

Summer 2020

Dear Kindergarten Teachers and Administrators,

We all realize that the 2020–2021 school year promises to be one that will both begin and unfold unlike any other and that your preparations for it are likely to be far more complex than ever before. Please know that here at Teaching Strategies, we remain committed to helping you nurture the development and learning of all the children in your care and, like you, are taking new and ongoing steps to ensure you can continue the essential work of building relationships, teaching, and assessing development and learning.

In service of this shared mission, we want you to be aware of some of our newly expanded resources that we believe will help you make essential connections between teaching and assessment, regardless of your back-to-school model. We are now making available to you as a subscriber to *GOLD*® KEA (Kindergarten Entry Assessment), at no additional cost, the following digital resources:

- 100 *Mighty Minutes*® for Kindergarten
- all 201 *Intentional Teaching Experiences* for Kindergarten*
- our all-new *Guided Learning Experiences* (family-facing versions of *Intentional Teaching Experiences*) and *family Mighty Minutes*®—all of which are easily implemented by family members using resources typically found at home
- a two-way-communication instant messaging tool for keeping in touch with families and providing an easier-than-ever platform for turning the notes, photos, and videos they share with you into *GOLD*® documentation

Additionally, attached to this communication you'll find links to some resources we believe will provide you with some additional support at this time. You will find a sample letter to families that introduces them to formative assessment and explains how they can help you individualize their child's instruction and learning by sharing documentation of their children's development with you. We are also providing a set of family-facing observation prompts that can be used in a variety of ways. For example, you may want to do one or more of the following:

- use the prompts at the beginning of the year to help you get to know children and families initially
- discuss a prompt or two at a time to facilitate weekly communication
- provide the prompts along with some suggested family-facing activities available within *MyTeachingStrategies*® to encourage families to actively observe their children's learning and gather evidence to share with you

We'll be posting an announcement soon to register for a webinar that will take a closer look at these new resources and additional functionality. We look forward to connecting with you soon.

Best regards,

Your Customer Success Team at Teaching Strategies

* 86 experiences in language development and literacy learning, 34 in social-emotional development, 20 in physical development, and 61 in mathematics learning comprise the entire set of 201 Kindergarten *Intentional Teaching Experiences*.

RESOURCES

- Teaching Strategies white paper on *Formative Assessment in the Time of COVID-19*
- A sample letter to families about formative assessment
- Family-facing prompts for KEA