

The DLM Early Childhood Express

Prevention and Intervention for at-risk preschoolers

With *The DLM Early Childhood Express*, children develop concrete skills through a balance of teacher directed lessons and hands-on activities that help children focus on the learning process, reflect on new concepts, make connections, and apply what they have learned.

All topics are covered multiple times throughout the program, providing built-in opportunities for reteaching. The great variety of aural, visual, tactile, and kinesthetic activities provided in the daily lessons allows teachers to address any learning style in the classroom. Center Time activities provide additional opportunities to explore and practice new concepts.

Progress Monitoring: Progress monitoring is provided within the Differentiated Instruction feature of the *Teacher's Edition*. Specific instructions are given in an "If...Then" format so teachers can easily determine through observation if the child is struggling with the guideline activity and can adjust instruction to fit the child's need.

Response to Intervention: Every instructional page provides differentiation suggestions for students needing Extra Support or Enrichment. Each daily lesson also includes suggestions for adapting activities to younger students (Accommodations for 3's) and Special Needs students. The introductory section for every week lists options for additional center activities to address students' needs and interests.

Developmentally-Appropriate Assessment System: A complete assessment system is available online. Observational Assessments complete the diagnostic piece available in the *Teacher's Edition*. Weekly Assessments provide formative checklists against the Prekindergarten Guidelines as children progress through the program. Performance Assessments provide summative assessments available three times a year. The teacher can administer all types of assessment either using the printable PDF format or interactively online. A variety of reports are available to view assessment data for each class and for individual students, including reports that show growth over time.

A chart at the beginning of each week shows the Learning Goals that will be covered during each day of the week. Each lesson page lists the standards addressed by the instruction and activities on that page. The goals are addressed naturally within the activities, as students are asked questions that allow them to demonstrate their understanding.

Identifying Children at Risk: Within the online assessment system, it is possible to run Student Observational Reports on each student within any given time frame. This feature enables the teacher to identify trends in at-risk behavior for each child based on teacher-reported anecdotal observations throughout the year.

Other reports within the online assessment system can help the teacher identify children at risk. Student Growth Reports can be used to determine if a child is moving toward standards mastery over time or if the student is not making adequate progress. The teacher can also review individual student performance or overall class performance using Weekly Reports and Performance Reports to identify concept mastery.

The DLM Early Childhood Express is not designed to specifically identify at-risk students, but by using the observational tools and checklists available, the teacher will be able to identify children who may require additional testing.

Our recommendations are:

Percentage of standards mastered	Course of action
80%–100%	Accommodate individual activities as needed.
41%–79%	Accommodate individual activities as needed and continue observing the child. Provide additional testing if needed.
0%–40%	Consider additional testing.