

Additional Implementation Guidance for Pre-Kindergarten for the 2012-13 Citywide Instructional Expectations

What does it look like to implement Common Core-aligned units in pre-k?

In pre-k, it is a good practice to plan and implement interdisciplinary units. These units are typically based in science or social studies content (e.g. plants, families) and integrate all other domains of development, including literacy and mathematics. They should provide ample opportunities for students to engage in active, hands on exploration, discovery, and problem solving through a mix of purposeful play in learning centers (e.g. blocks, dramatic play) and teacher initiated experiences (e.g. read alouds, small groups). Planning and implementing units in this way supports the interrelated nature of young children's development and encourages them to make connections between learning experiences.

Pre-k teachers should plan and implement at least two Common Core-aligned interdisciplinary units this school year. One of the units should integrate the DOE's selected standards in literacy (including reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language) and mathematics. The other unit may center on the same standards or other key concepts aligned to the major work of the grade. Both of the units should be grounded in science and social studies content, incorporate the DOE's selected Common Core instructional shifts, and support children's social-emotional and physical development and approaches to learning.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Early Childhood Education at earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-0151.