

## For Teachers: Early Learning GPS Quick Start Guide



The Early Learning GPS is a great tool you can use to start conversations with families about their expectations for their child's progress and ways they can support their child's development at home.

**How does it work?** Families create their own free account and a map for each child. They can answer up to 10 questions about their child and save tips and resources; follow developmental milestones, save family activities, and compare child care programs.

- Watch the 1:30 welcome video or 20 minute demonstration at <http://papromiseforchildren.com/help-your-child-grow/early-learning-gps/>

**You can use the questions, tips and resources to engage families and spark conversations about their child's development.** For example:

- **Questions 3 and 4 help families have realistic expectations of their child's development** and help them follow their child's milestones on the milestones Tab in their child's map.
- **Question 5 helps families build a strong bond with their child** that can promote positive social skills like self-regulation.
- **Question 6 provides families with ways they can promote their child's development in everyday activities.** The Activities tab in their child's map gives them examples of activities they can do to build academic and social skills.
- **Question 8 encourages families to prepare for conversations with their child's teacher, doctor, or other professionals** by using the Be Your Child's Champion guide book. This can be a great resource to get the parent-teacher relationship started on the right foot.

Below is a quick start guide to using the Early Learning GPS with families as part of an orientation or parenting class. Each exercise can take 20-30 minutes depending on the amount of conversation.

**Activity points.** You may want to award families activity points for how much they use their child's map. After they earn a certain number of points, give them free family materials or enter them into a drawing for materials. Here's an example:

Activity	Points	Activity	Points
Create a family account	5	Follow a child's milestones (check off a milestone or add a comment)	5
Create a child's map	5	Complete a family activity (upload a photo of the child completing the activity)	5
Answer a question	1	Add a program and answer questions on the program checklist in the Program Checklist Tab	5
Save a tip	2	Sign up for Learning is Everywhere or Kindergarten Here I Come E-Newsletter (show you a copy of the newsletter they receive)	1
Save a resource	2	Share a favorite resource with the group	5
Add a note	2	Share the Early Learning GPS over social media	1
Add a to-do	2	Complete a to-do	5

You can decide how many points a family needs to earn to receive a prize.

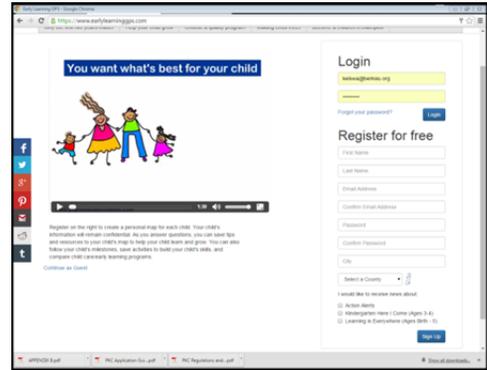
## Early Learning GPS Quick Start Guide for Kindergarten Readiness Programs and Pre-K Orientation

To use the Early Learning GPS with a group, you will need internet access, sound and a way to project on the wall or a screen.

### Exercise 1: Create a family account and child's map

Using their computers or tablets (or the app coming out in November 2015), ask families to go to [www.earlylearninggps.com](http://www.earlylearninggps.com) and create a free account and a map for their child.

Ask them to sign up for the Learning is Everywhere (birth – 5) or Kindergarten Here I Come! (3-4) e-newsletters as they register.



Ask families to create a map for their child. Then they can access the GPS quiz appropriate for their child's age and save their favorite tips and resources, upload photos, and follow their child's milestones on their child's map.

It is recommended that families create one account and share among family members. They can leave notes for each other and encourage them to watch tips and check out resources.

The facilitator can also create a map for a preschooler on their account. It's okay to create a fictitious account for training purposes.



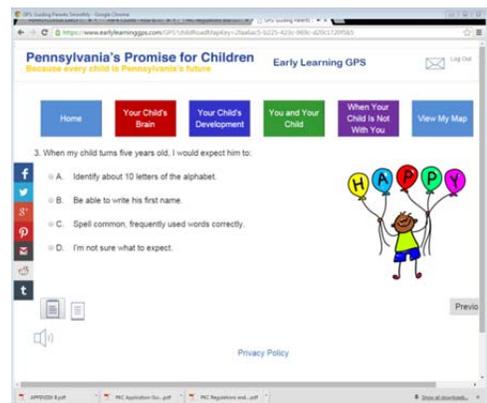
### Exercise 2: Understanding developmental milestones

The "your child's development" section in the quiz includes information about child developmental milestones and how children follow the same path but develop at their own pace.

As a group, enter the GPS quiz and start with "Your child's Development"

Families with laptops or tablets (or smartphones through the app coming in November 2015) can follow along in their own accounts.

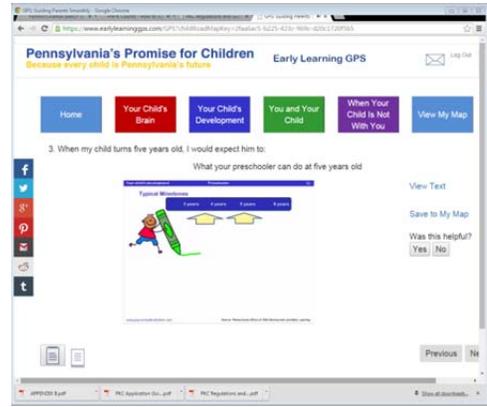
Answer question 3.



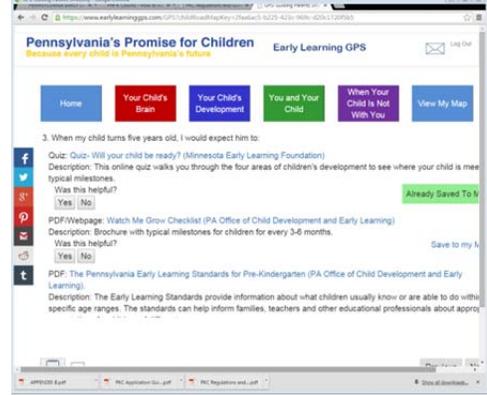
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As a group, select an answer and watch the tip.

Talk about the answer, why the group picked that answer, what you learned from the tip and what questions they have.



You can also click “next” to check the resources and ask families what resources they find most interesting.



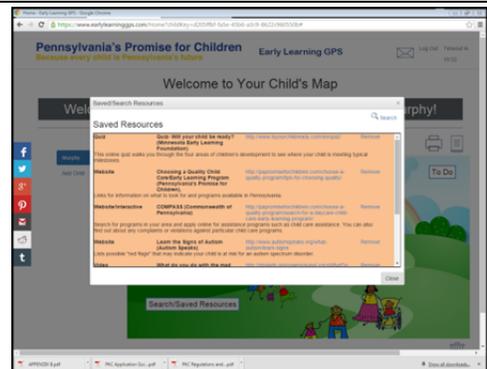
## Possible homework assignments for Exercise 2:

1. Ask families to create a map for their child and answer questions 3 and 4 in “Your Child’s Development.”

Ask them to save the tips to their child’s map.



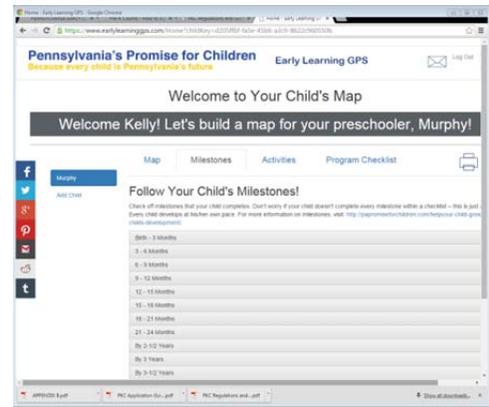
2. Families can also select their favorite resource, save to their child’s map, and talk about what they learned from that resource in your next meeting.



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3. Ask families to go to the Milestones Tab in their child's map and complete the milestones for their child. Ask them to add questions in the comments field.

They can also upload photos that show their child met a milestone.



### Exercise 3: Activities to build your child's skills for kindergarten

The "You and Your Child" section of the GPS quiz includes four questions about what families can do in their daily lives to help their child grow. It also talks about the importance of learning through play and how to talk to doctors, teachers and other professionals about their child.

The facilitator enters The GPS quiz and goes to the You and Your Child section. Families may want to follow along on laptops or tablets.

Note: if you want to skip to question 6 (activities families can do at home), go into your quiz ahead of time and complete question 5 so you are queued up to answer question 6. When you re-open the quiz, hit "resume" instead of "start over".

As a group, answer question 5.



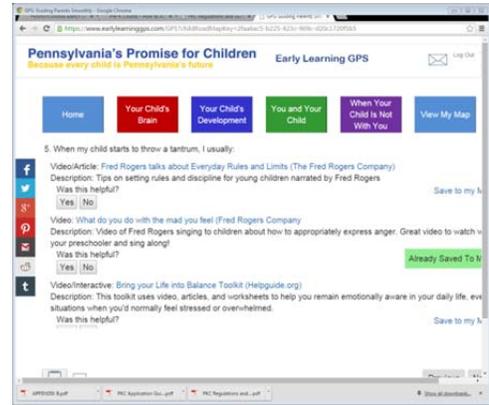
Ask the group to select an answer and watch the tip.

Talk about your answer, why you picked that answer, what you learned from the tip and what questions they have.

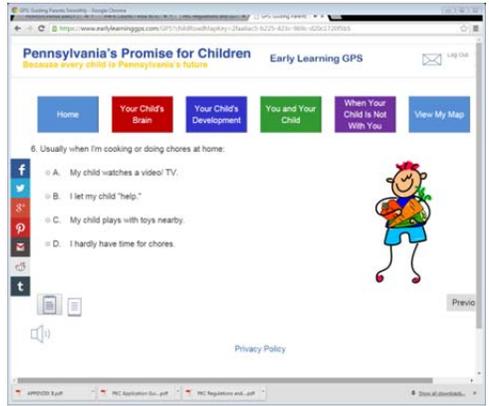


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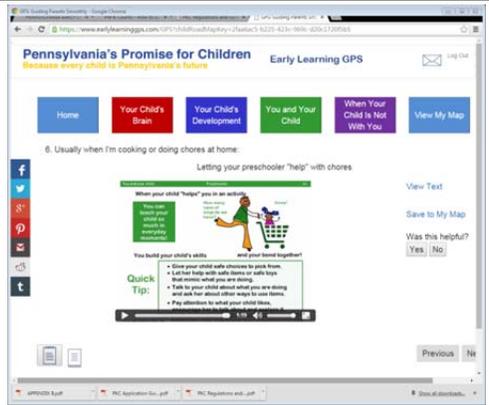
You can also click “next” to check the resources and ask families what resources they find most interesting.



Move to question 6, which talks about activities families can do in their daily lives to build children's skills

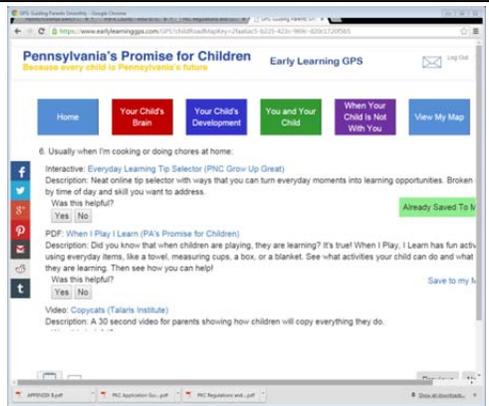


As a group, answer question 6 and watch the tip.



Talk about your answer, why you picked that answer, what you learned from the tip and what questions they have.

You can also click “next” to check the resources and ask families what resources they find most interesting.



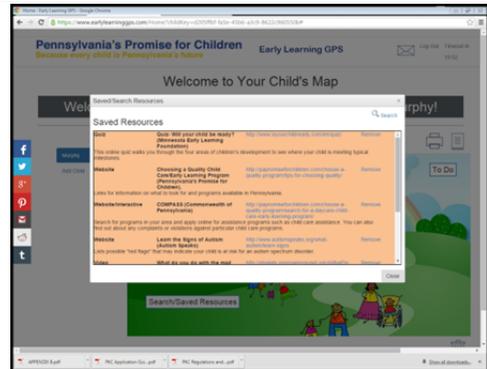
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## Possible homework assignments for Exercise 3

1. Ask families to complete the additional questions in “You and Your Child” and save the tips and resources they like to their child’s map.



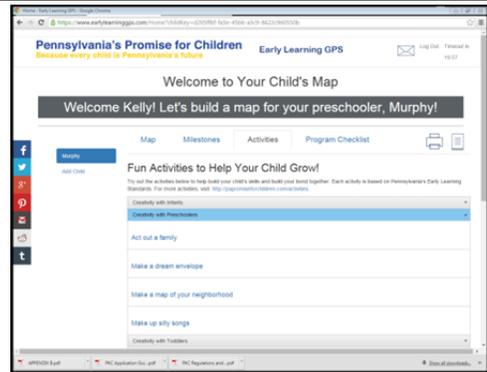
2. Families can also select their favorite resource, save to their child’s map, and talk about what they learned from that resource in your next meeting.



3. Ask families to visit the Activities Tab in their child’s map and select an activity to try with their child. They can choose activities by the skill they address and the child’s age.

Ask families to report back how the activity went. Did they do anything different because of what they learned from the tips? What did they do differently?

They can also upload a photo of the child and family doing the activity to their child’s map.



4. Question 8 includes the “Be Your Child’s Champion” worksheets at <http://papromiseforchildren.com/help-your-child-grow/be-your-childs-champion/> to prepare to talk to your child’s doctor, teacher, or another family.

You can use these worksheets to help families prepare for their first conversations with their child’s kindergarten teacher. They can review the example on communicating with your child care provider before completing the “My Thoughts” portion of the worksheet.



**Questions? Feedback? How did it go?**

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