



Early Childhood Lead Agency Collaboration
December 2016 – Session 3

Collaborating to Align PreK and Kindergarten

principal
kindergarten
connect
prek bridge school
partner align happy
success children
community
teachers parents
readiness

Collaborating to Align PreK and Kindergarten

Session Purpose:

- Help the Department explore the existing relationship between preK and kindergarten in our schools
- Help the Department understand preK and kindergarten from a district leader's perspective

Session Objective:

- Participants will discuss their experience with preK and kindergarten classes in their districts and assist the Department with identifying potential collaboration opportunities for the two grades.

The Department needs your help to explore the current relationship between preK and kindergarten in our schools and plan for future collaboration.

Discussion Topic 1

Think about the basic characteristics of the preK and kindergarten classes in your district.

- ❖ How many preK and kindergarten classes are there?
- ❖ Are preK and kindergarten both always located on a campus?
- ❖ Are there similarities or differences in the way that teachers arrange preK and kindergarten rooms?
- ❖ Are there similarities or differences in staffing and scheduling for preK and kindergarten classes?
- ❖ Are there any other significant similarities or differences?

Discussion Topic 2

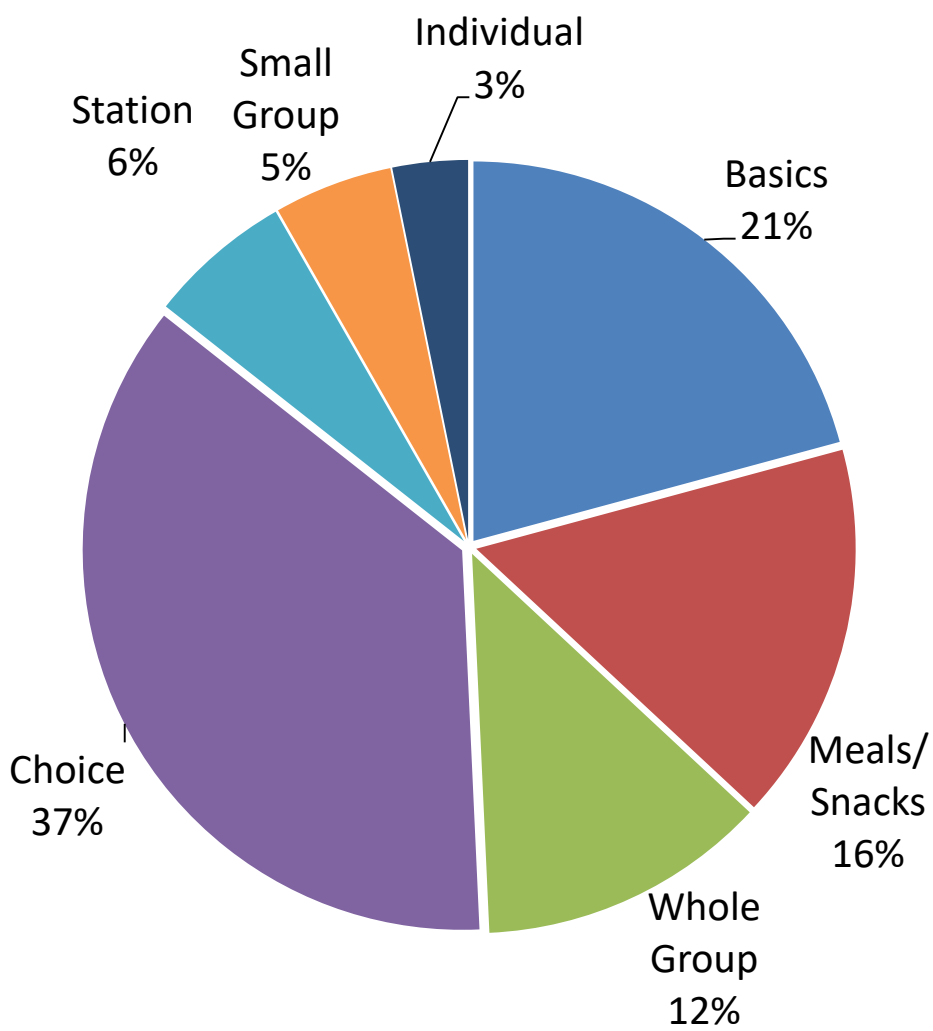
Consider the learning experience for preK and kindergarten children.

- ❖ What do you think is different for children when they transition from home or a small childcare center to preK class at your schools? When they move from the preK 4 program to kindergarten at your schools?
- ❖ What are the efforts undertaken in your district to support these transitions?
- ❖ Do these transitions provide an opportunity for preK and kindergarten teachers to collaborate?
- ❖ Do schools in your district collaborate with private preschools or Head Start to support transition to preK?

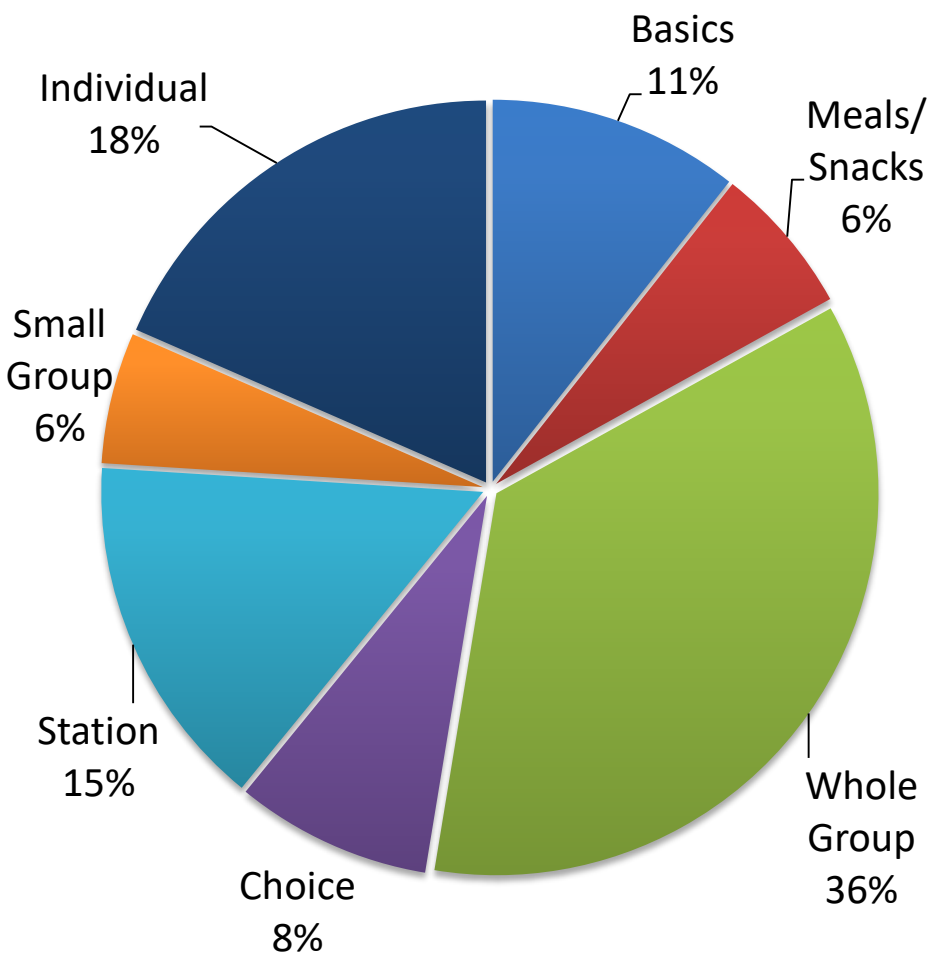
FirstSchool Snapshot

Ritchie, Weiser, Mason, Holland & Howes, 2010

PreK Activity



Kindergarten Activity



Discussion Topic 3

Think about possible collaboration opportunities for preK and kindergarten teachers and how this might benefit the children they teach.

- ❖ Do your preK teachers have a clear understanding of the kindergarten experience and expectations? If not, how can this be addressed?
- ❖ Do your kindergarten teachers have a clear understanding of the preschool experience and expectations? If not, how can this be addressed?
- ❖ Is it/would it be helpful for preschool and kindergarten teachers to work together to improve the learning experience for the children in their classes?

Closing Questions

- ❖ What did you hear today that you want to follow up on?
- ❖ Is there someone in this session that you plan to contact?
- ❖ What can the Department do to support your efforts to partner preK and kindergarten teachers?