Play), Small Group Activity Cards, and through conversation prompts during Independent Centers. In addition to receiving direct instruction on two or more sounds per week, children are

taught to hear and play with those sounds as they appear authentically throughout the child's day.

- Print Knowledge and Concepts PreK On My Way follows best practices to build
  children's print knowledge and concepts through explicit, authentic instruction. Print
  awareness is introduced, revisited, spiraled, and practiced across the year with a focus
  on <u>labels</u>, <u>print directionality</u>, capitalization, <u>punctuation</u>, and more. Instruction is
  embedded in each week's concept exploration--through read aloud books, Big Chart of
  Big Ideas short texts, vocabulary cards, alphabet cards, alphabet books, and more during
  large group (see Large Group Cards), small group, and centers--ensuring that the
  learning is revisited, applied, and transferred in a gradual release model.
- Text Types and Genres PreK On My Way includes a broad range of text types and genres in 400+ big book and trade book read alouds, Big Chart of Big Ideas short reads, classroom library, alphabet books, Little eReaders, and more. Texts were carefully selected to include a balance of narrative and informational texts (preK genres) as well as traditional literature, poems, contemporary literature, drama, persuasive texts, personal narratives, nursery rhymes, fables, songs, recipes, information graphics, and maps (kindergarten genres).

Environmental print is provided in the form of 13 classroom wall posters (26 across English and Spanish), 32 Big Chart of Big Ideas large format pages that bring the weekly concept to life in the classroom environment (e.g., hand washing instructions, classroom rules, etc.) with teacher instruction on the back of each, 9 comprehension strategy hand signal signs, independent center signage, and pocket chart for displaying each week's vocabulary, alphabet, and number cards. In addition, instructional texts purposefully model the authentic use of environmental print including wall calendars, neighborhood signage, classroom signage (exit and fire safety), road signs, scoreboards, price tags, and more.

## Writing

PreK On My Way takes an asset-based approach to writing, celebrating children's meaningful written communication as their skills progress. The Implementation Guide outlines the developmental continuum of how children learn writing—from scribbles and marks to letter-like forms that convey meaning, to writing letters and words for different purposes. Each week, large group instruction and practice cycles through the following scaffolded levels of writing: teacher-modeled, shared, interactive, guided, and independent. In this way, writing instruction and practice is spiraled throughout the program to support each individual child's progression along the developmental continuum of writing. In addition to daily large group instruction, writing is authentically practiced during small group activities and independent centers. Supports include alphabet letter formation practice pages with numbered steps and jingles to support working

memory. Writing experiences include a variety of tools and surfaces (e.g., markers, pens, pencils, paintbrushes, crayons, chalk, sand trays, salt trays, shaving cream, clay, glue and glitter, finger paints) and fine motor skill development to support writing in small group activities, independent centers, and as suggested modifications for children with individual needs. Materials to support fine motor development include jumbo tweezers (pincer grasp) pattern blocks, connecting cubes, two-color counters, attribute buttons, geoboards with rubber bands, photo cards, and more.

## Assessment

PreK On My Way includes developmentally appropriate assessment of all content and process skills for prekindergarten, supporting teachers to customize instruction and monitor progress. Developed in partnership with the Children's Learning Institute, PreK On My Way aligns to the CIRCLE progress monitoring assessment used in more than 90% of Texas prekindergarten programs.

Weekly Observational Assessments are directly tied to each week's instruction and the corresponding Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. The Digital Lesson Planner includes tools for searching (by TPG outcome) and adding targeted small group or individual instruction to meet student needs, identified through weekly Observational Assessment and/or through CIRCLE progress monitoring.

In addition, weekly Response Prompts provide evidence of student learning for use in portfolios and self-assessment. CLASS alignment to PreK On My Way large group, small group, and independent centers supports success with CLASS Assessment dimensions. The Implementation Guide provides guidance to ensure consistent and accurate administration of diagnostic tools.

Scholastic is committed to providing Texas educators a program that engages and inspires Texas teachers and their students and families with high-quality materials and research-based instruction. PreK On My Way supports high quality PreK instruction and teachers in developing learners who will be well prepared to embark upon their life long journey of learning. Scholastic appreciates the opportunity to serve PreK teachers, students, and families throughout the great state of Texas.