

# Pre-K Press

## January 2024

### Parent Engagement

Not only is parent and family engagement an important piece to what we do, it is actually one of the six components required as part of a **High Quality Pre-K Program**. **Bright by Text** is a resource you can share with parents that is super easy to use! They sign up via text to receive tips, milestone information, appropriate activities, and community events based on their child's age and zip code. They enter information for multiple children ages birth - 8, and there is also prenatal information for expectant mothers.

**BRIGHT BY TEXT CONTENT:**  
A Whole Child, Whole Family Approach  
Our messages cover...

**LEARN MORE** →

**Bright by Text**



**Pregnancy:**  
• Physical health  
• Safety  
• Preparing for baby  
• Parental well-being

#### Milestones:

Information by age on how children:  
• Play  
• Learn  
• Speak  
• Act  
• Move

And what to do if a parent has concerns.

#### Learning:

- Math skills and activities
- Encouraging creativity
- Early literacy and reading
- STEM
- Music and art

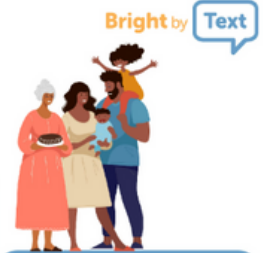
#### Community & world:

- Social-emotional skills
- Embracing diversity
- Practicing kindness
- Identifying community helpers

#### Health, Safety & Wellness:

- Doctor visits
- Physical health, including nutrition, sleep, oral health, exercise
- Mental health and well-being
- Preventing poisonings, environmental hazards, etc

*We support parents from pregnancy through age 8.*



#### Parenting:

- Resilience
- Encouragement
- Mindfulness
- Stress management
- Challenging behaviors
- Bonding with child

#### Connections:

- Health insurance, healthy food and other needs
- Local events and resources
- Statewide health and safety resources

### Important Assessment Information



ECDS opened for BOY data uploading on November 13th, so it's time to get started uploading! (**Kinder** teachers, remember that the BOY submission window **closes January 25th**, so all BOY data must be entered by that date.)

TEA strongly encourages MOY assessments, and - like BOY - should include **all 5 of the required domains**. TEA has begun reaching out to ESCs and districts if assessment data is missing and/or incomplete, so check to make sure all domains are complete!

Remember you also have the **Pre-K Interim Progress Report** to help you document growth between assessment windows and keep up with targeted, differentiated instruction.

**Questions? Reach out any time for help!**



# DAP CENTRAL

## DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

### Letter Knowledge

#### Snowman Names

Cut out plenty of white circles so there are enough for every student to have one per letter in their name and one for the face. Have students write one letter per "snowball" to create their name. Have them stack the snowballs so that it spells their names top-to-bottom. Glue to large piece of construction paper, providing room for students to add accessories such as a face, hat, arms, etc.

**\*Whose snowman is tallest? Shortest? Why?\***

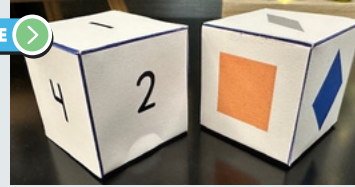


### Math

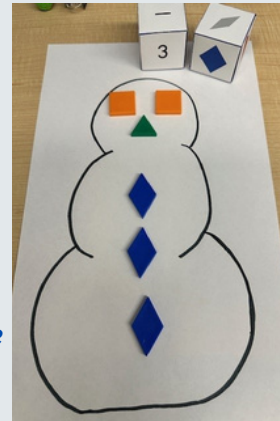
#### Pattern Block Snowmen

Decorate a snowman during small group/centers using a combination of **numeral and pattern block dice**. Create a large snowman outline. Students take turns rolling the numeral die and the pattern block die to see how many need to be added to the snowman. They can use the pattern blocks for eyes, nose, smile, buttons, etc. The key is to name the the numeral and the shape, find the correct number of the right shape, and add them to the snowman.

[CLICK HERE](#)



**\*\*Remember to use correct shape name of rhombus rather than diamond.\*\***



### Writing

#### Snow Writing

One of the easiest and most fun ways to practice writing letters is using shaving cream on the tables! Squirt a little in front of each student, and encourage them to use proper strokes to write letters - both upper and lower case. Have them practice writing their names, friends' names, vocabulary words, etc. Practice drawing shapes and writing numerals, as well. The more they write, the more the snow "melts!"

FYI... If you don't want to put it on the tables, use individual trays. If you have students with sensory issues, place shaving cream in a bag.



### Discovery

#### Snow Sensory Bin

We've probably all seen Insta-Snow. We know it's fun to play with, but have you ever tried DIY snow? If not, give it a try and create a winter discovery bin for your students. There are variations of the recipe, but here are the 2 most common:

3 cups baking soda + 1/2 - 1 cup white conditioner

**OR**

1 cup of baking soda : 1 cup of shaving cream





# PRE-K BOOK NOOK

## Sneezy the Snowman

by Maureen Wright  
Illustrated by Stephen Gilpin



### Sneezy the Snowman

B-R-R-R-R! AH-CHOO! Sneezy the Snowman is cold, cold, cold. To warm up, he drinks cocoa, sits in a hot tub, stands near a warm fire—and melts! But the children know just what to do to build him up again—and make him feel “just right”. The repetitive text makes this a fun read aloud as children will love repeating, “Make me brand new!” each time Sneezy does something silly to make himself melt.

### Snowballs

Even with the use of little text, this book lends itself to wonderful discussion about how the pictures were made through the art of collage using vibrant cut paper and textured objects, like buttons, fabric, and seeds. After reading, encourage students to create their own snow people using miscellaneous items from the classroom, brought from home, found during a walk around the school, etc. This is a perfect project for sparking imagination and creativity!



### Snowball Moon

On a quiet snowy night, the lights go out, and the bright snowball moon outside illuminates everything. Two children meet up with some of their neighborhood friends to have fun in the snow sledding, building snow forts, and having snowball fights. They then go back inside to warm up by the fire with hot cocoa before going to sleep, dreaming of sleds and the next time they can have more snowy fun! With charming, retro illustrations and simple rhyming text, kids will love this warm winter picture book!





# PD OPPORTUNITIES



## “What to Do?”

Virtual Lunch & Learn Series presented by ESC 15's Mental Health Department  
Sessions will run January - May, with 2 dates for each session:

### What to do about...

- **Anxiety:** 1/19/24 ([#304284](#)) or 4/18/24 ([#304288](#))
- **Challenging Behaviors:** 2/2/24 ([#304290](#)) or 4/25/24 ([#304293](#))
- **Self-Injury:** 1/11/24 ([#304298](#)) or 3/1/24 ([#304300](#))
- **Suicide Intervention:** 2/8/24 ([#304309](#)) or 4/12/24 ([#304310](#))
- **Addictive Behaviors:** 2/22/24 ([#304301](#)) or 3/28/24 ([#304306](#))
- **Grief & Trauma:** 3/22/24 ([#304439](#)) or 5/2/24 ([#304446](#))
- **Everything! (Helpful Cognitive-Behavioral Tools):** 2/16/24 ([#304311](#)) or 3/7/24 ([#304313](#))

Each session is from 12:00 - 1:00. Come to any or all sessions that fit your needs and schedule. Click the session # to register.

- **The Power of Showing Up - Understanding the Science of Relationships to Create a Healthy and Healing School Environment with Aric Bostick**
  - Session [#299277](#) (1/24/24, 9:00 - 4:00)
- **Putting a Positive Spin on ADHD**
  - Session [#291287](#) (1/29/24, 9:00 - 4:00)
- **What to Do About Challenging Behaviors**
  - Session [#304290](#) (2/2/24, 9:00 - 4:00)

## Coming Soon!

### What's in a Name?

Teach letter knowledge through the most important words ever - **children's names!** Come learn the importance of using names to teach letter knowledge, rethink Letter-of-the-Week, AND take away some quick, easy, and FUN activities to teach one of the most important skills necessary to read.

Date & Time:

TBA





# ESC 15 ECE TEAM



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LET IT  
SNOW

