Parent Engagement Module

Preschool Initiative (PI) is funded through a Consortium Incentive Grant (CIG) from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Migrant Education (OME).

This parent language and literacy module is designed for use by preschool educators and paraprofessionals with migrant parents of preschool children ages 3-5. It is intended to provide parents with important information about language and literacy development and to strengthen the partnership between the preschool service providers and the parents of the preschool migrant children they serve.

The information and activities presented here are meant to supplement family engagement activities and preschool instruction. Each segment may be used independently. The parent activities may be added to a variety of parent event settings.

Finally, we encourage users to access the references and resources for additional information on parent engagement.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your dedication to your child’s education and your partnership with the Migrant Education Program. This document provides information and activities on language and literacy development. The language and literacy support you provide through your regular, daily routines with your child contribute to kindergarten readiness and school success. The local migrant program will assist you with carrying out the activities and understanding the information contained in these pages.

PI CIG

“PARENTS ARE TEACHERS, AND HOME IS A CHILD’S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT CLASSROOM.”

—Hillary Clinton

In this module:
- Overview of MEP
- School Readiness
- Language and Vocabulary Development
- Reading Questions
- Read with Kids Daily
- Reading Tips for Parents
- Motivating Young Readers
- Resources for Parents
Overview of the MEP

The purpose of the Migrant Education Program is to assist States in supporting high-quality and comprehensive educational programs and services during the school year, and, as applicable, during summer or intersession periods, that address the unique educational needs of migratory children.

“As the first teachers of their children, parents know the needs of their children best and can provide insight into their children’s strengths and weaknesses. As such, migrant parents can play a pivotal role in planning the educational programs and projects in which their children participate. Involving migrant parents in planning the MEP also builds their capacity to assist in their children’s learning at home.”


School Readiness

Help your child learn to:

- Identify colors and shapes
- Identify numbers and quantities
- Count from 0-10
- Identify letter names and sounds
- Listen to stories, directions and rules
- Tell/retell a story with details
- Answer questions and share experiences
- Take turns and share
- Problem solve
- Use pencils, crayons, markers and scissors

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

PLAY PRETEND

SING SONGS

PLAY GAMES

SAY NURSERY RHYMES
Language and Vocabulary Development

Talk with your child everyday about regular routines and shared experiences like grocery shopping, cooking, getting dressed and playing.

Both you and your child can:

- Ask questions
- Make comments
- Share thoughts, feelings, and opinions

Examples from every day activities

Grocery Shopping

1. Talk about the steps
   At home: “Let’s make a list of the food we need to buy.”
   Name the items.
   At the store: Talk about the food you’re going to buy:
   “Let’s pick out one lemon. Lemon begins with L.”

2. Use the section of the store to pick out other colors
   “Let’s find a fruit that is green.”

3. Extend the conversation
   “What color are the apples?”
   “Do you see any other fruit that is yellow?”
   “What is your favorite fruit?” “Why?”

Making a salad for dinner

1. Talk about the steps
   “First, we need to wash the lettuce for the salad.”

2. Ask your child to predict what will come next or say what he/she likes most about this activity
   “Why do you like lettuce?”
   “What should we do next?” “Cut up the tomatoes!”
   “How many peppers do we have to chop?”

3. Extend the conversation
   “What’s your favorite food?” “Why?”
   “What should we make tomorrow?” “Why?”
Reading Questions

Before you read
  Based on the title and the pictures, what’s the book about?

While you read
  What do you think will happen next? Why?

After you read
  What was your favorite part? Why?

“AChildren are made readers in the laps of their parents.”
  Emilie Buchwald
Play games about letter names and sounds

- Identify letters
  - On signs
  - In books
- Identify letter sounds
  - “S” makes the sssss sound like in silly
  - What other words have the “s” sound?

Repeat what your child says and build on it

- Ask your child: Do you want an apple? We have apples. We have red apples. Do you want a red apple?

Give everything a name.

- Build your child’s vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example: Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?

Keep it fun for everyone.

- As you read with your children, keep them involved by asking questions about the story, and let them fill in the blanks. “Is that a cow or a pig? What color is the cow? Do you think the cow is hungry? What does the cow want to eat?”

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WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

There is no “right” or “wrong” way to read a wordless book.

One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates his own story (or stories!) from the same pictures. Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book’s title. Take a “picture walk” through the pages of the book. Encourage your child to “read” you the book with his story. Finish by asking a few simple questions: What was your favorite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

(Tips from Reading Rockets)
MOTIVATING YOUNG READERS
Choose topics that interest your child.
Make the reading fun - read with expression or act out a scene.
Spend time together.
Reading is a bonding experience between parent and child - that is motivating!!

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- Ready Rosie for Families: [https://www.readyrosie.com/for-families/](https://www.readyrosie.com/for-families/)
- Reading Rockets Grocery Store Literacy Activity Sheets: [http://www.readingrockets.org/article/33132/](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/33132/)
- Starfall.com ABC games: [http://more2.starfall.com/n/level-k/index/load.htm](http://more2.starfall.com/n/level-k/index/load.htm)
- Starfall.com Learn to Read: [http://more2.starfall.com/n/level-a/learn-to-read/load.htm](http://more2.starfall.com/n/level-a/learn-to-read/load.htm)
- Pre-K Instructional resources: [http://www.sparkedinnovations.net/index.html](http://www.sparkedinnovations.net/index.html)

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*MEMBER STATES*: Pennsylvania (lead state) Colorado | Florida | Georgia | Idaho | Maine Missouri | Oregon | Washington

*PARTNER STATES*: Alaska | Hawaii | Indiana Montana