



Take a Tour of OWL

Introduction

This guide discusses how Opening the World of Learning, or OWL, is purposeful, playful, and personalized.

It discusses the main features of the program as well as its design and organization.

Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive prekindergarten program in English and Spanish. OWL helps teachers create an effective and captivating classroom—a classroom that gives young learners the right start into the world of school.

An OWL classroom is lively. It is full of books, songs, stories, and conversations. Children experiment, explore, and play as they develop academically, socially, and emotionally.

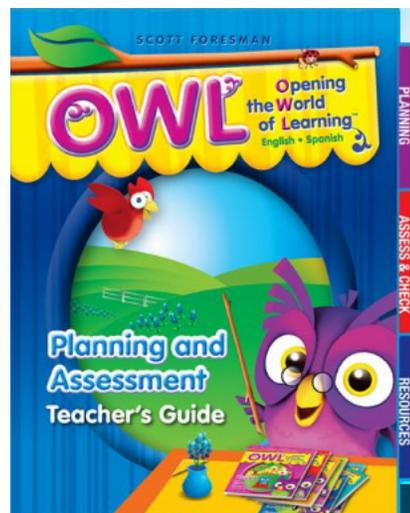
The language and vocabulary development, rich questions, content, and personalized instruction help children develop a foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond. Every part of the school day is an opportunity for teaching and learning.

OWL is Purposeful

The Planning and Assessment Teacher's Guide, Unit Teacher's Guides, and Additional Resources make OWL purposeful.

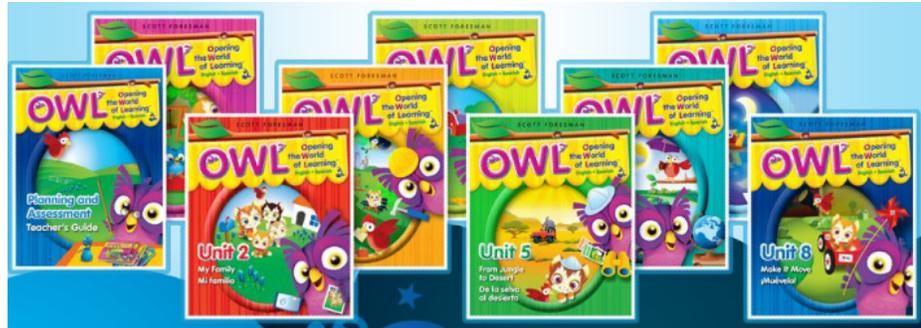
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The helpful Planning and Assessment Teacher's Guide provides teachers with a program overview. Find planning support, assessment tools, forms and checklists and find teacher resources such as a glossary and the scope and sequence. Having all of these resources in one place makes planning, instructing, and assessing easy. Simply flip to a tab to reference what is needed.



Teacher's Guides

The Unit Teacher's Guides are another main teaching component. There are thirty-six weeks of instruction in eight theme-based units. Each Teacher's Guide is one unit of instruction. The themes range from Our Community to Earth and Sky.



Each week focuses on the Ten Domains of Learning including Social and Emotional, Literacy, Math, Technology, and Physical Development. To help tie these domains together, they are organized around a concept, such as Earth and Sky. Introduce and discuss the concept by using the unit Big Question as well as Weekly Questions.

The fifth week of Units 2, 4, 6, and 8 is Review & Check. During this week, take time to review skills and monitor children's progress using assessments from the Planning and Assessment Teacher's Guide. Then, refer to the Using the Results of the Assessment page for tips on how to use progress information to adjust instructional decisions and regroup children.

To differentiate instruction, use the notes at the bottom of instructional pages to make learning easier or harder and assist English language learners. The English Language Development section in the back of the Teacher's Guide provides daily lessons that focus on language acquisition and production. Use this during Center Time and Small Groups. Instruct all students in small groups for literacy and math. Use the Monitor Progress boxes to assess students and personalize learning during small and whole group instruction.

Additional Resources

There are many visual aids that encourage learning such as EnVision It! Learning Strips, Concept Word Cards, and EnVision It! Retelling Storyboards. Audio components such as the Sing Along Songs and Poems CD engage children as they learn concepts and vocabulary. Use digital resources such as Graphic Organizers and Number Cards to enrich instruction.

Every part of the school day is a teachable moment. Make every minute count by using transitional games, conversation prompts, and observing outdoor play. Also, frequently use Amazing Words and Concept Words to develop the children's vocabulary. Amazing Words are rich words from the literature and Concept Words are words related to the weekly concept.

OWL is Playful To help children learn, use the Ollie puppet and other playful resources.

The OWL Manipulative Kit contains hands-on materials to make learning come alive.



Center Time also engages children. They pretend, create, explore, and investigate all the domains of learning in centers such as ABC Fun, Math, Sand, Water, and More, and Construction Zone. The Media and Technology center encourages 21st century skills.

Activity	Technology Time	Kids at Work	Name It!	Let's Build a Playground!	I Can Measure!	On and Off	My Bird Feeder	Compare This!
Center Description	Children use computer devices to open and navigate through an educational computer game.	Children create and narrate stories, music, and experiences of a pretend playground.	Children identify beginning letters and sounds and practice labeling words.	Children draw and label designs for new playgrounds.	Children measure tape of different lengths.	Children identify things that can and cannot be turned off, and discuss how the activity relates to caring for our environment.	Children make bird feeders so they can observe living things in the environment.	Children create and then compare various lengths and widths.
LEARNING GOALS	Media and Technology Social & Emotional • Open and navigate software programs. • Use and name computer devices. • Show initiative and attempt to solve problems.	Dramatic Expression Social & Emotional • Create experiences through dramatic play. • Demonstrate positive play relationships.	Alphabet Knowledge Self-Regulation • Recognize at least 20 letter sounds. • Produce the correct sounds for at least 10 letters. • Take care of class materials.	Writing Self-Regulation • Use letters to make words or parts of words. • Produce the correct sounds for at least 10 letters. • Manage classroom materials.	MEASUREMENT Social & Emotional • Recognize and compare lengths or heights and weights of people or objects. • Recognize how much can be placed within an object. • Show responsible opinion of own abilities and limitations.	Identify-On Science Self-Regulation • Demonstrate the importance of caring for our environment. • Take care of classroom materials.	Art Social & Emotional • Use art materials and activities for sensory exploration. • Use art as a basis of self-expression and representation.	MEASUREMENT Social & Emotional • Recognize and compare lengths or heights of people or objects. • Make problem-solving strategies and seek adult help.
Materials and Preparation	Choose an educational computer game on CD-ROM. All	All • pictures of playgrounds	All • Letter Cards and Magnetic Letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K) All	All • construction paper • writing tools such as pencils, crayons, and markers	All • different tape • Bucket Balance • Measuring Strips • Measuring Cups, Measuring Spoons, Measuring Pitchers • Junkie Trash • Color Cards	All • Pictures Cards of Things That Can and Cannot Be Turned Off (appliance, light, fan, clock, flashlight, radio, ring, etc.) • science toys	Attach string to pinecones, cornucobs, or cardboard tubes to be used for hangers. All • Set up a table with the supplies needed for sensory exploration of something in a cup. Add: • a small cup of oilseed • sticks • crayons, markers, pencils • science tape	All • blocks

Instruction throughout the program has playful elements for pre-kindergarteners. Engage learners with visual, audio, and digital resources. In addition, games like What's my Word? and Starting Line create excitement when learning literacy and math skills.

OWL is Personalized

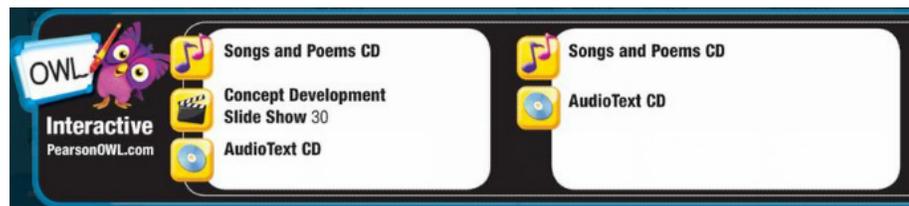
Not only is OWL purposeful and playful, but it is also personalized. Planning the week is quick and easy. Instruction is laid out by strands such as Morning Meeting and Math Circle. Teach these strands in the order that works best for the entire class.

There are also half- or full-day instructional plans. Meet learning outcomes using the half-day plans and extend instruction with the full-day schedule.



Since it is a bilingual program, lesson pages are in both English and Spanish. Each page of English instruction is followed by the corresponding Spanish lesson. This format helps teachers switch between English and Spanish as needed.

Access the lesson pages with the digital Teacher Materials. Find electronic forms of the Teacher’s Guides, Planning and Assessment Teacher’s Guide, Big Books, and more.



Review

This guide explained how Opening the World of Learning is purposeful, playful, and personalized. Big Questions, differentiated instruction, and Make Every Minute Count are ways OWL instruction is purposeful. Ollie the Owl puppet and manipulative kit make learning playful. Personalize instruction by accessing resources digitally. This bilingual comprehensive prekindergarten program helps teachers create an effective and captivating classroom—a classroom that gives young learners the right start into the world of school.