

# The Pennsylvania Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI)

## What is the KEI?

The KEI is a reliable reporting tool that offers teachers an instructional strategy for understanding and tracking students' proficiency at kindergarten entry.

Based on Pennsylvania's Learning Standards for Early Childhood, the KEI includes a comprehensive set of 30 standards-based indicators, which provide practical instructional and continuous quality improvement benefits for teachers, schools, and communities.

## How does it work?

In the first month and a half of school, the teacher will observe students during regular classroom activities and jot down his/her skill levels based on Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards.

The Kindergarten Entry Inventory is NOT a test! It is a reliable way to understand student's skill levels, and to reflect on teaching practices, school policies, and community needs.

## Why should I implement the PA KEI?

Children enter kindergarten with diverse experiences, and they will grow and learn so much in their kindergarten year.

The PA KEI is designed to provide teachers, schools, districts, and community's information to understand children's unique talents, interests, and needs.



**The KEI is not validated for high stakes uses, such as comparing teachers, classrooms, schools, or pre-kindergarten programs.**

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## Communities use KEI data to:

**Reflect on the shared needs of school and community programs, such as:**

- Preschools
- Families
- Libraries
- Social and family support services
- Other community organizations serving children from birth through age five

**Some possible shared needs of school and community programs may include:**

- Access to high quality preschool experiences
- Professional development among leaders and staff of community organizations
- Resources about quality early learning and child skill development at the family, school, and community levels
- Information on available family support services throughout the community
- Protocols for community organizations to share ownership of the overall “learning readiness” levels of children from birth through kindergarten entry

## Teachers use KEI data to:

- Gain a holistic understanding of each child and groups of children
- Understand and address each child’s strengths and areas for improvement
- Improve instructional practices
- Inform and engage families

## Schools use KEI data to:

- Reflect on classroom practices and structures
- Inform the professional development needs of teachers
- Improve instructional practices
- Improve teacher reliability of assessment scores
- Develop next steps toward school improvement
- Understand preschool attendance patterns



For more information visit  
[www.kei-pa.org](http://www.kei-pa.org)  
or contact  
[RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov)