

Building Skills to Maintain the Pre-K Boost

When children have access to high-quality pre-K programs, the experiences and learning opportunities they are exposed to often boost their learning and development as they enter school. But how can we make sure the benefits of the “pre-K boost” last through kindergarten and the early elementary grades?

Below are some best practices to **promote skill building**, an important factor in children’s long-term success.

BEST PRACTICES



IN THE CLASSROOM

It’s important to teach and support a range of skills in pre-K, including basic and more complex skills.

Basic, or constrained skills, include learning things like:

- Numbers
- Counting
- Letters
- Letter sounds

More complex, or unconstrained skills, include learning things like:

- Oral language
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Composition
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving



IN POLICYMAKING

We can develop structures and reinforce practices that strengthen alignment between pre-K and the early elementary grades.

It’s important to prioritize and support well-coordinated:

- Curricula
- Instruction
- Standards
- Assessments
- Professional development
- Communication