

Dear ELLC Colleagues:

Every year thousands of children transition from preschool to kindergarten. Best practice indicates that administrators, teachers, and families develop processes and experiences to assist children with this important step into the next phase of their education.

To support and define the transitional processes and experiences, national entities and organizations provide research and guidance relative to efforts of preschools and school districts in developing a smooth transition for children and families. For example, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (<u>www.NAEYC.org</u>); the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start; and the Education Commission of the States (<u>www.ecs.org</u>) offer guidance papers for schools and families. Many states across the country have developed plans for kindergarten transition. You may want to investigate transition plans for your state. At the federal level, many states have been awarded Preschool Development Grants that require kindergarten transition strategies.

To respond to this need, ELLC authors revised a thematic unit developed during an Early Reading First grant (2006-2009), RURAL Excellence, USDOE Grant #S359B060013 in which the ELLC was the curriculum. Unit 23, Kindergarten, is in addition to the 22 units published in the second edition (2017) of the curriculum. The unit should be used at the end of the preschool year prior to entry into kindergarten. Teachers trained in ELLC Institutes will follow implementation guidelines as presented in training.

Access to the Kindergarten Unit is free of charge and available on:

- University of Missouri, Center for Family Policy and Research website <u>https://hdfs.missouri.edu/cfpr/centers_CFPR.html</u>
- Dynamic Resources, LLC website <u>https://dynamic-resources.org/</u>.

See page 2 for content of the Unit

Here is what you will find when you access ELLC Unit 23, Kindergarten:

- Unit 23, with the key concept of Kindergarten
- Formatting for the unit is the same as all units in ELLC Book B. (key concept, unit books, language targets, 4 days of PA, 10 ELLC Circle Times, 11 Learning Centers, optional activities, and learning outcomes chart).
- Family Bulletin in English and Spanish
- An example of a brochure developed to assist preschools, Local Education Agencies and families to prepare for K. (The brochure was developed during an Early Reading First grant, RURAL Excellence, USDOE Grant #S359B060013.)