

Pre-K for All 2016-17 Instructional Tracks

Continuing in the 2016-17 school year, every Pre-K for All site will participate in an Instructional Track for professional learning.

During the 2016-17 school year, Pre-K professional learning will...

- Continue to support sites in meeting the Pre-K for All Program Quality Standards ([POS](#))
- Advance student learning based on the Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core ([PKFCC](#))
- Build on the successes of professional learning in 2015-16 while incorporating teacher and leader feedback
- Deepen capacity building at the classroom and program level by continuing to include leaders and teachers
- Do more to meet the needs of a diverse workforce and families and children from all backgrounds
- Offer more locations across the five boroughs of New York City

NYC Pre-K Inspire

Pre-K sites participating in Inspire will receive professional learning tailored to the needs of their pre-K leaders and teachers. The professional learning sessions will include a variety of topics that address key early childhood instructional and family engagement practices aligned to the Program Quality Standards ([POS](#)).

Throughout the year, leaders and teachers will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of multiple content areas, such as assessment, classroom management, critical thinking and language development. Each session will include practical strategies that leaders and teachers can implement to continually improve their practice. There will also be opportunities for new pre-K leaders and teachers to receive targeted professional learning that will support them in providing high-quality pre-K to their children. Sessions will be offered in every borough across NYC.

NYC Pre-K Thrive

NYC Pre-K Thrive is part of ThriveNYC, a citywide, mayoral initiative to support the mental health of all New Yorkers, including pre-K children. The Thrive pre-K professional learning track will increase opportunities for pre-K children to realize their potential by building a foundation of social-emotional skills during a critical stage of development. Sites will receive targeted support in implementing the DOE's [Positive Behavior Guidance](#) by capacity building of leadership, program staff, and families.

Pre-K sites that participate in the Thrive track will receive instructional and family level tools with evidence-based strategies for supporting children's social emotional development, behavioral regulation skills, and family engagement, as well as support from a DECE Social Worker in implementing these practices. Pre-K programs participating in Thrive may be asked to implement workshops for families during non-school hours.

NYC Pre-K Create

Pre-K sites that participate in the NYC Pre-K Create track will learn to incorporate the visual arts, dance, theater, and music into their ongoing instruction to promote student learning in multiple PKFCC domains. Teachers will learn new ways to design classroom learning centers such as Blocks Construction, Science Discovery, Art, and Dramatic Play so that art activities are integrated throughout the day to provide opportunities for children to explore new concepts, express themselves, and make connections.

Sessions will include the delivery of content from experts in the field and practical, experiential application of content, opportunities for peer exchange, and time to consider how to bring the content back to their programs. All participants will be provided with a toolkit of resources that will also be used in the actual workshop training. Age appropriate and PKFCC-aligned picture books, pedagogical resources, and art-specific resources (musical instruments, visual arts supplies, simple costume pieces, and CDs for movement activities) are included.

NYC Pre-K Explore

In 2015-2016, an initial cohort participated in NYC Pre-K Explore. We are currently determining if a second cohort will participate in NYC Pre-K Explore in 2016-17.

Pre-K sites that participate in the Explore track will use the evidence-based Building Blocks math curriculum together with the Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study. The research-based Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study have been designed to work in conjunction with the Building Blocks curriculum. Both are also aligned to both the PKFCC and the three DOE-approved Authentic Assessment Systems. Partnered together, these materials provide a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate approach to learning in pre-K. Sites that participate in the Explore track must use only the Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study and Building Blocks for their pre-K curricula.

Sites in this track will be provided with materials needed to implement Building Blocks in their classrooms, as well as professional learning sessions and onsite coaching to support the integration and implementation of Building Blocks and the Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study. The first professional learning session for NYC Pre-K Explore will take place during the summer.

Building Blocks is an evidence-based math curriculum that focuses on teaching concept development and problem solving through developmentally appropriate practices and scaffolded learning. The Pre-K for All research-



based Interdisciplinary Units of Study support student learning in all domains using developmentally appropriate practice.

The Units of Study assist teaching teams in developing inquiry, language and problem solving skills through their organization of the classroom environment, interactions with students, use of books and other texts, incorporation of new vocabulary, use of purposeful play, and family engagement practices.

What's Next?

Through a survey shared on March 10th, sites will be able to express initial preference in NYC Pre-K Explore, NYC Pre-K Thrive, and NYC Pre-K Create. Each of these tracks have limited capacity, and sites that participate in these tracks will receive additional resources.

Sites selected to participate in NYC Pre-K Explore, Pre-K Thrive, and Create will be notified in late spring. If we are not able to accommodate your site's preference for one of these three tracks, or if you have not expressed interest in one of these three tracks, you will have the opportunity to express additional learning preferences within the Inspire track at that time.

Please email prekinstruction@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.