# Introducing the New AEPS<sup>®</sup>-3 **Ready-Set**



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# **Objectives**

- Understand current research about the transition to kindergarten
- Discover the purpose and goals of AEPS-3 Ready-Set
- Learn how and when to use Ready-Set
- Hear about research conducted on **Ready-Set**



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#### What Do We Know about Transition?

Transition practices are important for academic adjustment at kindergarten (Cook & Coley, 2017).



#### What Do We Know? (Cont.)

• Social-emotional competency predicts emergent literacy performance (Curby et al., 2015).

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- Executive functions predict preacademic skills (Shaul & Schwartz, 2014)
  - Phonological awareness
  - Mathematics
  - Orthographic knowledge



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#### NCEDL



## **NCEDL Key Findings**

- Most common are group-oriented practices at the beginning of the year (not individualized)
- Less prevalent in urban schools and/or schools in higher poverty areas

(Early et al., 2001)

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# **Franction from Preschool to Kindergarten**Best transition practices are individualized (Early et al., 2001) Start early Use authentic assessment practices to create developmental and learning goals for children Partner with families



#### **Ready-Set**

- Brief assessment and progress monitoring measure
- Emphasizes skills essential for school readiness and early school success
- 40 developmentally and academically challenging goals from AEPS-3 Test





#### **Ready-Set**

#### Goals from all 8 areas

- Fine Motor-2
- Gross Motor-3
- Adaptive-2
- Social-Emotional–8
- Social-Communication-3
- Cognitive-6
- Literacy-10
- Math-6

#### Example goals

- 2. Holds writing tool using three-finger grasp to write or draw
- 6. Uses culturally appropriate social dining skills
- 8. Maintains cooperative activity
- 12. Resolves conflicts using negotiation
- 16. Uses language to initiate and sustain social interaction
- 29. Names all uppercase and lowercase letters of alphabet
- 36. Reads and writes numerals for quantities up to 5

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#### Ready-Set FACS

- Ready-Set Family Assessment of Child Skills
- Form for family to complete
- Collects information about child's developmental skills
- Information useful for selecting goals for child
- Available in English and Spanish on AEPS-3 Forms USB

	Ready-Set				
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## **Ready-Set FACS**

- Questions for all 8 areas, plus openended questions
- Space for 3 time periods
- Can be completed independently by parents or with program staff

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#### **Ready-Set Assessment Activities**

- Set of assessment activities available for observation of up to 5 children
   4 center-based
  - Book Time
  - Dramatic Play
  - Outdoor Play
  - Store
  - 3 home-based
    - Book Time
    - Counting Precious Objects & Snack
    - Outdoor Play

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ocial-Emotional							
Independent and Group Participe							
2. Interacts appropriately with others d							3
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1. Meets observable physical reads in: Ready-S	et CENTER	R-BASED ASS	ESSMENT ACT	IVITY			
3. Fullows content-specific rules	door ]	Dlorr					
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# Quick Reference Guide



- On-the-go guide with all Ready-Set items and criteria in clear, convenient format
- Helpful reference as users observe children and administer the tool
- Included in AEPS-3 Quick Reference Guide set (English only) and on AEPS-3 Forms USB (English and Spanish)

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#### **Skills Matrix**

	AEPS-3 Curriculum Routine/Activity																
AEPS-3 Test Item	Active & Outdoor Flay	Arrivel & Departure	Ârt	Beth Time	Block Flay	Circle Time	Dispering, Toileting, & Hendweshing	Dramatic Play	Dressing	Field Trips	Meth	Meels & Snecks	Music & Movement	Nap & Sleep	Science	Sensory	
1.9 Pigus near one or two peers 1931.as Child pays near one or two peers in presence of familiar adult (e.g., child plays with Lagos in proximity of teacher reaching a story to a peer). Pill 1.3b Child downers peers or siblings (e.g., child watches older sibling playing with friend). Pill 1.3c Child entertains self by playing appropriately with tops.	B	B			8			B		B	B		8			B	
<ol> <li>Plans and acts out recognizable event, theme, or storyline in imaginary play PS 2a Child uses action associated with common object, but object is absent; focus of child's play is on action rather than imaginary object (e.g., child kicks imaginary ball, east imaginary cookk, throws imaginary ball).</li> </ol>	R			R	R			R	8								
2.1 Enacts roles or identifies in imaginary play. TB 2:6: ACId mastr typical action of familiar character or animal by using real object associated with character or animal (a), child is in haby brother's char and pretends to cy, child take an other's leys and pretends to go by bo-bya). 189: 2:16 Child emacts imaginary events related to daily routine activities (e.g., child pretends to leye on bed, child from empty cup).	R			R	R			R	8								
2.2 Uses imaginary props in play FS 2.2s Child uses imaginary objects in play.	R			R	R			R	R	R							Ī
3. Maintains cooperative activity	6		R		R			R	R	R							
3.1 Initiates cooperative activity	G		G		G			6	G	G							ī
3.2 Joins others in cooperative activity	G		6		6			6	G	G							
3.3 Shares or exchanges objects			6		G			6		G	G		G		G		ī
4. Maintains engagement in games with rules	R							R		R	R	R	R				
4.1 Knows and follows game rules	R							R		R	R	R	R				
4.2 Participates in game	R			R				R		R	R		R				í

- Skills matrix for each AEPS-3 area aligns items to routines and activities across 3 curriculum levels
- Ready-Set items are identified with yellow arrow

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#### What Do Parents Need to Know?

- Emotional impact on children
  - Listen to the child's worries
  - Notice nonverbal messages
  - Talk about expectations
- Adjustment period
  - Can be smooth or overwhelming
  - Adjusting to new people



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#### How Can Parents Help Their Children Transition?

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- Reaching out
  - Attend open houses and orientations
- Support learning
  - Incorporate practices at home of common tasks
- Creating routines
  - To provide a safe structure at home
  - To practice routines that they will be taking part in

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#### **Research Studies To Date**

- Stevenson, W. A. (2019). *Examining school readiness*. [Unpublished Doctoral dissertation]. University of Kentucky.
- Macy, M., Pool, J., Chen, C-I., Rusiana, T-A., & Sawyer, M. (2021). A preliminary examination of a kindergarten school readiness assessment. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. Advance online publication. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-021-01237-7</u>







# Stevenson (2019): Study #2 Study purposes: Examine field users' agreement on the scoring, item and criteria, and usefulness of AEPS-3 Ready-Set for its intended purposes (utility) Participants: 4 kindergarten teachers in Kentucky

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#### Stevenson (2019): Study #2

- Findings:
  - Most participants agreed that the goals are functional and teachable.

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- Most participants agreed that the goals and the criteria are easy to understand.
- Most of the participants agreed that the scoring and scoring notes are clear and easy to understand.
- Most participants agreed that AEPS-3 Ready-Set:
  - Can be easily administered in school setting
  - Provide useful information for summarizing individual child strengths in school readiness
  - Provide useful information for monitoring school readiness skills
  - Scoring notes provide useful information

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#### Macy et al. (2021) Study purposes: • To examine the agreement of child skill levels across developmental areas as measured by Ready-Set and FACS • To obtain teachers' evaluations of selected utility features of Ready-Set • Participants: 32 teachers across 5 private Montessori schools in Florida and Idaho completed AEPS-3 Ready-Set on 37 children, and the utility survey 37 parents completed the FACS on their children • Mixed-age classrooms (3- to 6-year-olds) AEPS®-3 is a registered trademark of and OODS3 is owned by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. ©2021 All rights reserved

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#### Macy et al. (2021) • Findings: • A robust correlation between parents' and teachers' ratings on total area scores Modest agreements on individual items Teachers reported that they considered Ready-Set a userfriendly tool that provided relevant information on children's readiness skills AEPS\*-3 is a registered trademark of and OCOS3 is owned by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. ©2021 All rights reserved 32

















