



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

November 21, 2019 – Issue 14

Welcome to Issue 14 of the Agency of Education Early Education Team’s **UPK Café!** We will continue to share a variety of research and evidence-based resources, hot topics, news items and professional articles relevant to your daily work and practice as an Early Childhood Educator and Early Childhood Special Educator. Some weeks will be short with a few tidbits and some weeks will offer longer strands that are connected to a certain subject. We hope you will use **UPK Café** as a regular resource to support and inform your practice.

As we close in on the first Teaching Strategies Gold Checkpoint of the school year, we thought that a few reminders and clarifications would help!

1. **My Teaching Strategies GOLD®: Assessing and Reporting**

There may be some misunderstanding about having to complete all 38 objectives in TSG. In 2015 when Act 166 and TSGOLD was enacted, the *initial* messaging was that programs did not have to complete the science and technology, social studies or the arts objectives. When Act 166 was fully implemented in July 2016, TSGOLD trainings covered all 38 objectives *which is still the case today*.

2. **Utilizing Teaching Strategies GOLD® Resources!**

You can quickly and easily find the support you need by browsing articles or videos from the TSG resource library, or you can use the search bar on the [Teaching Strategies Support Page](#) by simply typing your question.

3. **[My Teaching Strategies GOLD® Requirements and Guidelines](#)**

This document supports users of TSG with information such as the process of site naming and check point dates during the school year.

4. Visit the [Early Childhood Education Assessment](#) page for more information about Teaching Strategies GOLD® .

5. **Vermont Agency of Education’s definition of High-Quality Effective PreKindergarten Education**

What defines Vermont Universal Prekindergarten Education (UPK) is the implementation of high-quality, effective instruction by licensed educators who use evidence-based practices within intentionally designed early learning environments.

Early educators align curriculum with the [Vermont Early Learning Standards](#) while adapting experiences to support the full participation of each and every child to realize their full potential and promote successful outcomes.

If you have a resource you'd like to share on **UPK Café** or have been forwarded this issue and would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Leslie at leslie.freedman@vermont.gov

Thank you!