



What, Why, and Who Should Use the K-3 Fall Resource

Extending Student Learning Beyond the Classroom

K-3 Fall Resource Packet 2022

Support for Engaging Parents and Families in Student Learning and Development in Kindergarten to Third Grade

<p>1. Memo to Early Childhood Educators and Decision-Makers</p>	<p>This informational memo describes the benefits of learning partnerships with students’ families and strategies educators can use to incorporate K-3 resources in their early childhood education programs.</p>
<p>2. What, Why, and Who Should Use K-3 Resources</p>	<p>This document is the list of all tools in the K-3 Fall Resource Packet. Resources can be used throughout the school year including as part of a comprehensive preschool to third grade student transition program.</p>
<p>3. Family 5 – A Five-Point Home-School Communication about Student Learning</p>	<p>This is a simple, easy-to-use document that models high-quality home/school communications about support for teaching and student learning. The goal is to support both families and teachers.</p>
<p>4. Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Learning Outside of the Classroom</p>	<p>This document provides information to families about facilitating learning at home. Insightful information allows parents and teachers to have meaningful conversations about developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) outside of the classroom.</p>
<p>5. How the Education Communication System Works for Parents and Families</p>	<p>All parents and families can benefit from understanding “the system.” They are more informed and less frustrated when they know how to get answers to their questions. This resource is especially helpful in an orientation packet for new families and for all families as a handout at the beginning of each school year.</p>

The documents in this packet were created by staff at the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Services, Office of Kindergarten to Third Grade Education. It is part of a model of home/school partnerships that complement the state’s student learning standards.

The Division of Early Childhood Services acknowledges the term “parent” to indicate an adult who plays a legal and significant role in a child’s life. This may include parents, stepparents, parents’ partners, foster parents, grandparents, extended family caretakers, and others who regularly contribute in important ways to a child’s education and development. When known, the term “parent” or the term “family” is used precisely. When referring to groups, or those who share responsibility for the well-being of a child, the use of both terms, “parent and family” is inclusive and more accurate.

<p>Young Math Masterminds Resource Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Young Math Masterminds – Mathematics is Everywhere! 7. Young Math Masterminds – Mathematics in Kindergarten 8. Young Math Masterminds – Thoughts on Math Anxiety 	<p>The Young Math Masterminds Series enables teachers and families to communicate about ways children can use math to apply new knowledge, practice skills, and make sense of new ideas and information.</p>
<p>Young Readers Resource Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Young Readers – Building Comprehension in Kindergarten 10. Young Readers – Building Comprehension in First through Third Grade 11. Young Readers and Writers – Three Tips for Supporting Writing Skills at Home 	<p>The Young Readers Series provides parents and families with ideas and guidance to support in-class instructional strategies. Suggestions and ideas are grounded in the NJ ELA Student Learning Standards and best practices for helping young children learn to read, write, and communicate.</p>
<p>The Basics of Parent and Family Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. The Basics - Engaging Families Fact Sheet for Educators 13. The Basics - Let’s Work Together to Support Your Child’s Success (English) 14. The Basics - Let’s Work Together to Support Your Child’s Success (Spanish) 	<p>These resources provide very basic information about parent and family involvement. Individual FACT SHEETS and FAMILY TIP SHEETS provide increased awareness, an overview for ground-level work, and ideas to initiate a program-wide plan to build effective home/school partnerships. Educators can build on these basics to effectively engage parents in student learning and development. (The resources in the K-3 Fall Packet provide direct support to impact student outcomes.)</p>
<p>Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Quality - What Does a High-Quality Kindergarten Program Look Like? 16. Quality - First Through Third Grade Program Quality Checklist 	<p>High-quality K-3rd grade early childhood programs have features and conditions that optimize learning and development for all participating young children. Visitors to any classroom should see those quality indicators and have confidence that the program meets their child’s needs. These documents provide highlights of the quality offered in NJ programs and allow parents to discuss the benefits for their child that could be duplicated at home.</p>
<p>Student Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Attendance - GO-LEARN-GROW Toolkit for Improving Attendance 2021 18. Attendance – GO-LEARN-GROW Presentation Slide Deck 2021 	<p>Chronic absenteeism in the early grades can have devastating effects on children including the lack of critical school readiness skills, the likelihood of missing important academic milestones, and delayed social and emotional development. The GO-LEARN-GROW Toolkit contains several resources that show why attendance during the early years is important and how families can work with schools to reduce chronic absenteeism.</p>