



GOLD Nuggets



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2012

In this Issue:

- **I finalized data in the Spring season for a new student...Now What?**
- **GOLD Portfolios for Soon-to-be Kindergarteners**
- **New Feature in GOLD: Finalize Data for Multiple Children At Once**
- **Verifying Child Information In GOLD**
- **Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Monitoring Alert**
- **Reminders: Upcoming Training Dates**

I Finalized Data in Early Spring for New Students....Now What?

Programs have 45 days to finalize data for children that start at various points during the year. Children that started less than 45 days before the Winter checkpoint date will have their first set of finalized data in early Spring (late February/ early March). Since finalizing data early in the Spring season means they won't have to finalize again by the regularly scheduled Spring checkpoint date, this presents the issue of what should be done with this child's portfolio for the remaining months of the school year. It is recommended that teachers continue collecting observations and assign preliminary levels for these children in May. Setting preliminary levels allows teachers and administrators to generate reports and measure progress made by these newly-enrolled children at the end of the school year.

GOLD Portfolios for Soon-to-Be Kindergarteners

Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool was approved by the Arizona Board of Education for programs serving Birth *through* Kindergarten. While it is NOT a required assessment instrument for kindergarten, it is an option for local education agencies (LEA) to consider.

In instances when an LEA has not chosen to use GOLD in kindergarten, information collected at the preschool level should be shared with the family and considered part of the child's educational record. Evidence collected at the preschool level can be used to provide kindergarten staff with information about a child's educational needs and thus inform instruction and intervention methodologies. Information about a child's developmental growth and work samples can become part of the quality kindergarten transition plan.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires data on preschool children with special needs that have received special education for at least 6 months. As a result, **preschool children that are identified during the Spring season in GOLD and will be transitioning to Kindergarten in the fall are not required to have a GOLD portfolio created.** These children will not have the opportunity to participate in preschool special education for at least 6 months, therefore no data will be submitted to OSEP for these particular children. ***This exception ONLY applies to the use of GOLD for preschool children with special needs.*** However, it is **recommended** that programs create and maintain GOLD portfolios for these children as a means of providing comprehensive information on their development to parents and kindergarten teachers at the conclusion of their participation in preschool special education.

Continued on next page...

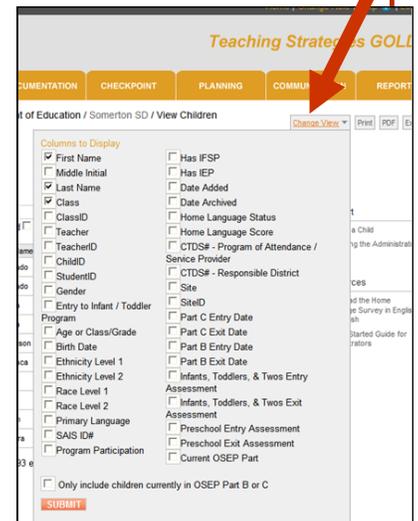
New Feature in GOLD: Finalize Data for Multiple Children At Once

Teaching Strategies GOLD has just launched a new feature in GOLD that allows teachers to select levels for their whole class on one screen. This will save teachers time when selecting levels for each objective/dimension. To see this feature, go to Checkpoint Tab under Teacher access, and select **"By Multiple Children"**. For more information on this feature, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Important: Please **verify the accuracy of all child information in GOLD** with particular attention to the following items:

- SAIS ID Number
- Birth Date
- CTDS Number/Program of Attendance
- IEP Status
- Program Participation

An efficient way to determine which child information needs to be added or corrected is to generate a list of all children in your program. Under Administrator access, click on Administration / Manage Children / Children. Then, click on gray **"Change View"** button to choose the items you want to appear on your class list. The accuracy of this information is vital to tracking assessment data for children. If you need help determining the correct response for your program to any of these items, please contact Holly Ford at holly.ford@azed.gov.



Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Monitoring Alert

In a recent Special Education Monitoring Alert titled **Alert to Special Education Directors: Increased Monitoring Collaboration with Early Childhood**, the Exceptional Student Services unit at ADE announced that the submission of GOLD data would now be included in a district's data review.

NEW THIS YEAR: The data reviewed for unified and elementary school districts will now also include Early Childhood Outcomes/GOLD information (SPP/APR Indicator 7). The data review influences the PEA monitoring type that will occur in Year 4 of the monitoring cycle. This first year's criteria will be based on whether or not a district is meeting the required checkpoint deadlines for early childhood data submission.

For more information see Monitoring Alert: <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/files/2012/03/monitoringalert-ece.pdf>

Remember!

Register Today!

April 10th/11th: Admin One-Day Workshop
April 12th-13th: Teacher Two-Day Training
August 2nd-3rd: Teacher Two-Day Training

To register online, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Arizona Department of Education
Early Childhood Education
Head Start State Collaboration Office

Physical Address: 2005 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Ph. 602-364-1530
Fax: 602-542-2730

Mailing Address: 1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin #15
Phoenix, AZ 85007