GETTING STARTED









The following pages will introduce you to the Experience Preschool Curriculum system.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

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Your first Experience Preschool box contains different types of bags with materials to help you teach:

Getting Started Kit
Circle Time Bag
Teacher Tool Bag
Lesson Packs and Supply Bags







MAKING FRIENDS

Circle Time Pack

Preschence

CIRCLE

In the Circle Time Bag, you will find manipulatives and other hands-on tools that can be used all month long to explore each thematic study's featured shape, color, numbers and letters.



Teacher Tool Pack

Your monthly reference and lesson planning materials are in the Teacher Tool Bag. Inside the bag, you will find the weekly Teacher Guides, Skills Chart, Theme Web and Gathering List.

Getting Started Kit

Read this Getting Started Guide for a step-by-step guide on how to use the curriculum and set up your learning space.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Getting Started Guide
Developmental Continuum
of Skills Poster
Circle Time Displays & Posters
Weather Station
Title Cards
Monthly Calendar Labels
Feelings Pockets
Alphabet Strip
Loose Letter Parts
Alphabet Cards & Number Cards
Pocket Cube
Songs & Transitions
Daily Routines

Station Signs
Calming Corner Supplies
I'm a Little Helper Resource
Sign Language Poster
World Map Poster

Bee



How do I set up Circle Time and classroom displays?

Set up your Circle Time Display and collect new pieces to add to it each month.



Circle Time Setup

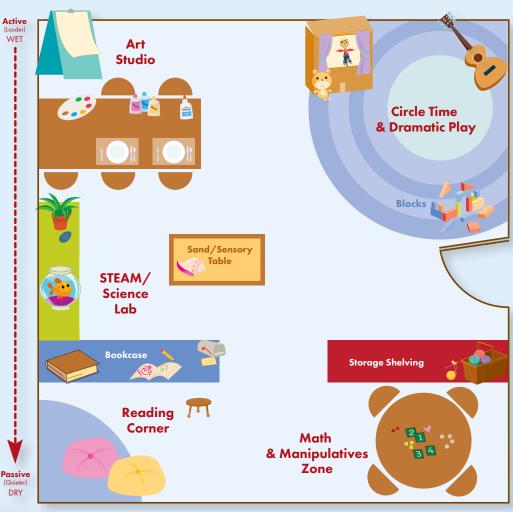
Your Getting Started Kit and Circle Time bags contain everything you need to set up a Circle Time display and update it monthly. Some pieces, such as the Alphabet Strip and Weather Station, will remain for the year, while others, like the Calendar and Theme Posters, will change monthly. Letter Cards and Conversation Posters will be changed throughout the month as the curriculum requires. Please see the example/sample display.

In addition to your display pieces, your Circle Time Bag will contain tools that will be used throughout the month for various activities. You may choose to display some of these pieces when not in use.



Setting Up Your Learning Space

This room layout is only one suggested arrangement. Given your unique space, consider organizing your room layout to best fit the needs and traffic patterns of your children. Place louder, more active learning areas together. On the opposite side of the room, set up the quieter play or reading areas. Large group or circle time space can be an extension of larger activity areas, such as dramatic play or block areas. Remember to decorate walls or hang children's artwork at a child's eye level. By designing spaces for a child's height, interests and activity levels, you communicate to the children that they belong.





To help you designate areas in your learning space for specific purposes, we've provided a variety of Station Signs in your Getting Started Kit. What's in the Teacher Tool Bag?

This bag includes the following items every month:

Teacher Guides
Theme Web
Weekly Activity Skills Charts
Gathering List
Tracks & Lyrics Sheet





The weekly **Teacher Guides** are your day-by-day lesson plan books, featuring over 100 theme-based discussion and activity ideas for each month. You receive one 4-week set in each monthly kit.

Inside the Teacher Guide, there are daily lesson plans featuring Circle Time, Small Group, Table Top, Storytime, Creative Corner, Closing Time and ideas for open-ended STEAM Stations. The consistent layout for every lesson plan will help you quickly find the information you need.

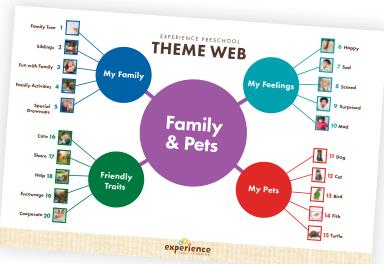




At the front of each Teacher Guide is a **Quick Peek** overview of the upcoming games, materials and activities in math, literacy, music, art and STEAM.

The **Theme Web Poster** helps you, your children and their families see how the month's theme is organized. The monthly theme is in the middle circle. The weekly "big ideas" are in the four surrounding circles. The Daily Discovery topics branch out from the weekly "big idea" circles. If desired, add more investigation topics according to the interests of your children.





The Weekly Activity Skill Charts are printed posters to hang on your wall. These are your one-week lesson plans at a glance. They tell you:

- The type of activity
- The title of the activity
- Learned skills
- Which skills to assess (see \u00c4)



The **Gathering List** is a convenient

list of supplies we recommend you gather for daily activities. Most required supplies are provided in the Lesson Packs and Supply Bags, but a few are not. You'll find those, as well as a recommended list of items we suggest you keep on hand, listed here.



The **Tracks & Lyrics** sheet is a helpful reference when leading activities involving music from the monthly themed album.



What's in the Lesson Packs and Supply Bags?

Explore a digital music library

Each thematic study also includes access to an online music collection in Member Resources and the brightwheel app that helps reinforce concepts and introduces a new music genre with unique rhythm patterns and instruments.



Language & Literacy foundational skills

Phonological awareness, phonics and language comprehension activities and games that engage children in play-based exploration paired with explicit instruction.



Daily Conversation Posters

Hang daily posters where children and families can see the topic of the day.



Math manipulatives

Count, sort and problem-solve with included Counting Cards and Math Story Cards.

Make patterns, designs and shapes with monthly manipulatives.



Logic games

Games, puzzles and manipulatives are included monthly to encourage problem-solving, cooperation and spatial awareness.



Lesson Packs and Supply Bags include a diverse set of teaching materials that invite children to play, sing, dance, create and share.

We have packaged the materials by our recommended order of introduction. Therefore, all you need to do each morning is grab a Lesson Pack and Supply Bag, open your Teacher Guide and be ready to explore learning with your children.

We have designed the Core Tools to be used in many different ways to support sensory experiences that build language, math, science, art, physical and social-emotional skills. Each month, you will receive the following theme-connected sets of tools:

Write, cut and color

Scribbling, drawing and making continuous marks are the early stages of writing.
Children have many opportunities to build emergent writing skills with the My Little Journal,
Postcard and monthly games.



Friendship builders

Children learn to take turns, help out and share while participating in friendship games.

A Forest Friend book and materials are provided each month to support social-emotional development by exploring character traits, building relationships and practicing guided problem-solving through storytelling and play.



Build a book library

the Beet

Hables

Up In Space

Each thematic study features an exclusive storybook to help educators build a high-quality library. Books include a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that offer relatable themes, rich and varied vocabulary, engaging storytelling and interesting facts for young listeners.

Storytelling and books

The book of the month comes with a Storytelling Scene and Pieces.



STEAM projects and ideas

Children participate in weekly science, technology, engineering, art and math projects.



1,2,3,Teach!

Now that you understand what is in your box and how the materials are packaged and labeled, you're ready to put it all together. It's time to Experience Preschool!



LESSON 9 Surprised

Surprise Party

Do Together

- Esplan what is means to feel surprised. Use the face and body to
- demonstrate. Ask, "Would you want a surprise perty? Why or why ne
- Howe the children shad in a crick. Select a child to send in its mid- lines the children in the cricle to call or "surprise". Encourage the of
- in the middle to show their surprised face. Repear.

This activity builds self-awareness by supplementation and group participation

CREATIVE CORNER Party Crown

YOUR SUPPLIES

Discuss

• What are some ways your family celebrates?

What would you wear to a party?

Wita wears you wear to a party.

Moke

Give each child a plate. Encourage the children to dip a finger in paint and decorate the plate with fingerprints.

Once dry, help the children fold the plate in half and cut four equal slits in the center to make triangles.

Open the plate to fold up the eight triangles to create a crown. Decorate with

triangles to create a crown. Decorate with stickers as desired.

Invite the children to wear their cro Invite the children to wear their crowns
and pretend they are at a party. Ask
questions about the type of party, who
will be there and what will happen.

osserve: Does the child wear the crown and pretend to be at a party?

Do they create a scene and role-play?

It's easy!

Open your Teacher Guide to the lesson. Match the lesson number to the Lesson Pack and Supply Bag numbers. Gather any extra supplies, and you're ready to teach.



Five-Eyed Monster

SUPPLIES

Wiggle Eyes

Number Cards:
1.6*

YOUR SUPPLIES



Discuss and Explore

How many eyes do you have? Help the children count one number to one eye. What if you saw a monster with five eye? How would you feel the children will play a number game to add eyes to their monsters.

- their monsters.

 Play Together

 Place the cards in the cube. Invite
 a child to roll the cube and identify
 the number. If needed, identify the
 number for them.

 Invite the children to put that many
 wiggle eyes on their playdough
 monster. Repeat.

 Simplify: Lay out five wiggle eyes.
 Invite the children to match their
 wiggle eyes one-to-one.

- wiggle eyes one-to-one.

 Challenge: Invite the children to count wiggle eyes using higher number cards.

BSERVE: Does the child count up to five wiggle eyes?

I Spy Letter Aa and Pp

SUPPLIES
FOR EACH CHILD
I Spy Coloring:
Aa, Pp
I Spy Glasses:
Aa, Pp YOUR SUPPLIES

Crayons

• Set out the I Spy Coloring sheets, the I Spy Glasses and crayons.

the I Spy Glasses and crayons.

Independent Play

Show the children the I Spy
Coloring: As side. Say the letter
A and the As soound Provide an
example of a word that begins with
the letter Aa.

Encourage the children to find and
color pictures that begin with the
As wond. Invite them to find the
upper- and lowersase letter As.

Repeat for the letter Pp.

OBSERVE: Does the child identify the upper- and lowercase Aa and Pp and say the sound? Do they say or find words that start with /a/

Closing Time

REFLECTION

LLD 2e Communication SED 1d Set Automores.

Who would you want to surprise? How would you do it?

LTD 60 % LT 46P

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT Surprise Dance

- On the second of the second of

"I love how everything is compiled together for me for the entire month. I can spend more time doing the other things in life that need my attention as well!"

BECKY SMITH, MI



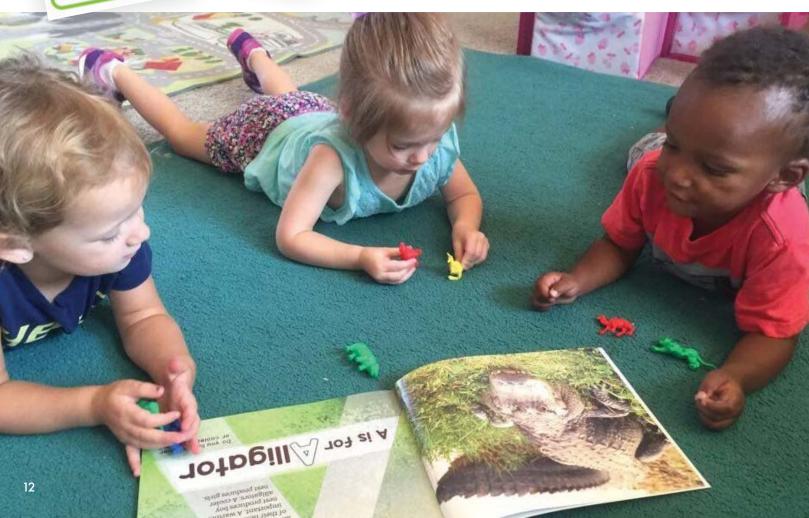
What's an example routine for the day?

Experience Preschool is flexible to meet the needs of your program. Create a schedule that works for you.



A Word About Daily Routines: A daily routine will create an environment in which children can experience a variety of planned and unplanned (yet intentional) activities. Children thrive under a balance of active and quiet times. Offer children a variety of learning experiences that include individual, small and large group settings. Within each of these settings, invite children to determine how long you explore each activity and in what ways the activity evolves.

Our recommended schedule is for a full day, but please adapt as necessary to fit your time and children.



FULL-DAY SCHEDULE

The state of the s		
Arrival - 8:30 am	Meet and greet Welcome each child. Encourage free exploration of activity areas.	
8:30 - 9 am	Circle Time Children sit in a large group and discuss the questions of the day. Children participate in Alphabet Adventure to learn letter names and sounds through daily chants, poems or activities, then participate in a Community Challenge.	
9 - 10 am	Free play and centers Children explore the activity areas and build with blocks, make art, play dress-up or choose books to explore.	
10 - 10:15 am	Snack Children participate in snack prep, handwashing, serving and clean-up.	
10:15 - 11:30 am	Small group and centers While a few children participate in the activities from the Teacher Guide with you, others play freely in the activity areas while waiting for their turn.	
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Outside play Children participate in active play outdoors.	
12:30 - 1 pm	Lunch Children participate in food preparation, handwashing, serving and clean-up. Family style meals are a great way to expose children to social, mathematic and language skills.	
1 - 3 pm	Rest time Provide quiet activities, such as soothing music, low lights, books or individual toys, that create a restful ambiance.	
3 - 3:15 pm	Snack Children participate in snack prep, handwashing, serving and clean-up.	
3:15 - 3:45 pm	Storytime Explore books, letters, rhymes and storytelling. Use your own books or the included books in your Experience Preschool Curriculum. Storybook Connections engage children with a themed book across multiple reads to build vocabulary, reinforce print concepts, strengthen comprehension and encourage movement and story retelling.	
3:45 - 4:30 pm	Outside play Children participate in outdoor activities and experience nature in play. Bring "indoor" materials outside to blend the indoor/outdoor experience.	
4:30 - 5 pm	Music closing time Children participate in the closing song and reflect on the day's activities.	
Centers		



brightwheel

With Experience Preschool in brightwheel, you can easily design your day to fit your needs. Each activity will be available to drag and drop to the day or time you'd like to complete it. Then easily share the day's plan with families to increase engagement.



HALF-DAY SCHEDULE

Meet and greet
Circle Time
Free play + STEAM Stations
Snack
Small group + table top + choice time
Outside play
Music closing time



What do children learn?

Experience Preschool nurtures each child's development based on up-to-date research. The child naturally learns 36 foundational skills as they play, sing, create and share.



Assess this skill



□Glue

□ Paint

□ Scissors (child-safe) What are some ways your family celebrates?
 What would you wear to a party?

- Give each child a plate. Encourage the children to dip a finger in paint and decorate the plate with fingerprints.
- Once dry, help the children fold the plate in half and cut four equal slits in the center to make triangles.
- Open the plate, then fold up the eight triangles to create a crown. Decorate with stickers as desired.

Play

 Invite the children to wear their crowns and pretend they are at a party. Ask questions about the type of party, who will be there and what will happen.

OBSERVE: Does the child wear the crown and pretend to be at a party? Do they create a scene and role-play?

Use this observation prompt to observe the child, then analyze your observations.

Experience Assessment Guidance

Experience Preschool uses a skill-based assessment system, the Star System, to identify learning goals and objectives. All activities within our curriculum focus on specific skills that children are developing during early childhood. To support observing and documenting these skills, each activity lists the corresponding sub-skills. You'll notice that some activities have a star next to them, indicating that the activity will be assessed.

Experience Assessment uses a star system to highlight specific activities throughout the month. These starred activities ensure that across a three-month period children are being assessed for each of the 73 sub-skills across 36 skills. Every daily lesson plan features one starred activity. Additionally, there will be a monthly starred STEAM activity and Storytime Connection, as well as one or two general skills to observe throughout each week. Look for the stars in your Teacher Guides. Use the Weekly Assessment Plans in the back of the teacher guide to plan your observations.

How do I assess learning?

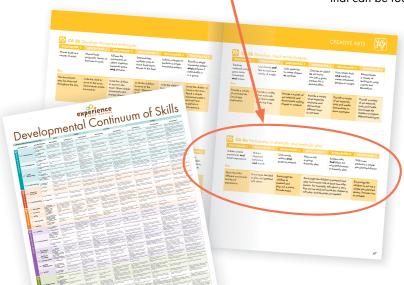
Look at each activity's sub-skills. Observe the child's use of the sub-skills as they naturally participate in the activity. Refer to the Developmental Continuum of Skills and observation guidance pages in the Experience Assessment User Guide to determine how much a child has progressed on the target sub-skills.

How do I know if the child is demonstrating the skill?

Our Experience Assessment User Guide provides support with observing every level of each sub-skill. Additionally, most daily activities include observation prompts that correspond to the activity's highlighted sub-skills. To assign a benchmark, all pieces of the benchmark must be observed.

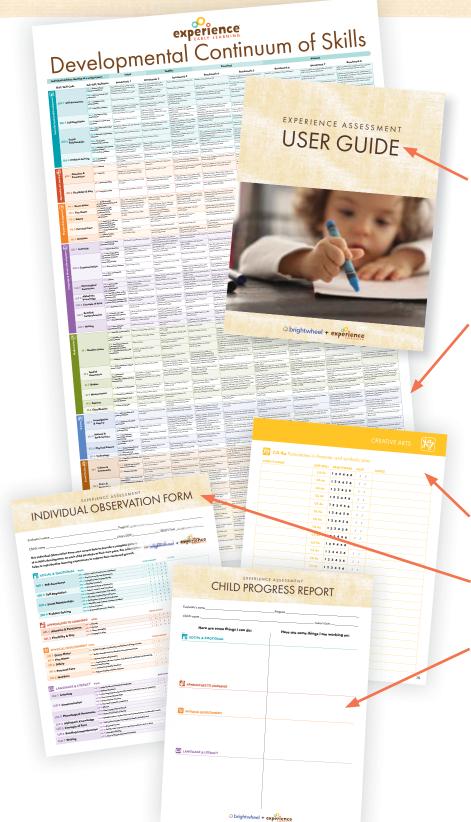
I've observed. Now what?

Record your findings from the observations. There is space for recording observations on the Individual Observation Form and Group Observation Form that can be found in member resources.





Experience Assessment Materials



Experience Assessment focuses on specific activities to ensure that every three months, children are being assessed for each skill in our

children are being assessed for each skill in our system. We provide these tools to support assessment.

Experience Assessment User Guide

This guide includes instructions on how to assign benchmarks and guidance for observing each sub-skill. The observation guidance pages are used for support in collecting assessment data during observations. Each page provides the benchmarks for a given sub-skill as well as guidance on how to observe for each benchmark.

The Experience Developmental Continuum of Skills

This continuum is based on research and outlines the progression of developmental milestones and skills that children typically achieve from birth through early primary grades. The Developmental Continuum of skills is broken down into eight domains, which contain 36 skills further divided into 73 sub-skills. When observing, find the sub-skill you're examining and relate your observations to a benchmark description in the chart.

Group Observation Form

Supports recording observations by sub-skill. May be used in a group setting.

Individual Observation Form

Supports recording observations for each child individually. All domains and sub-skills are represented.

Child Progress Report

Supports sharing observations with families for each domain of learning.



Membership comes with Perks!

With your purchase of any Experience Preschool curriculum theme, you also receive exclusive member access to many online resources that extend your thematic study and new tools that will help you market, manage and grow your childcare business. You can also find printable versions of many materials provided, in case you need more! Visit us online for additional materials through **Member Resources**.





Inside each Teacher Guide are five suggested STEAM Stations (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). Explore these with your children using materials around your learning space. Gather the supplies listed in the overview booklet, then hang a "Big Question" discussion prompt and Inspiration Photos related to the activity. High-quality, pre-printed STEAM materials are also available for purchase.



Bonus **Coloring Sheets** are provided for each themed day. Use them in your learning space or send them home to extend the fun!



Recommended Book Lists are a comprehensive list of each day's recommended book.



Spanish Teacher Guides to support bilingual instruction.

Use our **Master Label Set** to label items around your learning space that get regular use. If you don't see what you need in the provided list, we've included a page of blanks for you to use at your discretion.



Make the most of your curriculum!

We offer a range of training and professional development opportunities, giving you the tools to learn, do and share.



Connect with fellow educators!

As a member of the Experience Early Learning community, you have exclusive access to our professional learning circles. Join a small group of your peers on Facebook. These small groups are made up of educators just like you sharing ideas and creative solutions. Stay connected all year and build a stronger community of support around early childhood education.

To get started, search Experience Curriculum on Facebook.



Training & Professional Development

Blog

Inspired Learning Blog supports educators with tangible resources, classroom support and educational articles on research-based best practices. Find the Inspired Learning Blog at blog.experienceearlylearning.com

Getting Started Webinar

A 30-minute webinar session to help you start with Experience Preschool curriculum. We'll provide the support you need to effectively use the curriculum from day one.

On-demand trainings

Our training platform offers free foundation courses for Experience Preschool, Toddler, and Baby curricula; as well as many courses on teaching strategies, parent communication, safety routines and other topics. Some courses are available in Spanish.

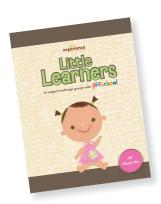
Professional development

We also offer live, custom-tailored onsite or virtual workshops and technical assistance at your chosen location. We work with you to determine the session or sessions that best support your program goals. A variety of workshop options can be personalized to your needs.

To learn more about training options, please contact our Support Team via email or live chat on our website!

Make Experience Preschool uniquely yours

Enhance your monthly Preschool
Curriculum with theme-connected,
supplemental resources that match
your program goals and the
developmental needs of your children.



18 MONTHS - 2½ YEARS **LITTLE LEARNERS**

Little Learners is a toddler supplement to the Preschool curriculum and includes Tray Play ideas and activity adaptations for younger learners in multi-age group settings.



MORE MATH

Challenge your advanced, older learners with daily activities that reinforce kindergarten-ready math and literacy skills.

AND MORE LITERACY



SPANISH LITERACY KIT

A bilingual supplement to support literacy instruction in Spanish. Includes a guide, Spanish books and instructional materials aligned to the Science of Reading.



DANCE 'N BEATS

The dance DVD and activity book connect with the Experience Preschool thematic album.



EXPERIENCE GOD

Daily Christian devotional with weekly crafts.



Themed toy collections connect play and learning.



Have questions? Get in touch with us! **ExperienceCurriculum.com**

Quick checklists

Planning and preparing for the year, month, week, day and every activity.

Keep on hand:

☐ Colored and

☐ Construction

(multi-color)

paper

regular pencils

- ☐ Containers ☐ Playdough ☐ Balls ☐ Crayons ☐ Sand Beanbaas ☐ Cups ☐ Scissors ☐ Bins/buckets ☐ Glue (white glue (child-safe ☐ Blanket/sheet/ and glue sticks) and teacher) towel ☐ Hole punch ☐ Spoons ☐ Blocks ☐ Magazines and ☐ Spray bottles ☐ Books newspapers ☐ Stapler ☐ Bowls ☐ Markers ☐ Boxes/baskets Mirrors □ Chalk
 - □ Markers
 □ Sticky notes

 □ Mirrors
 □ Stuffed animals

 □ Nature items
 □ Tape (clear and masking)

 □ Paint (tempura and watercolor)
 □ Tote bag

 □ Paintbrushes
 □ Trays

 □ Paper
 □ Yarn/string/

ribbon

(including scrap)

YEAR

- □ Set up the Circle Time display.
- □ Distribute the **Family Fliers** (in Member Resources).
- □ Join our **private Facebook group**.
- ☐ Gather on-hand supplies.



MONTH

- □ Read and display the Theme Web and Weekly Activity Skill Charts.
- ☐ Gather storytime books from your local library

 (consult the Quick Peek section of your Teacher Guide or the Recommended Book List in Member Resources).
- □ Distribute the **Family Newsletter** (in Lesson 1 Pack or in Member Resources).
- ☐ Participate in Curriculum implementation/foundations training.



WEEK

- □ Read about the week's **Theme** and learn background information to share with children.
- □ Make notes for any extra activities or outings you may want to do.

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DAY

- □ Read the daily Lesson Plan (in the Teacher Guide).
- □ Collect supplies from the Gathering List (and provided supplies in the Lesson Pack and Supply Bags).
- □ Display the **Conversation Poster** (from Lesson Pack) for families and children to see when they arrive.



ACTIVITY

- Discuss: Make notes of child quotes.
- □ Explore: Observe and write anecdotes.
- □ **Play:** Follow the child's lead and adapt or extend the experience.
- □ Assess: Record the child's skill level and save work to be used for future goals and family communication.



Celebrate!

You nurtured a child's heart & mind and set them up for life-long learning.



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