



Take a Tour of OWL

Introduction

This guide discusses how Opening the World of Learning for Texas, 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 for Texas 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.

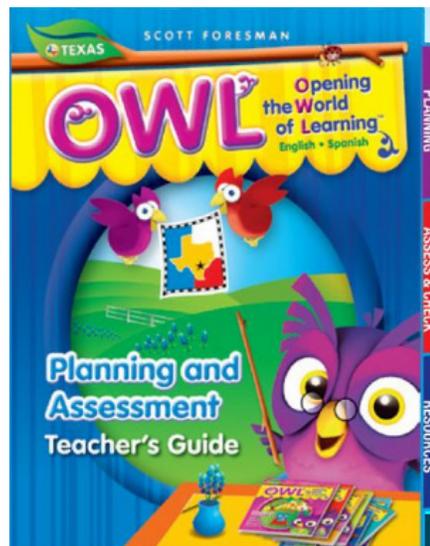
The language and vocabulary development, rich questions, content, and personalized instruction help children develop a foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond. Every part of the school day is an opportunity for teaching and learning.

OWL is Purposeful

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

PATG

The helpful Texas OWL Planning and Assessment Teacher's Guide provides teachers with a program overview. Find planning support, assessment tools, forms and checklists. Assessment tools are designed to help ensure that Texas Outcomes are covered so that students are ready for Kindergarten.



Also 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 Texas OWL 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. Texas Outcomes are listed for every lesson in the Teacher's Guide.



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.

Set Up Your Centers								Push and Pull
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 learn and explore through educational computer games.	Children create and model stories, events, and experiences at a pretend playgroup.	Children identify, beginning letters and sounds and practice building words.	Children draw and label designs for new playgrounds.	Children measure toys at different angles.	Children identify things that are and aren't the same, all, and discuss how the activity relates to solving for an answer.	Children make bird feeders to use and observe using force in the environment.	Children create and then compare whose height is longer.
LEARNING SKILLS	Media and Technology Social & Emotional • Open and explore software programs • Use and share computer devices • Show initiative and effort to solve problems	Brenneth Expressions Social & Emotional • Create experiences through dramatic play • Demonstrate quality play interactions • Show initiative and effort to solve problems	Alphabet Knowledge Self-Regulation • Recognize at least 20 letter sounds • Produce the correct sounds for at least 10 letters • Use some of these materials	Writing Self-Regulation • Use letters to make words or parts of words • Manage classroom materials	Measurement Social & Emotional • Recognize and compare things by length and weight of people or objects • Recognize how tools can be placed within an object • Show initiative, effort, and self-abilities and variations	Sort-It-Out Science Self-Regulation • Develops fine-motor skills • Take care of classroom materials	Art Social & Emotional • Use art materials and activities for sensory exploration • Use art as a form of self-expression and representation	Compare Social & Emotional • Recognize and compare things by height of people or objects • Make predictions using strategies and ask adult help
Materials and Preparation	Children use educational computer games on CD-ROM	Art • pictures of playgrounds	Art • Letter Cards and Magnets • Letters: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	Art • construction paper • writing tools such as pencils, crayons, and markers	Art • ribbon/tape • folded balance • measuring tapes • measuring cups, measuring spoons, measuring pitchers • yardstick • color cubes	Art • Paper Cups of things that are and aren't the same • construction material like clay, Play-Doh, Knead-It, clay, Knead-It, Adhik, clay, etc. • compass, markers, pencils • small cups of different heights • weights • science markers, pencils • science tape	Art • sticks	

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.

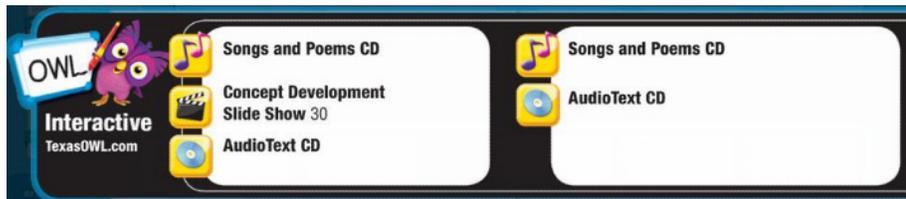
OWL is Personalized

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 for Texas 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.