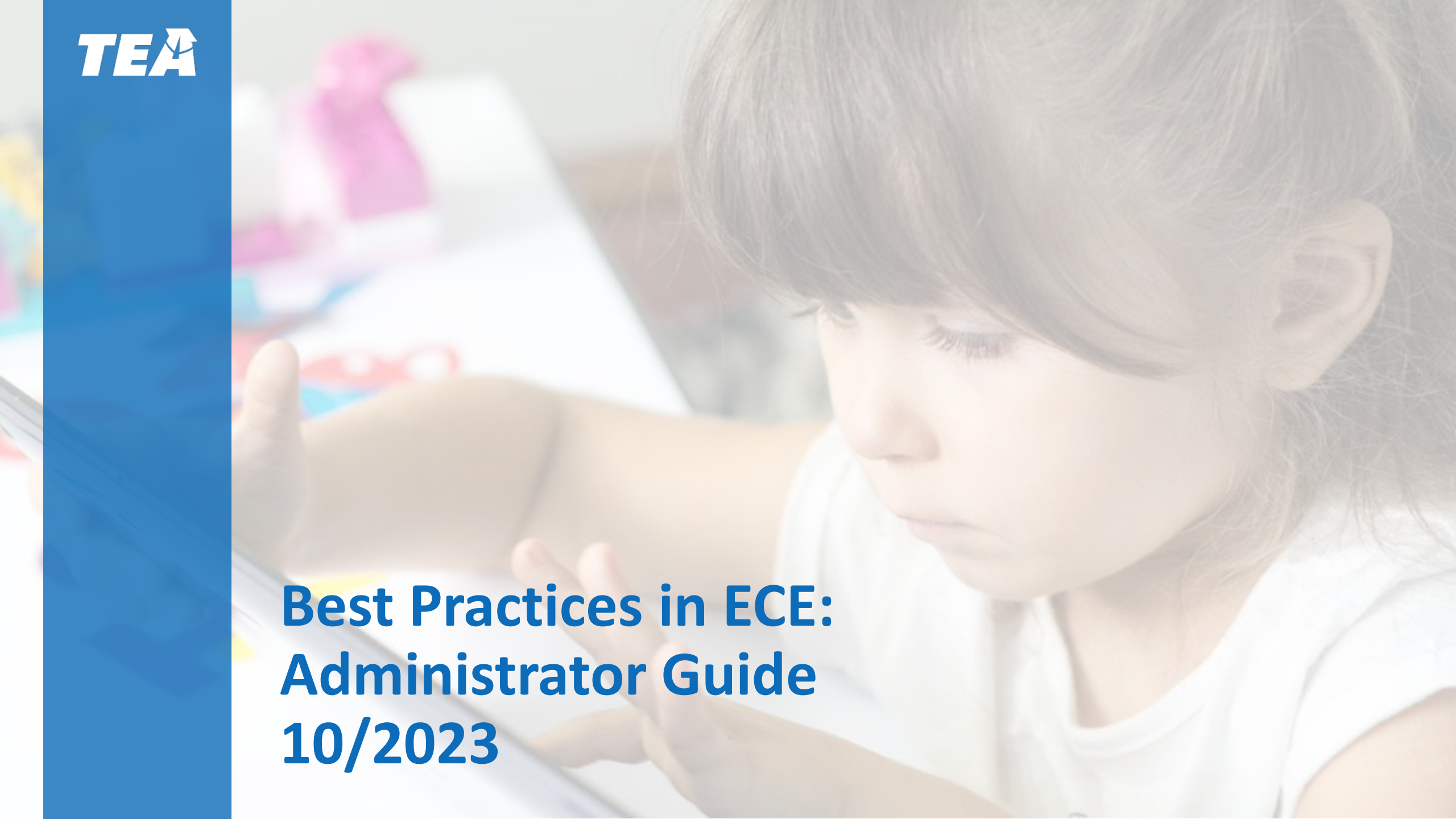


Best Practices in ECE: Administrator Guide 10/2023

Agenda

- Supports and timelines
- Background Information
- Connections to the PK Guidelines/TEKS and best practices in early childhood
- Next Steps
- Questions and Survey

Administrator Support

Early Childhood Education Best Practices

Introduction

At TEA, our vision is to prepare every child in Texas for success in college, career, or the military. This vision is set forth by building a foundation for knowledge and skills in reading, math, and other developmentally appropriate subjects that serve the whole child in early childhood education, prekindergarten–grade 2. In partnership with families, schools, and communities, the Early Childhood Education Division at TEA provides support, resources, and guidance that are aligned to effective early learning practices and support the foundational framework for creating a high-quality early childhood education program.

Learning Objectives

- **Understand the functionality and usability of the Best Practices in ECE: Guides**
- **Review key content specific to the Best Practices in ECE: Administrator Guide**
- **Explore next steps for technical support with the Best Practices in ECE guides through upcoming office hours.**

Supports and Timelines

PK Guideline Support Timeline

Current

- PKG documents published
- Webinar recordings available on our ECE Resources webpage
- Birth3-2nd grade Vertical Alignment Documents published

In Progress

- **"Best Practices in ECE: PK/K/Admin" webpages and webinars to support instruction** in **EC programs**

Today's focus

Future

- PK Outcome Guide on the TX Gateway platform 2023-24
- Office Hours will be combined to support PKGs and Best Practices Guides beginning September 2023

Best Practices in ECE Guide-Training Rollout

Webinar 1 for PK/K: Foundations	• DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES • RESEARCH BASED BEST PRACTICES	• SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES • SUPPORTING EMERGENT BILINGUAL CHILDREN
Webinar 2 for PK/K: Learning Environments	• CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION AND ROUTINES • PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT • OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS (PK only)	• ACTIVITY/LESSON PLANNING AND CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION • DAILY SCHEDULE
Webinar for Administrators	• ALL PK/K content + T-TESS RESOURCES	

Background Information

“Best Practices in ECE: Guide” Background Information

1. **Parts of the introduction section of the 2015 TXPKG were taken out to provide a condensed version of the 2022 TXPKGs, with a focus on skills and outcomes. The decision was made to compile that content as a separate resource.**

2. **PKG focus groups determined the need for more support with best practices in Kindergarten and guidance for ECE Administrators.**

3. **The content in these guides required:**
   - **A review of current research in the ECE field**
   - **A condensed and easily accessible format (webpages)**
   - **Exemplars**

Best Practices in ECE Guide

Administrator Guide

- **Purpose:**
  - **Support Administrators in providing effective, high-quality instructional practices in early childhood programs across their site/district**
- **Audience:**
  - **Site Administrators with ECE programs on their campus**
  - **Administrators that support early childhood programs at the district level**

Usability and Functionality

Usability

Flexibility

- to update as needed

Ability

- to print specific pages as needed

Capability

- to link from or link to

Functionality

Early Childhood Education Best Practices

TEA's vision is to prepare every child in Texas for success in college, career, or the military. This vision is built through a foundation for knowledge and skills in reading, math, and other developmentally appropriate subjects that serve the whole child in early childhood education.

In partnership with families, schools, and communities, the Early Childhood Education Division at TEA provides best practices guidance, resources, and support that are aligned to effective early learning opportunities.

Prekindergarten Best Practices

Kindergarten Best Practices

Administrator Support

Administrator Support

Early Childhood Education Best Practices

Introduction

At TEA, our vision is to prepare every child in Texas for success in college, career, or the military. This vision is set forth by building a foundation for knowledge and skills in reading, math, and other developmentally appropriate subjects that serve the whole child in early childhood education, prekindergarten–grade 2. In partnership with families, schools, and communities, the Early Childhood Education Division at TEA provides support, resources, and guidance that are aligned to effective early learning practices and support the foundational framework for creating a high-quality early childhood education program.

Connections to the PK Guidelines/ Kinder TEKS

Connections to the Prekindergarten Guidelines and TEKS

The Best Practices in ECE: Administrator Guide helps educators align instructional practices with the 2022 Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines/Kindergarten TEKS by:

Building a bridge between the learning environment and the PKG domain skills and outcomes/ TEKS

Creating an environment that supports developmentally appropriate practices

Supporting learning through research-based strategies

Providing support to emergent bilingual and special population children

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Play-Based

- Child-led opportunities and play experiences based on strengths

HQ Curriculum

- Aligned to the Prekindergarten Guidelines

Progress Monitoring

- Formative and summative assessment used to develop learning and drive instruction

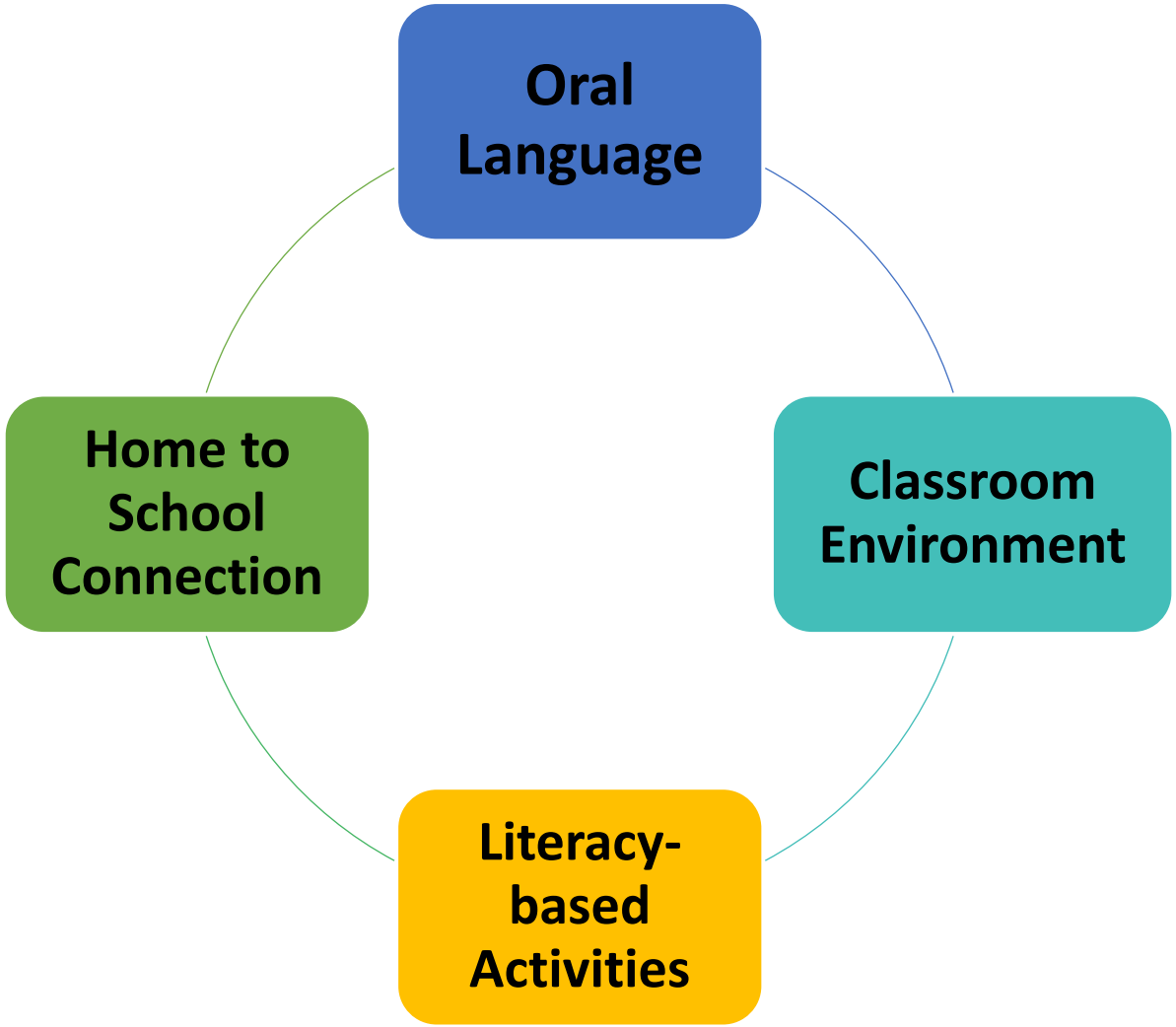
Partnerships

- Staff
- Parents
- Community

Research Based Best Practices in ECE

- Power of Play
- Zone of Proximal Development
- Differentiated Instruction
- Gradual Release

Support for Emergent Bilingual Students in ECE



Support for students in Special Education

Learning Environments

Administrator Guide- Physical Arrangement

Promote Language and Literacy

Materials

Storage

Display

Traffic Patterns

Furniture

Safety

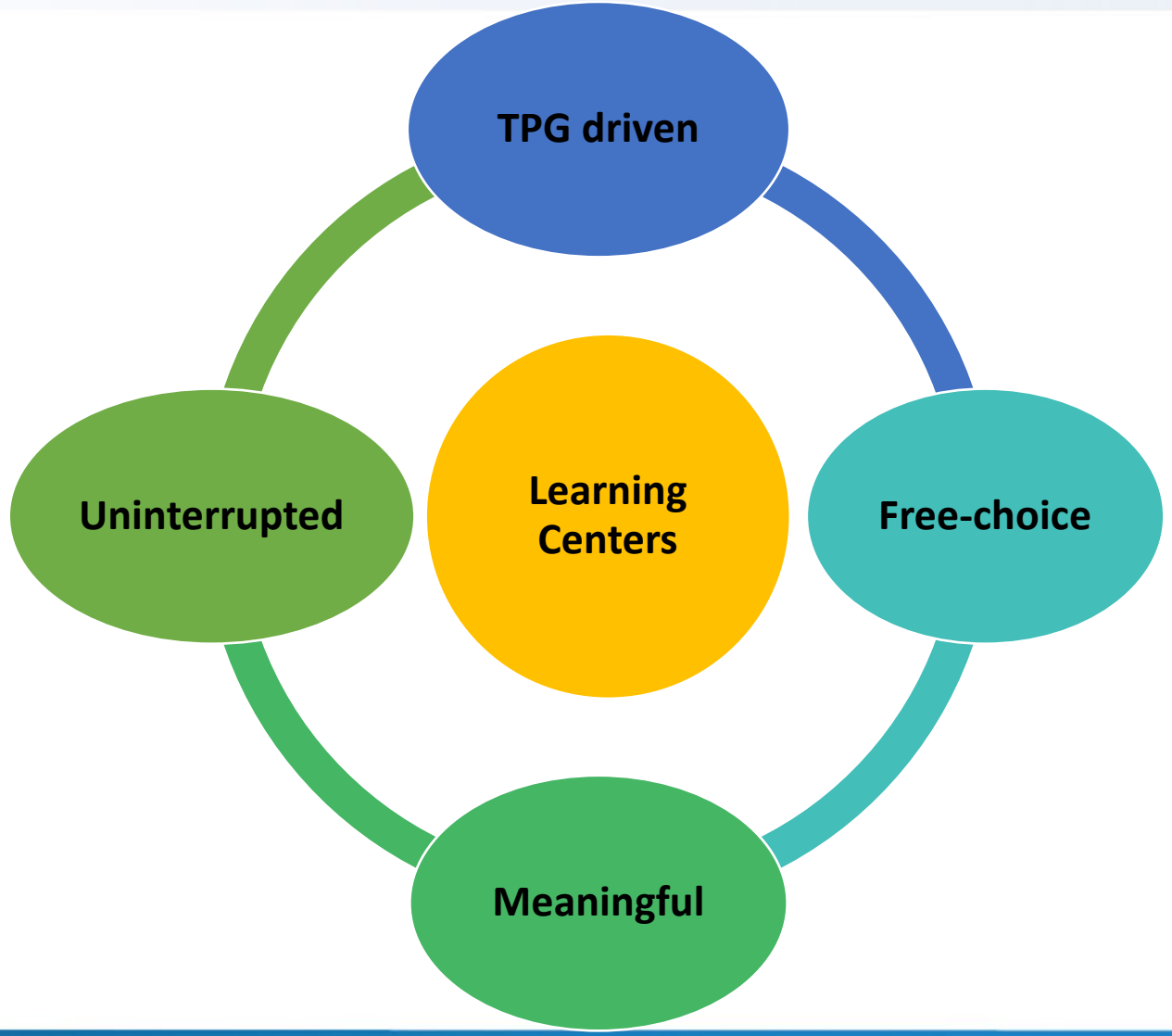
Administrator Guide- Physical Arrangement

Administrator Guide- Classroom Organization

Classroom organization that supports routines

- norms (e.g., looking eyes, listening ears)
- procedures (e.g., fire drill, arrival/dismissal)
- Labeled objects with print/picture for identification (e.g., cubbies, focus wall)
- Charts or Visual scaffolds
  - Visual daily schedule
  - Attendance
  - Helper charts
  - Planning charts (e.g., learning centers)
  - Concept chart (e.g., vocabulary list)
  - Letter/word wall

Administrator Guide- Learning Centers in Prekindergarten



Administrator Guide-Learning Centers in Prekindergarten

- **Dramatic Play/Pretend and Learn**
- **Construction Center**
- **Library/Literacy/ABC Center**
- **Writing Center**
- **Art/Creativity Center**
- **Science/Discovery Center**
- **Math Center**
- **Sensory Center**

Other possible centers/stations in the ECE classroom:

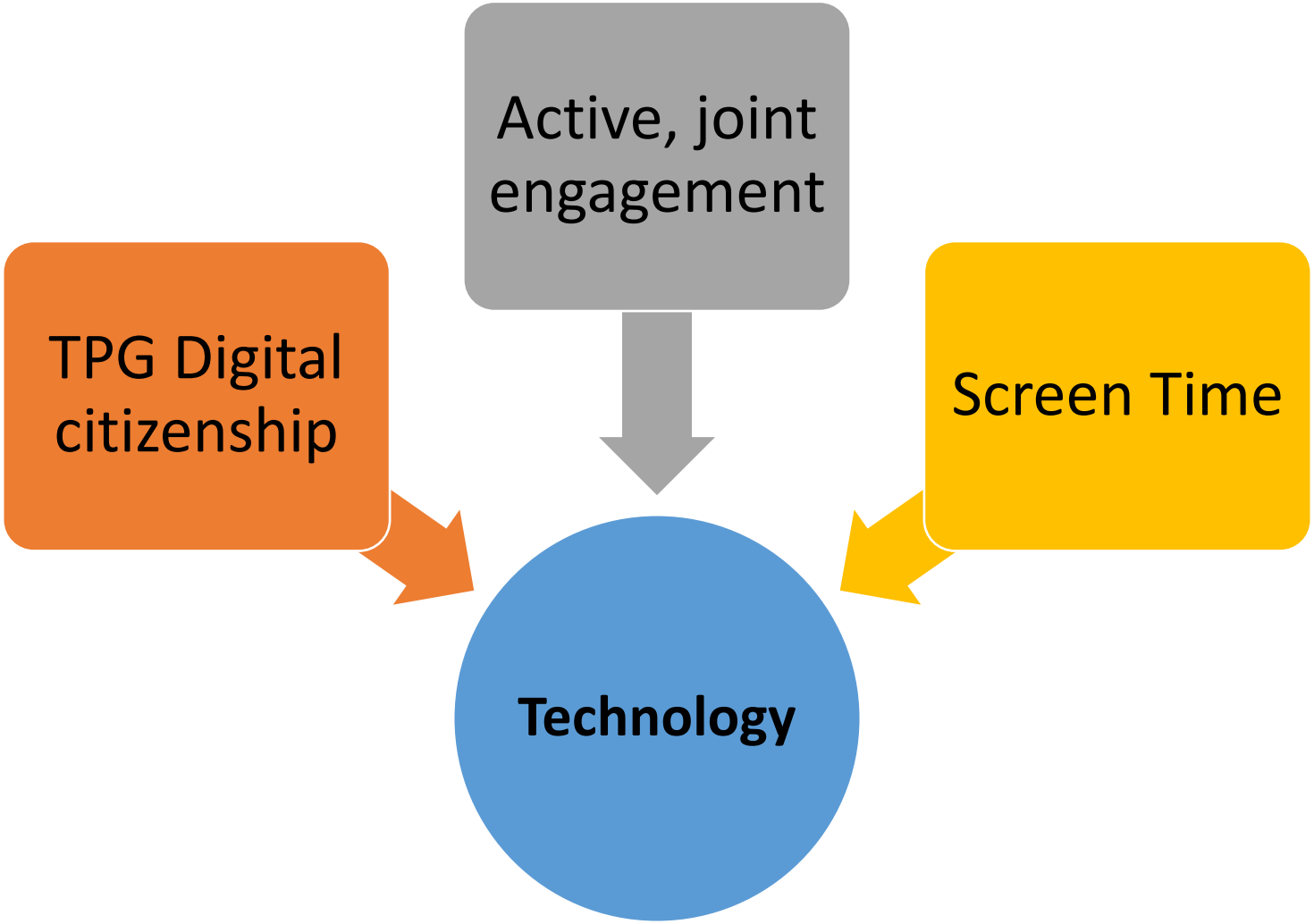
- **STEAM related center**
- **Discovery zone-** organic elements and gardening
- **Coding and robotics**
- **Engineering**-tinker table/ deconstruction area, light and sensory zone, lego wall/table
- **Creative arts** (music, dance, theater)

Administrator Guide- Learning Centers in Prekindergarten

The role of the classroom staff during learning centers:

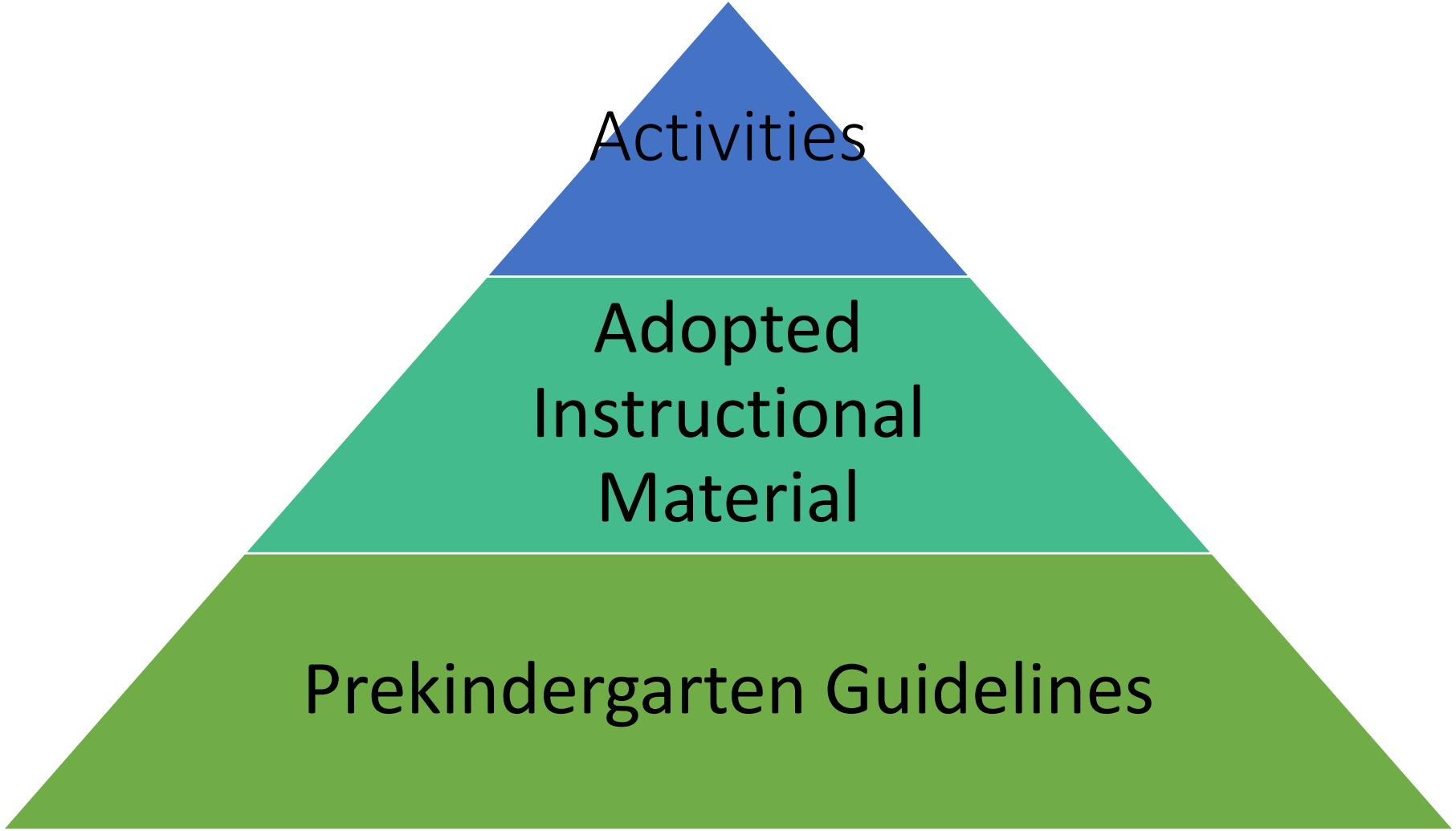
Communication	Safety and Supervision
▪ Actively play and engage with all children in centers/stations ▪ Facilitate social interactions among peers ▪ Comment on child's play schema ▪ Opportunities for formative assessment	▪ be vigilant ▪ anticipate children's behavior ▪ be aware of problem-solving challenges that may occur between peer-to-peer interactions ▪ be actively engaged with children who require additional support

Administrator Guide- Technology



Administrator Guide- Outdoor Learning Environments

Administrator Guide- Activity/Lesson Planning in Prekindergarten



Administrator Guide- Daily Schedules in Prekindergarten

Effective PK3 and PK4 daily classroom schedules should include:

- **Integrated learning**
- A balance between **teacher-directed and child-driven (choice) learning experiences**
- **Developmentally appropriate, hands-on, play-based activities**
- **Intentionally designed** opportunities
- Opportunities for **relationship-building** and **communicative experiences with peers**

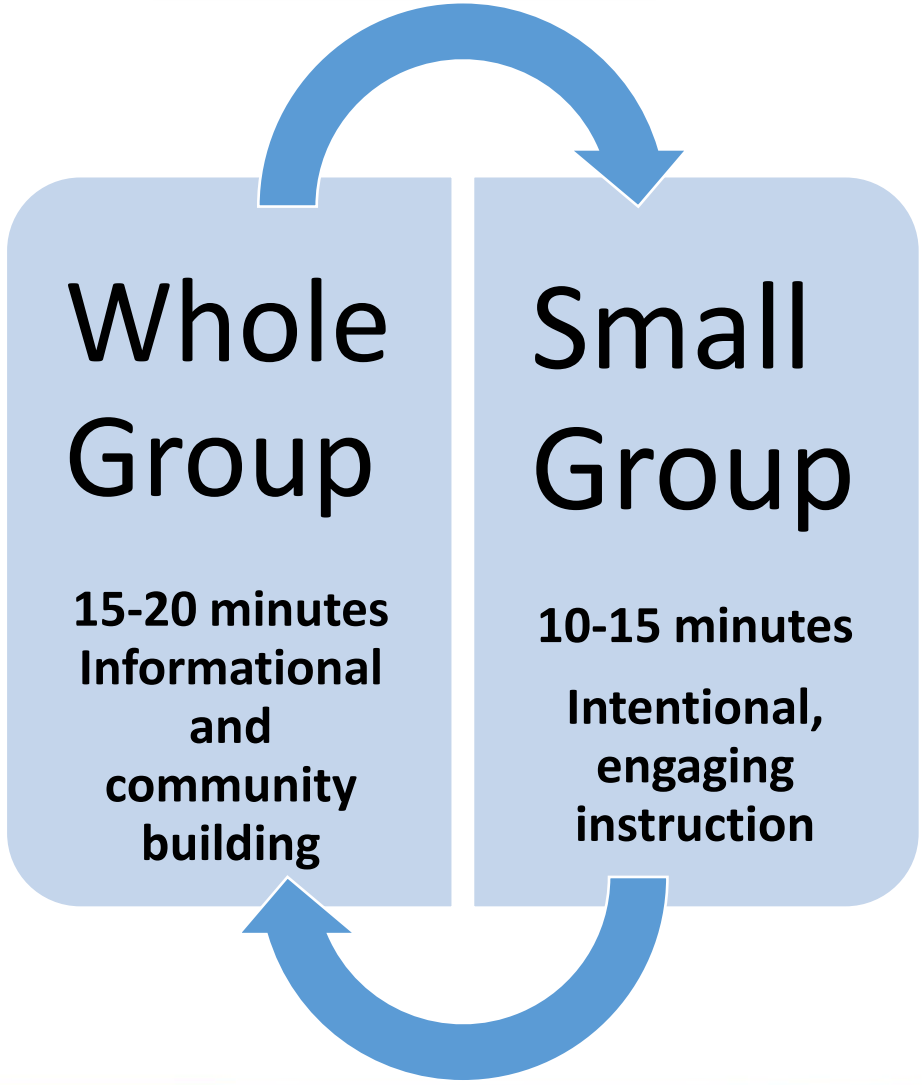
Administrator Guide- Daily Schedules in Prekindergarten

Schedule and Activity Guidance:

- Referenced throughout the school day, and consistently followed
- Time for transitions and self-help procedures
- Daily group activities should include cross-content learning experiences throughout the school day.

Calendar Time:

- Activities that support child development and the concept of time
  - Time within a day (PK3/PK4.V.D.4) vs. length of time across days/weeks/months



Administrator Guide- T-TESS Resources

Next Steps

Upcoming Webinars and Office Hours

OFFICE HOURS

Best Practices/ PKG Support

October 24, 2023 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST

Recordings from previously held *Best Practices in ECE: Guide* webinars are available on the ECE webpage

Questions

Any Questions?

Contact us:

TEA - Early Childhood Education Division

ECE Support Portal