Engaging Preschool Students and Families through “Learning Kits”
Welcome/Opening Activity

What are some of the **challenges** to providing quality outreach, home-based services to migrant preschool students?

**Successes and celebrations?**
Session Goals

• Review Preschool Initiative (PI) Learning Kits-intentions, contents, and general use

• Read PI Learning Kit books

• Conduct PI Learning Kit activities/lessons

Optional:

• Collaborate with Peers to create ideas for your own Learning Kits
What are the *Learning Kits*?
Learning Kit Basics

Learning Kits will contain:
• 2-3 books
• 2 literacy-language activities/lessons
• 2 numeracy-math activities/lessons
• Materials to carry-out the lessons

*Intended to use for home-based/outreach sessions
*Easily executed with minimal training
*Replicable
Learning Kit Books

- **Giraffes Can't Dance**
  - By Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees

- **This Is Not My Hat**
  - By Jon Klassen

- **Tuesday**
  - By David Wiesner
## Other Books Considered

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<tr>
<th>With Text</th>
<th>Wordless</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Growing Vegetable Soup</td>
<td>• The Lion And The Mouse</td>
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<td>• Inch By Inch</td>
<td>• Waves</td>
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<td>• I Like Myself</td>
<td>• Once Upon a Banana</td>
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<td>• Beautiful Oops</td>
<td>• Inside, Outside</td>
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What’s a favorite children’s book that you’ve used in the past that would be a good fit for Learning Kits?
Language & Literacy Activity #1: Book Walk, Book Talk

**Book Walk, Book Talk**

1. Read the title and name the author
2. Give a brief introduction to the story in 3-5 sentences...
   - The main character is _____.
   - He will _____.
3. Make a prediction with the student...
   - What do you think will happen to _____?
   - What do you think will happen next?
   - Why do you think that?
Language & Literacy Activity #2: Story Retelling/Order the Events

**Retell Story/Sequence Events**

1. Create simple character puppets using paper bags or construction paper and craft sticks.
2. Support children in using the puppets to correctly sequence/retell story events.
3. Prompt children to change an event and discuss what would happen then.
What are the benefits of conducting activities such as the Book Walk, Book Talk and story retelling in a student’s native language?
Math Activity #1a: Identifying & Differentiating Attributes

*Differentiate attributes (color, shape, size)*

1. Provide children with colored foam shapes and ask them to place the foam shapes on the floor or table.
2. Discuss the colors, shapes, and sizes of the foam shapes with the child.
3. Ask them to sort the foam shapes by features like color, shape and size.
Math Activity #1b: Identify & Describe Shapes

*Identify and describe shapes*

*Compose simple shapes to make larger shapes*

After reading the book,

1. Provide students with foam shapes and a blank piece of paper.
2. Select different shapes with the student and discuss shape names and attributes.
3. Assist students with creating a character or scene from the book using the foam shapes and glue them to a piece of blank paper.
Math Activity #2: Patterns

**Identifying and Creating Patterns (color, shape, size)**

1. Use the foam shapes to create a pattern with two attributes (red triangle, blue triangle).
2. Ask the child to describe what he sees (identify the pattern).
3. Ask the child to copy the pattern.
4. Direct the child to create a new pattern.
5. You copy the child’s pattern.
6. Repeat the patterning activities and extend the number of features used in the pattern.
Tall grasses

This is Not My Hat
Think, Pair, Share

What will be challenging about the activities for parents?

What will parents need in order to successfully carry-out the various activities?
How To Make *Learning Kits*
Replicate the PI Kits

Backpack Gear
https://backpackgearinc.com/ $5.00

Books-Airzon
This Is Not My Hat-paperback $9.76
Giraffes Can’t Dance-paperback $11.01
Tuesday-paperback $7.99

Materials
• Construction paper
• Foam shapes
• Glue sticks
• Scissors
• Paper bags
• Craft sticks
• Copies of the activities/lessons
Make Your Own Learning Kits

- Set a **budget**
- Select interesting, age-appropriate **books**
  - Local library specialist or preschool teacher
  - Rich language & wordless books
  - Universal messages
  - Fiction & non-fiction
- Determine interactive, cognitively engaging **activities**
  - Do you know specific skills the child needs?
  - Can activities be used with different books?
  - Can activities be quickly taught to the parents?
- Collect the **materials & assemble the kits**
Begin to make your own Learning Kit...

Use this “make & take” time to identify a book and several lessons/activities with your partner.
Resources & Concluding Thoughts
PI CIG Clearinghouse
preschoolinitiative.org

Helping to improve the school readiness of migrant preschool children and to strengthen parent engagement in early learning.

Preschool Initiative (PI) is funded through a Consortium Incentive Grant (CIG) from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Migrant Education (OME). Our goals are to expand the capacity of state and local Migrant Education Programs (MEPs) to serve migrant preschool children; ensure that more services are provided to migrant 3-5 year-old children and that these children demonstrate substantial and measurable educational gains; and to disseminate evidence-based promising practices developed by PI to the national MEP community and other communities.

WHAT IS NEW IN THE CLEARINGHOUSE...

The PI has developed new materials on parent engagement.

Learn more
Other Resources

- Colorin Colorado  http://www.colorincolorado.org/
- Learninga-z  https://www.learninga-z.com/
- Edutopia  https://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning
- Sparked Innovations  https://sparkedinnovations.net/
Closing Tasks

• Questions?

• In one word, describe how you’re feeling about Learning Kits

• Please complete the training feedback form

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PI-YR4-Form2-PD