**All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind.**  
*Martin H. Fischer*

Dear Coordinators and Preschool Educators

The Preschool Team at the Alabama State Department of Education Special Education Services would like to send out a quarterly newsletter which features topics that are relevant to preschool children and their teachers. This newsletter will feature future events, questions from teachers, indicator reminders, and a section of new ideas to keep the motivation high. Please e-mail one of us if you have suggestions for topics or questions that you would like in the next issue.

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**Future Events**

11th Annual Alabama First Class Pre-K Conference

From Understanding to Practice: Navigating Diversity and Inclusion in the Pre-K Classroom

Wednesday, January 4th-6th, 2017 Mobile, AL

Stephanie Frucci, ALSDE education specialist, will present a session titled “Special Education Processes: Referral through IEP”

This session will focus on Special Education Referral, Eligibility, and IEP processes. An overview of each will be presented, as will indications and procedures for making a referral to a public school system.

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**Questions from the LEAs**

What is “educational performance” for preschool children?

Educational performance for preschool children refers to developmentally appropriate academic, social-emotional, and /or communication skills. That is, can they participate or do the things that typically developing preschool children can do?
STEM Bins for Preschool Children

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is an instructional approach to learning that allows four subjects be integrated into one, to encourage real-world learning experiences. To view video presentations for set up and utilization, check out teachoutsidethebox.com.

STEM bins are simple to create and easy to use for behavior incentives, early work finishers, and reinforcement of skills. The bins are inexpensive to make, can be tailored to meet individual children’s needs, and stack neatly on top of each other for neat storage.

Indicator REMINDERS

Early Learning Performance Profile (ELLP)

The ELPP is a collection tool used to report outcome percentages for preschool children. The completion of ELPP is a federal requirement. Timely and accurate completion of the ELPP is a state requirement. There should be documented data to support most ELPP responses.

El Transition to Preschool

Alabama’s target is 100%.

Monitor your LEA’s Tracking Log under State Reports. Change Preview dates from 7/30/16 to current calendar date. Correct errors.

Least Restrictive Environments (LRE)

IDEA requires that “to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled. This may include, but is not limited to: Head Start, LEA inclusion classes, daycare, community preschool classes, First Class Pre K, and LEA funded placement in private preschool programs. Alabama’s target for LRE 20 & 22 is 47.75% or more students receiving the majority of special education services in the regular early childhood environment.