My**Teaching**Strategies™

Dear Colleagues,

As you enter into the first checkpoint period, we wanted to provide you with some updates on where we've been focusing our efforts to ensure that you have a smooth and successful checkpoint experience. Please know that we recognize that the transition to the upgraded user interface has been challenging for many of you, and we hope that these updates will provide you with some assurance of our commitment to your ability to use *GOLD*® successfully.

To support the completion of your first checkpoint, you will find:

- **Updates to the Checkpoint Progression Area:**
  Any documentation you've entered will be clearly associated with the preliminary levels that you set.
- **Printable Objectives for Development & Learning:**
  We have added printable PDFs of all 38 objectives for development and learning to the system, in order to support your ability to reference these during the checkpoint period. These can be found within the free "Objectives for Development and Learning 101" Course in the Develop Area.
- **Printer-friendly On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool:**
  We are adding a PDF of the On-the-Spot Observation Recording Tool to the system that will address the formatting challenges that some of you have had when printing it online.
- **Additional Spanish translation within the site:**
  Intentional Teaching Experiences are available now in Spanish and *LearningGames*® will also be available in Spanish in the coming

days. Additionally, to better support our Spanish-speaking users, we are completely auditing our site to locate any existing gaps in the Spanish translation.

To support your relationships with family members, you will find:

- **Messaging to families:**
  You will be able to write custom messages to send to families. You will also have the ability to upload documents within that message, including newsletters, permission slips, or other family communication resources.
- **Access to prior year Family Conference Forms:**
  As you head into the first family conferences of the year, you will be able to access their past Family Conference forms from the prior year. Having the ability to review past conference forms will help to support teachers to thoughtfully communicate continuity of progress to family members.
- **Access to Family Activities:**
  We are making sure that all the family activities from the previous system are available for you in the Resource Library located in the Family Area. From there, you will be able to select an activity to share with one or all families. In the very near future—we will provide the functionality that allows you to associate all of those activities with the Development & Learning Report.

To support your reporting and administrative needs, you will find:

- **A new, simpler Interrater Reliability Report:**
  This report will show administrators which of their teachers are certified as well as indicate those whose certifications have expired, allowing them to monitor reliability through our IRR tool.
- **A completely redesigned "Edit Children" workflow:**
  This redesigned workflow, which is already in the system, makes it easier to transfer, reactivate, archive, or delete children's records.
- **Additional Documentation Status reporting options:**
  We are adding two more ways for administrators to view the data. One way will provide a summary of the total number of pieces of documentation for the programs or sites under a particular administrator. Another way will provide administrators with the ability to drill down and see documentation, teacher by teacher. Next, we will be providing the ability to create an Excel output that

will allow administrators to export the information to use for their own reporting purposes. Over the next few weeks, we'll also be adding the ability for administrators to filter by date ranges and to include in reporting any sites or programs that have no documentation entered.

- **New Snapshot Reports:**
  We have broken the Snapshot Reports into a series of smaller reports to make them easier to run and use. One of these smaller reports is the Alignment Report, which is already live in the system. Over the next few weeks, you will also be able to run:
    - A Snapshot Report with full drill down capabilities, including programs, sites, and all the way down to the child level
    - A Snapshot by Dimension Report, which compares aggregate information about children's skills, knowledge, and abilities against widely-held expectations for their age or class/grade
    - A Snapshot by Color Band Report, which summarizes data by color bands to give a breakdown of the number or percentage of children whose skills, knowledge, and abilities were below, meeting, or exceeding widely-held expectations for each color band

We recognize that some performance-related issues that we've had this fall have added to the frustration of working with a new user interface. We are committed to continuing to improve overall system performance during checkpoints, particularly during midday when many of you have the time to be online using the system.

We thank you for your patience and appreciate your ongoing partnership, and we will continue to provide updates for you.

With sincere gratitude for all that you do,

Kai-leé Berke
CEO, Teaching Strategies