

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PREKINDERGARTEN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (PreK ESE)

## Gateway to Learning – Closing the Gap

### Qualified Instruction

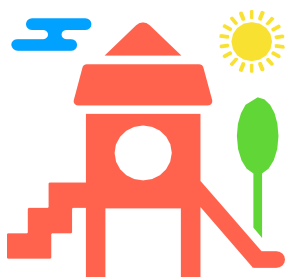
Instructors and Therapists must follow State guidelines and meet criteria for professional certification as listed in the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) course code directory for PreK ESE. These instructors have knowledge of how to provide accommodations for unique learning needs for children who function developmentally birth to 5 years.

### Individualized Intervention

Each child has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) developed by his/her team of professionals and the family, and based on the child's unique skills/needs as determined by an evaluation, classroom assessments, and progress monitoring.

### Continuum of Services

Children are educated in their least restrictive environment as determined by the IEP team. Services are provided through consultation, support facilitation or separate class depending on the unique needs of the child as referenced in the IEP.



Each of the areas listed provides the scaffold to assist in closing the delay gap between developmental age and readiness for kindergarten.

### Developmentally Appropriate

Classrooms, curricula and interventions are developed in alignment with Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS). Instruction and accommodation are provided in a developmentally appropriate, play-based environment.

### Foundational Skills

Long-term studies indicate that a focus on social skills and emotional competencies, communication, sensory, self-help, motor and problem-solving skills has the greatest impact on later success.

PreK ESE focuses on the skills and needs of the child and provides developmentally appropriate, specially designed instruction through play-based learning.

Areas of focus include: self-regulation, self-help, communication, gross motor, fine motor and social interaction.



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