Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.

GOT GOLD?

A Letter from Teaching Strategies

To Our Valued ELC of Palm Beach Partners,

Please know that we recognize that the transition to the upgraded user interface has been challenging for many of you, and we hope that the updates that we have made, and will continue to make, will provide you with some assurance of our commitment to your ability to use *GOLD*® successfully. Our goal at Teaching Strategies has always been, and continues to be, to provide you with tools and resources that support the important work that you do.

We recognize that some performance-related issues, and the Spanish language hurdles that we've had this fall have added to the frustration of working with a new user interface. We are committed to continuing to improve overall system performance, particularly during midday when many of you have the time to be online using the system.

Over the last several weeks, we have dedicated all possible resources to resolving this issue. Specifically, here's what we have been doing:

Adding capacity to our system with more servers and increasing the resources on our current systems.

Optimizing application logic to more efficiently obtain and process the information needed when navigating to different areas of the system.

Continually enhancing the backend of the system to reduce the overall load on the database.

We have been and will continue to implement changes to the system to reduce the amount of data loaded during checkpoints when progressions are rendered. You should notice that the progressions will load faster and the overall speed of the system will improve.
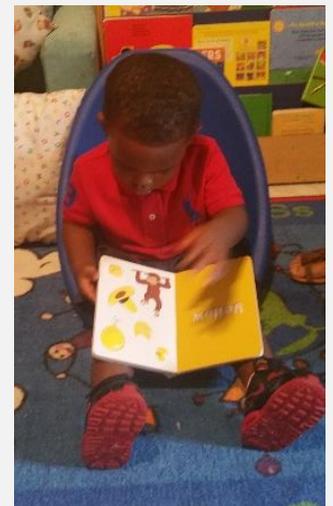
Since mid-October, I hope you have seen improved responsiveness in the platform. We still experience the occasional response time increase and we continue to address them as they appear, but overall system performance has improved, and we expect it to continue to improve.

We thank you for your patience and appreciate your ongoing partnership.

With sincere gratitude for all that you do,
Your Team at Teaching Strategies

Contents

How the "Objectives for Development and Learning" have changed.

Teaching Strategies has updated the progressions to reflect the latest and most current research, there have been some minor changes to certain objectives. In some cases, certain indicators have been adjusted; some items have been split into multiple dimensions; and some color bands have been adjusted slightly.

The additional objectives can be found in the Literacy and Math Areas. These additional objectives are mainly used for K-3rd Grade children. Children that are exceeding the widely-held expectations in preschool may reach a low level in these additional objectives.

Teaching Strategies has updated the progressions to reflect the latest and most current research


Best Practice for Adding Children and Users into MyTeachingStrategies.

- Avoid duplicating children
  - Contact The GOLD Team to transfer children from one school to another
  - If a child is duplicated and there has not been any documentation entered, you may delete the duplicate
  - If a child is duplicated and documentation has been entered, contact The GOLD Team for assistance.
  - When a child leaves your program ARCHIVE child, DO NOT DELETE.
- Avoid duplicating Users
  - If an account already exists when entering a new user contact The GOLD Team to have the user transferred to your site.
  - When a user leaves your site, disable them to keep your roster up to date.

What are Intentional Teaching Experiences?

Each Intentional Teaching experience includes step-by-step "What You Do" instructions and an embedded, color-coded teaching sequence that offers guidance on how to adapt the experience for each individual child.

Children's names appear within the teaching sequence based on the most recent preliminary ratings or checkpoint ratings that you have entered. The guidance that appears alongside children's names can be used to promote each child's development and learning for the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the experiences primary objective/dimension.
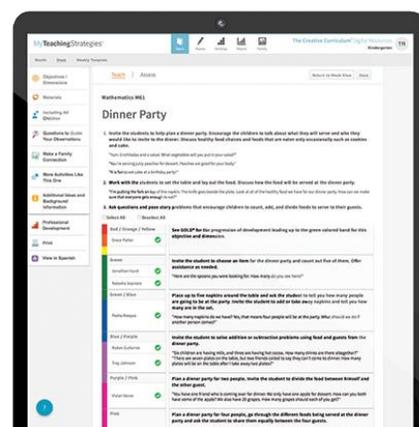
A Spotlight on Parent Involvement

What is the most underused resource in education today? PARENTS!

-Lauren Tripp Barlis, Relationships that make a difference.

Here are 5 important facts about parent involvement:

1. Parent Involvement is a better predictor of academic success than standardized tests.
2. Parent Involvement boosts student achievement
3. Parent Involvement is defined as "any variety of activities that allow parents to participate in the educational process at home or in the school."
4. Parent Involvement declines as students age.
5. Teachers and Schools can overcome barriers to parent involvement by reaching out and building trusting relationships.

Keeping these 5 things in mind, can help get parents involved in your students' lives? One way is to use MyTeachingStrategies.

MyTeachingStrategies has updated Family Section. It has 400 activities that you can print and send home with parents to get them involved in the development of their children. These activities can also be shared through an app that can be downloaded to a smartphone. The family app can also be used to share documentation as children master new skills.

Another way MyTeachingStrategies can help with Family Engagement is by creating a Family Conference Form. This is a customized form that can be created and shared with the family to help them understand when and how children meet developmental milestones.

The information within this issue will help maintain the system and give more understanding of everyday use. This will in turn provide accurate information for you to share with families.

Best Practice for using MyTeachingStrategies

- Keep class lists & staff rosters up to date

- Access MTS daily

- Keep your anecdotal notes objective and child-centered.

- Video documentation can be connected and leveled without any additional notes.

- Add, connect & level every piece of documentation entered

- Run & review Documentation Status report weekly

- Avoid leveling at checkpoint when there is no evidence (documentation)

- Use the Child Profile Report to drive your lesson planning

Featured Report

Class Profile Report

This report compares information about children's skills, knowledge, and behaviors to widely held expectations for their age or class/grade during a particular checkpoint period. This report is a valuable tool for teachers to plan small group activities.

Helpful Reminders

- Winter Checkpoint October 30th, 2017- February 14th, 2018

- Review the GOLD Program expectations in the 6 Year Plan. Click Here for the GOLD 6 Year Plan

- Stay informed: Infromation about the progress of system updates will be sent in your messages on your MTS dashboard.

- Webinars are continuously avaiable for you to register for through MTS.

Thank you to JoAnn Carswell & All About Kids for submitting GOLD in Action pictures!

Submit your pictures to be displayed on the next issue of GOT GOLD!

a program of:
Children's Services Council
PALM BEACH COUNTY
Healthy. Safe. Strong.

Contact Us!

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MyTeaching**Strategies**

Customer Support	Tech Support
1-800-637-3652	1-866-736-5913
Monday- Friday	Monday-Friday
8:00am-6:00pm ET	7:00am-9:00pm ET

StrongMinds
Children's Services Council's Quality Child Care Network

Providers can also reach out to the StrongMinds Navigators to request technical assistance (TA) in GOLD under the content area of "Assessment and Documentation".

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