**Getting Started with The DLM Early Childhood Express**

*The DLM Early Childhood Express* is a holistic, child-centered program that nurtures each child by offering carefully selected and carefully sequenced learning experiences. It provides a wealth of materials and ideas to foster the social-emotional, intellectual, and physical development of children. At the same time, it nurtures the natural curiosity and sense of self that can serve as the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

The lesson format is designed to present information in a way that makes it easy for children to learn. Intelligence is, in large part, our ability to see patterns and build relationships out of those patterns, which is why *DLM* is focused on helping children see the patterns in what they are learning. It builds an understanding of how newly taught material resembles what children already know. Then it takes the differences in the new material and helps the children convert them into new understanding.

Each of the eight Teacher Edition Unit’s in *DLM* are centered on an Essential Question relating to the unit’s theme. Each week has its own, more specific focus question. By focusing on essential questions, children are better able to connect their existing knowledge of the world with the new concepts and ideas they are learning at school. Routines at the beginning and end of each day help children focus on the learning process, reflect on new concepts, and make important connections. The lessons are designed to allow children to apply what they have learned.

**Social and Emotional Development**

Social-emotional development is addressed everyday through positive reinforcement, interactive activities, and engaging songs.

**Language and Communication**

All lessons are focused on language acquisition which include oral language development and vocabulary activities.

**Emergent Literacy: Reading**

Children develop literacy skills for reading through exposure to multiple read-aloud selections each day and through daily phonological awareness and letter recognition activities.

**Emergent Literacy: Writing**

Children develop writing skills by through daily writing activities and during Center Time.

**Mathematics**

The math strand is based on *Building Blocks*, the result of NSF-funded research, is designed to develop children's early mathematical knowledge through various individual and group activities.

**Science**

Children explore scientific concepts and methods during weekly science-focused, large-group activities, and Center Time activities.

**Social Studies**

Children explore Social Studies concepts during weekly social studies-focused, large-group activities, and Center Time activities.

**Fine Arts**

Children are exposed to art, dance, and music through a variety of weekly activities and the Creativity Center.

**Physical Development**

*DLM* is designed to allow children active time for outdoor play during the day, in addition to daily and weekly movement activities.

**Technology**

Technology is integrated throughout each week with the use of online math activities, computer time, and other digital resources.

**English Language Learners**

Today’s classrooms are very diverse. *The DLM Early Childhood Express* addresses this diversity by providing lessons in both English and Spanish. The program also offers strategies to assist English Language Learners at multiple levels of proficiency.
With The DLM Early Childhood Express, it’s easy to fit lessons into your day.

**Welcome to The DLM Early Childhood Express.**

Add your own ideas. Mix and match activities. Our program is designed to offer you a variety of activities on which to build a full year of exciting and creative lessons.

Happy learning to you and the children in your care!
With *The DLM Early Childhood Express*, children develop concrete skills through experiences with music, art, storytelling, hands-on activities and teacher-directed lessons that, in addition to skills development, emphasize practice and reflection. Every four weeks, children are introduced to a new theme organized around an essential question.

**Unit 1: All About Pre-K**  
*Why is school important?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1** What happens at school? | Welcome to School  
Bienvenidos a la escuela |
| **Week 2** What happens in our classroom? | Yellowbelly and Plum Go to School  
Barrigota y Pipín van a la escuela |
| **Week 3** What makes a good friend? | Max and Mo’s First Day at School  
Max & Mo van a la escuela |
| **Week 4** How can we play and learn together? | Amelia’s Show and Tell Fiesta/  
Amelia y la Fiesta de “muestra y cuenta” |
| **Unit Wrap-Up** My Library Book | How Can I Learn at School?  
¿Cómo puedo aprender en la escuela? |

**Unit 2: All About Me**  
*What makes me special?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1** Who am I? | All About Me  
Todo sobre mí |
| **Week 2** What are my feelings? | Lots of Feelings  
Montones de sentimientos |
| **Week 3** What do the parts of my body do? | Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes  
Ojos, nariz, dedos y pies |
| **Week 4** What is a family? | Jonathan and His Mommy  
Juan y su mamá |
| **Unit Wrap-Up** My Library Book | What Makes Us Special?  
¿Qué nos hace especiales? |

**Unit 3: My Community**  
*What is a community?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1** What are the parts of a community? | In the Community  
En la comunidad |
| **Week 2** How does a community help me? | Rush Hour,  
Hora pico |
| **Week 3** Who helps the community? | Quinito’s Neighborhood  
Quinito’s barrio |
| **Week 4** How can I help my community? | Flower Garden  
Un jardín de flores |
| **Unit Wrap-Up** My Library Book | In My Community  
Mi comunidad |

**Unit 4: Let’s Investigate**  
*How can I learn more about things?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1** How can I learn by observing? | Let’s Investigate  
Soy detective |
| **Week 2** How can I use tools to investigate? | I Like Making Tamales  
Me gusta hacer tamales |
| **Week 3** How can I compare things? | Nature Spy  
Espía de la naturaleza |
| **Week 4** How do objects move? | What Do Wheels Do All Day?  
¿Qué hacen las ruedas todo el día? |
| **Unit Wrap-Up** My Library Book | How Can We Investigate?  
¿Cómo podemos investigar? |
### Unit 5: Amazing Animals
What is amazing about animals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 What are animals like?</td>
<td>Amazing Animals (Animales asombrosos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Where do animals live and what do they eat?</td>
<td>Castles, Caves, and Honeycombs (Castillos, cuevas y panales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 How are animals the same and different?</td>
<td>Who Is the Beast? (Quien es la bestia?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 How do animals move?</td>
<td>Move! ¡A moverse!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Wrap-Up My Library Book</td>
<td>Hello, Animals! ¡Hola, animales!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit 6: Growing and Changing
How do living things grow and change?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 How do animals grow and change?</td>
<td>Growing and Changing (Creciendo y cambiando)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 How do plants grow and change?</td>
<td>I Am a Peach (Yo soy el durazno)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 How do people grow and change?</td>
<td>I’m Growing! (Estoy creciendo!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 How do living things grow and change?</td>
<td>My Garden (Mi jardín)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Wrap-Up My Library Book</td>
<td>Growing Up (Creciendo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Unit 7: The Earth and Sky
What can I learn about the earth and the sky?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
<th>Literature</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 What can I learn about the earth and the sky?</td>
<td>The Earth and Sky (La Tierra y el cielo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 What weather can I observe each day?</td>
<td>Who Likes Rain? (¿A quién le gusta la lluvia?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 What can I learn about day and night?</td>
<td>Matthew and the Color of the Sky (Matías y el color del cielo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 Why is caring for the earth and sky important?</td>
<td>Ada, Once Again! (¡Otra vez Ada!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Wrap-Up My Library Book</td>
<td>Good Morning, Earth! ¡Buenos días, Tierra!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Unit 8: Healthy Food/Healthy Body
Why is healthy food and exercise good for me?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Question</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 What are good healthy habits?</td>
<td>Staying Healthy (Mantente sano)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 What kinds of foods are healthy?</td>
<td>Growing Vegetable Soup (A sembrar sopa de verduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Why is exercise important?</td>
<td>Rise and Exercise! (A ejercitarse, ¡uno, dos, tres!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 How can I stay healthy?</td>
<td>Jamal’s Busy Day (El intenso día de Jamal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Wrap-Up My Library Book</td>
<td>Healthy Kids (Niños sanos)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The DLM Early Childhood Express is packed full of the components you’ll need to teach each theme and enrich your classroom. The Teacher Treasure Package is the heart of the program, because it contains all the necessary materials. Plus, the Teacher Treasure Book contains all the fun components that you’ll love to teach. The Literature Package contains all the stories and books you need to support children’s developing literacy. You’ll find letter tiles, counters, and puppets in the Manipulative Package to connect hands-on learning skills with meaningful play.

Teacher Treasure Package

This package contains all the essential tools for the teacher such as the Teacher’s Treasure Book, Teacher’s Editions, technology and other resources no teacher would want to be without!

- Alphabet Wall Cards and ABC Picture Cards help build letter recognition and phonemic awareness.
- Oral Language Development Cards teach new vocabulary, and are especially helpful when working with English Language Learners.
- Sequencing Cards help children learn how to order events and the vocabulary associated with time and sequence.

There is one bilingual Teacher’s Edition for each four-week theme. It provides the essential questions for each lesson as well as plans for centers and suggestions for classroom management.

The bilingual Teacher’s Treasure Book, features 500+ pages of the things you love most about teaching Early Childhood, such as songs, traditional read alouds, folk tales, finger plays, and flannelboard stories with patterns.

An ABC Take-Home Book with blackline masters is provided for each letter of the English and Spanish alphabet.
Flip charts and their Audio CDs support the activities in each lesson. Children practice literacy and music skills using the Rhymes and Chants Flip Chart which supports oral language development and phonological awareness in both English and Spanish. An Audio CD is included and provides a recording of every rhyme or chant. The Making Good Choices Flip Chart provides illustrations to allow students to explore social and emotional development concepts while facilitating classroom activities and discussion. 15 lively songs recorded in both English and Spanish address key social emotional development themes such as: joining in, helping others, being fair, teasing, bullying, and much more. The Math and Science Flip Chart is a demonstration tool that addresses weekly math and science concepts through photos and illustrations.

Building Blocks, the result of NSF-funded research, develops young children's mathematical thinking. Using their bodies, manipulatives, paper, and computers. Building Blocks online management system guides children through research-based learning trajectories. These activities-through-trajectories connect children's informal knowledge to more formal school mathematics. The result is a mathematical curriculum that is not only motivating for children but also comprehensive.

Other key resources include a Research & Professional Development Guide, and a bilingual Home Connections Resource Guide which provides weekly letters home and take-home story books.

DLMExpressOnline.com includes the following:
- e-Books of student and teacher materials
- Audio recordings of the My Library and Literature Books (Big/Little) in English and Spanish
- Teacher planning tools and assessment support
Tools for Teaching

Literature Package
This package contains the literature referenced in the program. They are available in several variations so you can choose the package that best meets the needs of your classroom. The literature used in the program includes expository selections, traditional stories, and emergent readers for students. All literature is available in English or Spanish.

Concept Big Books are non-fiction selections that introduce the essential questions for each unit and help children make connections between their background knowledge and unit themes. (English and Spanish)

My Library Books are take-home readers for children to continue their exploration of unit themes. (English and Spanish)

The ABC Book helps children develop phonemic awareness and letter recognition. (English and Spanish)
Manipulative Package

This package contains fun tools for children to play and learn with in the classroom.

- Two Puppets
- Alphabet Letter Tiles (in English and Spanish)
- Transportation and Farm Animal Counters
- Two-Color Counters
- Step-by-Step Number Line
- Balance Scale

- Pattern Blocks
- Shape Sets
- Connecting Cubes
- Jumbo Hand Lenses
- Magnetic Wands

The Big Books and Little Books reinforce each week’s theme and the unit theme. Selections include stories originally written in Spanish, as well as those written in English.

The stories in the Big Books and Little Books are recorded on the Listening Library Audio CDs. They are available in English and Spanish.
Each week of *The DLM Early Childhood Express* is organized the same way to provide children with the structure and routines they crave. Each week begins with a weekly opener that introduces the focus question for the week, and includes a review of the week’s Learning Goals, the Materials and Resources needed for the week, a Daily Planner, and a plan for the Learning Centers children will use throughout the week.

Each day’s lesson includes large-group Circle Time and small-group Center Time. Each day includes Literacy, Math, and Social and Emotional Development activities during Circle Time. On Day 1, children explore Science. On Days 2 and 4, they work on more in-depth math lessons. On Day 3, Social Studies is the focus. Fine Art or Music/Movement activities take place during Circle Time on Day 5.

**Home Connections** highlights activities that children can do at home with family members to extend their learning.

You will find the **Program Materials** and **Other Materials** needed for each day on the Materials and Resources page.

**Assessment** reminders and **More Literature Selections** are provided for the week.
The Daily Planner provides a Week-at-a-Glance view of the daily structure and lesson topics for each week.

Learning Centers should be used throughout the week during Center Time. This page provides an overview of center activities to set up for children. Additional information about some center activities is provided in the daily lessons. The Learning Centers are intended to remain open for the entire week. These centers provide the opportunity for children to explore a wide range of curricular areas.