Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online Assessment

Got GOLD?

Children's Services Council
PALM BEACH COUNTY
Healthy. Safe. Strong.

Inside this issue:

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

Physical Development:
Balancing Skills

Cognitive Development:
Attends & Engages
Persists

Social Emotional Development:
Interacts With Peers

Winning Photo from February GOLD Provider Meeting

Winning photo sent in by … Future Stars Learning Center.

Send in your winning photo now! See GOLD Assessment Team contact on Page 9 of this newsletter for where to send photos.

The "Finalizing Period"

The "Finalizing Period" takes place during the two weeks before a Checkpoint due date. In order to complete Checkpoint procedures for every child in GOLD it is important to think ahead and plan for success.

To support programs to have 100% finalized data at the end of each Checkpoint, the Assessment team at ELCPBC recommends that teachers and administrators use the two weeks leading up to the Checkpoint due date in the following ways:

- Access the Checkpoint tab, select the "By Area" screen, and choose a child and area to begin assigning final levels for each objective/dimension. <u>Levels are assigned ONLY</u> <u>when there is documentation to support that level decision</u>.
- If there is no documentation connected, and the teacher is working on meeting quantity goals in GOLD, the "Finalizing Period" is the time to enter new photos or written notes about the child that will fill in any gaps in their online portfolio.
- Reviewing documentation already in the system (access "View Portfolio" in the Documentation tab in GOLD), with an eye for a certain objective/dimension is another strategy recommended for filling in gaps in GOLD data during the two weeks leading up to a Checkpoint Due date.

In the first two years of participating in the GOLD program, teachers gain proficiency and fluency with the tool. Meeting quantity goals is a challenge that persists if teachers are unable or unwilling to use the GOLD every day. Daily use will result in quantity goals being met, and no need for entering "Not Observed" at Checkpoint time.

By the third year in the GOLD program, it is expected that there will be minimal to no "empty boxes" (gaps in data) at Checkpoint time. By using the two weeks leading up to a Checkpoint due date for tracking the "Documentation By Objective/Dimension" reports (teachers can access this report at any time in the Documentation tab), and <u>adding documentation</u> or <u>connecting a dimension to documentation already in the system,</u> teachers are planning for 100% finalized data (with no gaps) for all children in all areas each Checkpoint.

Checkpoint Companion Table:
This companion table can be used during finalizing checkpoint period, for teachers who have minimum amount of gaps in data.

Look for this "Checkpoint Companion" table on the ELC Child Assessment Web Page.

Checkpoint Season	Documentation Window During this window, teachers observe and document children's learning and complete preliminary ratings based on what is observed.	Finalize Levels During this window teachers make final determinations about how to rate children based on each of the objectives and dimensions. Observation and documentation may continue.	Data Finalized By:
Spring	March 16– May 22	May 26- June 5	June 5, 2015
Summer (Optional)	June 9– July 31	Aug. 3-14 **"The Finalizing Period"**	August 14, 2015

When sites reach a stage in their work in GOLD when all children have complete portfolios with final Checkpoint levels attached to each objective/dimension, "Family Conference Forms" and "Development and Learning Reports" for meetings with parents can be used that will inform families about how their children are progressing using the language of the GOLD

The "GOLD Documentation App": 3 Reasons to Try It

We have noticed during our visits and conversations in the field over the past few months, that an increasingly popular topic with teachers who enter photos and videos into the online system is the GOLD App for Apple and Android devices. Sites have the right to make policies on the use of tablets and phones in documenting the children in action using the "GOLD Documentation App". It is <u>strongly</u> recommended that site leaders consider the positive aspects of using the GOLD App, and welcome teachers to use it. It is a more secure way to take photos and videos, as the GOLD App is password protected and the photos and videos are erased from the phone or tablet as it is sent directly to the child's portfolio in GOLD.

The benefits that we have observed at sites where leaders are enabling teachers to use the GOLD include:

A strategy for ...Using Time Wisely

3. Using the App… has been a motivator for teachers.

Teachers can often burn out in this difficult process of documentation and assessment of each child in many dimensions of their learning. It is not easy! But, the GOLD App has given teachers a chance to use the GOLD in different ways that may appeal to them. Any motivating factor should be embraced by administrators as they support the teachers to succeed and see the value of authentic assessment in their work. with young children.

1. Using the App… saves time!

Making the time for GOLD in daily ways is the biggest challenge that teachers face when they begin, and continue to use the GOLD online assessment system. Gaining speed in entering documentation with tools such as the GOLD App allows teachers to reach quantity goals, and have enough in the system at Checkpoint time.

2. Using the App… leads to multiple forms of documentation in child portfolios.

The GOLD team recommends that many forms of documentation be used as evidence of child growth and development. The App welcomes teachers to take a photo, video, or audio recording of the child-in-action, revealing a richer story of what a child can do and understand.

Doodle Poll…**W**hat's a **D**oodle **P**oll?

*A*ttention: GOLD Leaders-On-Site!!!
Look for the "Doodle Poll" email …

For the past few months, the GOLD team has been sending out electronic invitations for Technical Assistance visits in the form of…a "Doodle Poll". The results of the Doodle Polls are not promising, with a large majority of sites not responding at all to the email request to schedule TA in GOLD.

Sites are not required to sign up, however, if you see the "Doodle Poll" email in the future…

…take a look. It's not Spam mail.

It's your friendly neighborhood GOLD team

 reaching out to see if you have taken a look

at the work teachers are doing in GOLD lately,

and to ask if you would like to have us come out

Doodle®

to work side-by-side with you on any issues that you feel need extra attention.

Doodle simplifies scheduling

The scheduling tool you'll actually use.
Find a date for a meeting 2x faster

Free

Schedule an event   or   View example

May 6, 2015

	9:00	11:00	2:00	4:00	8:00
Tom		✓		✓	
Paula	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chris			✓		✓	✓
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Strong Minds TA Specialists Available

As participating GOLD programs enter into the Strong Minds quality improvement system, additional supports are available to assist teachers and administrators to reach goals of quantity (having enough in the system), and strengthen quality aspects of documentation and assessment processes. Technical Assistance can be requested through the Strong Minds System Navigators at the Children's Services Council. Technical Assistant Specialists from the School District of PBC and ELCPBC join the GOLD Assessment team in bringing TA to participating early child care and education centers and Family Child Care Homes with the intention of increasing the network of support for Strong Minds participants to succeed in using the GOLD, and gain in overall quality through child level assessment.
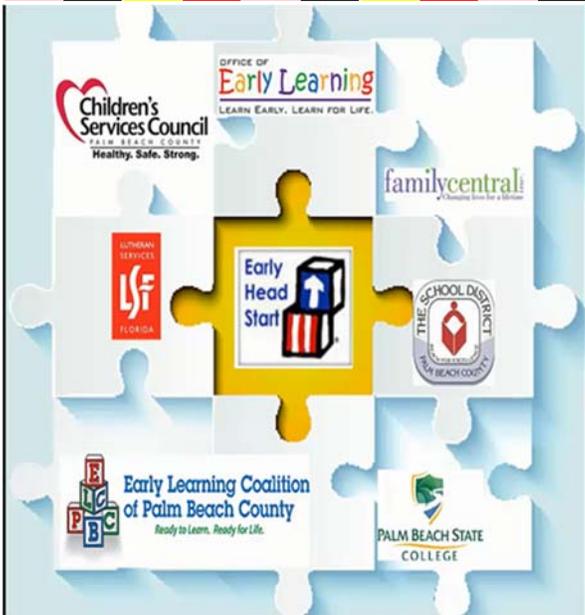
If you are in the Strong Minds network , and want support with GOLD…

…call your Navigators and request TA today!

Welcome...new ELCPBC Early Head Start Sites!

All of us on the GOLD Assessment team would like to offer a warm welcome to some of our newest GOLD Program participants. In January of 2015, the Early Learning Coalition received a grant award to develop an EHS program that will serve 150 children enrolled across 12 Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes in Palm Beach County. These sites are located in "high risk" zip codes in Belle Glade, Pahokee, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach where the children being served will have a much stronger chance of success in life due to high quality comprehensive care and education services.

We look forward to a successful partnership! High quality child level assessment that reveals what the child can understand and do now, and will understand and do next... has the power to transform the way we work with our youngest learners, and raise the quality early childhood programs so that they may become examples of excellence for the community.

WELCOME to the EHS participating sites!

Andrea's Little Angels FCC	*Bright Ideas Main*
Bright Ideas Educational Center Shirley	*Cynthia Bedford*
Eula Gray	*Jones Little Kids*
Life Span Development	*Latonia Jackson*
Mustard Seed FDC	*Robinson's Tiny Tots*
The Kings Kids	*Wee Care Child Development Center*

Thank you to the EHS team at ELC!

Erin Gallagher -Director of Early Head Start

Akia Davis - Family and Community Manager

Yolimar Erazo - Family Advocate

Ruth Deras -Family Advocate

Tanika Redding Young - Family Advocate-Belle Glade

Gecica Tibert-Child Development and Education Disabilities Manager

Families and GOLD: Spotlight on Providers

There has been some exciting developments at Opportunity Inc. in GOLD this school year. As a member of the very first cohort of schools entering into the GOLD Program (when it was just a small pilot), Opportunity has always been a trailblazer in the way they approach using the GOLD as a tool for authentic child level assessment. This year, they set their sights on how families could benefit from the program.

At Open House events and other parent education meetings at the school, they worked overtime to enroll parents as partners in GOLD. Success has taken time, as it usually does...but, thanks to their dedication and persistence the team at Opportunity Inc. has been rewarded with strong participation from parents in the "family central" component in the GOLD online system.

They experienced increased awareness about the work being done in classrooms, and stronger communication with parents through their ability to send messages and share lesson plans in GOLD. But a real moment of triumph came in the late winter months of the school year when a parent documented and entered her 9 month old child's first word..."Mama". At a recent CSC meeting, the video of Kuala's first word was shared with the Council, and touched the hearts of everyone present. It is a video that reveals the power of documentation to make visible a child's growth and development. It is a heart-warming moment captured through documentation, and shared enthusiastically with the school and larger community.

We would like to thank Opportunity Inc, and Nicole Simpson and her daughter Kuala for sharing this truly amazing milestone moment with us!

To view the video of Kuala's "First Word" and discuss more ideas about the possibilities for family engagement the GOLD has to offer, be sure to attend the next **GOLD Provider Meeting on May 14th from 10:30-12 ...**

...when we will share it again to inspire you to keep trailblazing along with Opportunity Inc. and our growing number of GOLD Program sites.

GOLD Provider Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
2300 High Ridge Rd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Spotlight on Provider

Latest Recommendations

Strategies for completing Checkpoint

Send in your fabulous GOLD photos *(and consents forms)* of Teachers, Children and Families to be a part of the slide show.

E-mail photos and consent forms to: barbara.becraft@elcpalmbeach.org
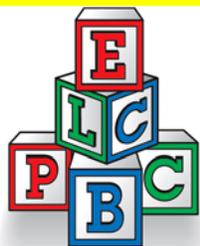
Please RSVP by Monday, May 12, 2015

Questions??? Please call us. We will be happy to assist you in finding photo consent forms, answering GOLD related questions, and listening to your feedback about the program. See our contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

GOLD Assessment Team

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Nonprofits First:
Partners in Technology

Since 2005, Nonprofits First has worked to promote quality and accountability in the nonprofit sector. By providing services, resources and opportunities, we have strengthened hundreds of agencies as they work to achieve a higher level of service delivery, community impact and success.

GOLD Programs can contact the Nonprofits First IT Helpdesk at : 561.910.3895

Thank you NPF for your partnership!