Part 2

Using *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® Online

Now that you know how ongoing assessment helps us support your child's development and learning, we want to introduce you to *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online, where you will have access to rich information about your child's development and learning. Being online makes it easy for us to share observation notes, pictures, and other meaningful information with you. Whenever you access *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online, you create an opportunity to be right there with us in the classroom! We hope you take some time to explore and learn about all the exciting features of the system.

This section of the guide walks you through all the features available to families. You will see screenshots alongside descriptive text that will guide you through online navigation. Part 2 consists of

Getting Started: how to log in to *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online (page 16);

Sharing Documentation: how to view documentation we have shared and create documentation of your own (page 20);

Communicating: how to review messages and access reports (page 22);

Activities: how to access developmentally appropriate activities that you can use at home (page 27); and

Accessing the Support and Resources Library: how to access support articles and how-to videos (page 29).

You can also learn about *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online through these online videos.

Getting Started

Your "golden ticket" to *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online arrives in an e-mail invitation. Here is how you can accept the invitation and set up your account:

• When you receive the e-mail invitation, click the Web site link in the body of the message, which will take you to the Accept this Invitation screen:
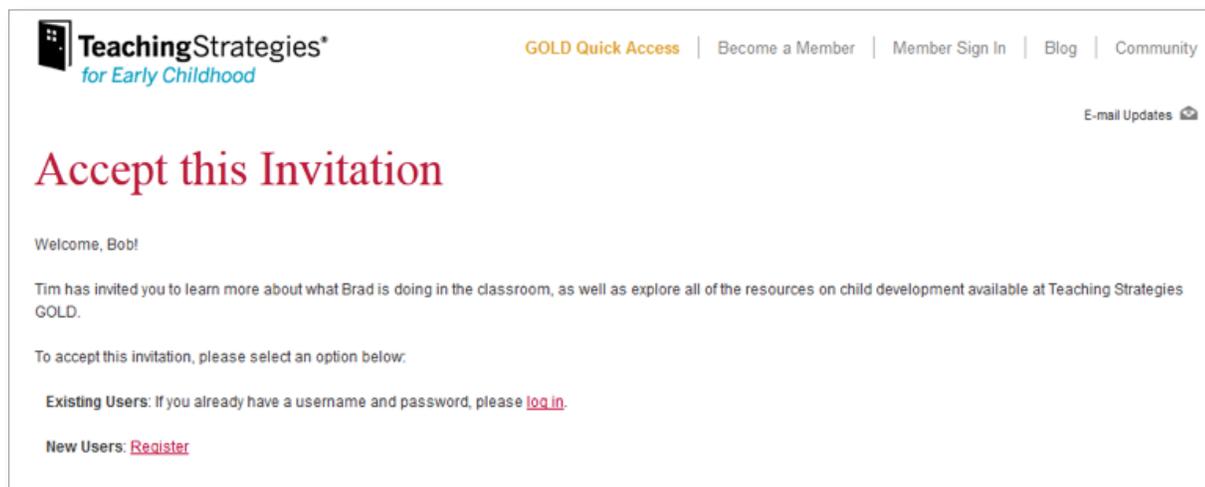
- To set up an account with TeachingStrategies.com, click the "Register" link next to "New Users."

- Create a username and password, set up three security questions, and provide other personal information.

- If you already have an account with TeachingStrategies.com, click the "log in" link near "Existing Users."
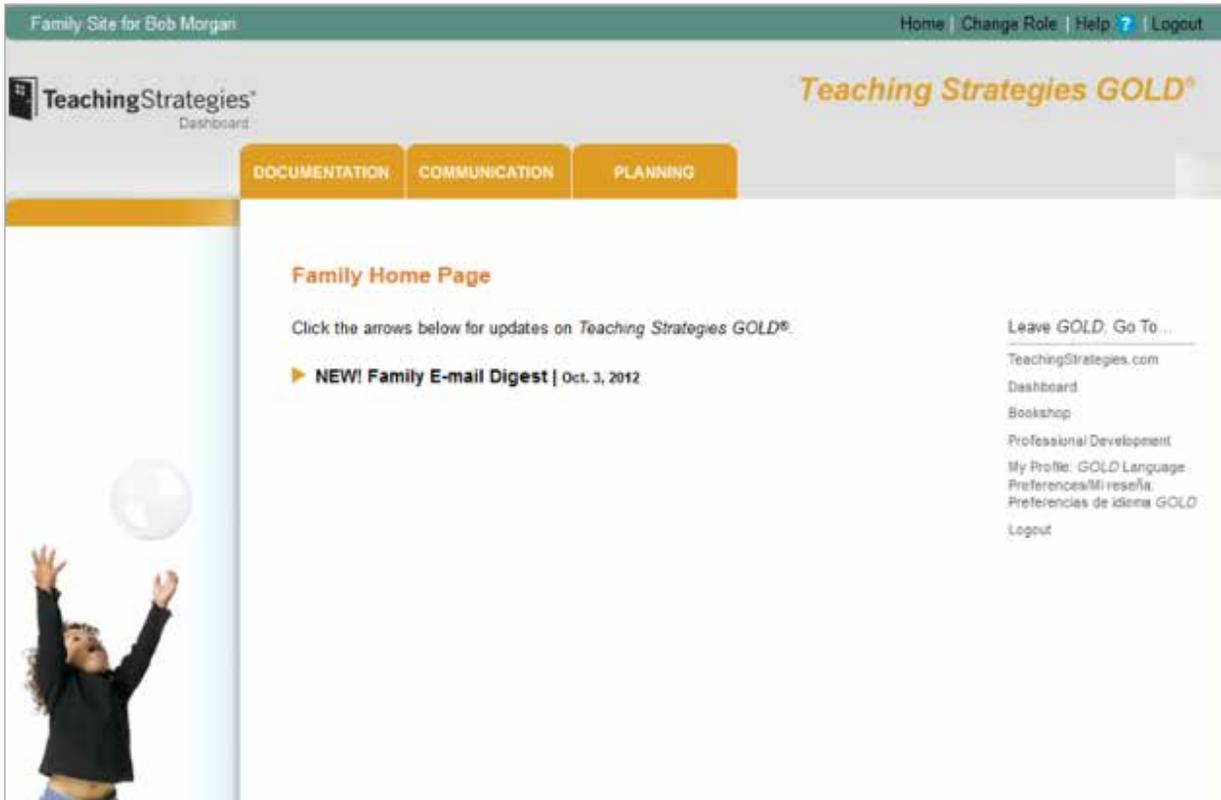

Once you have set up your account, you will be able to return to *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* online:

- Visit TeachingStrategies.com.

- Click   **GOLD Quick Access**   at the top of the screen:
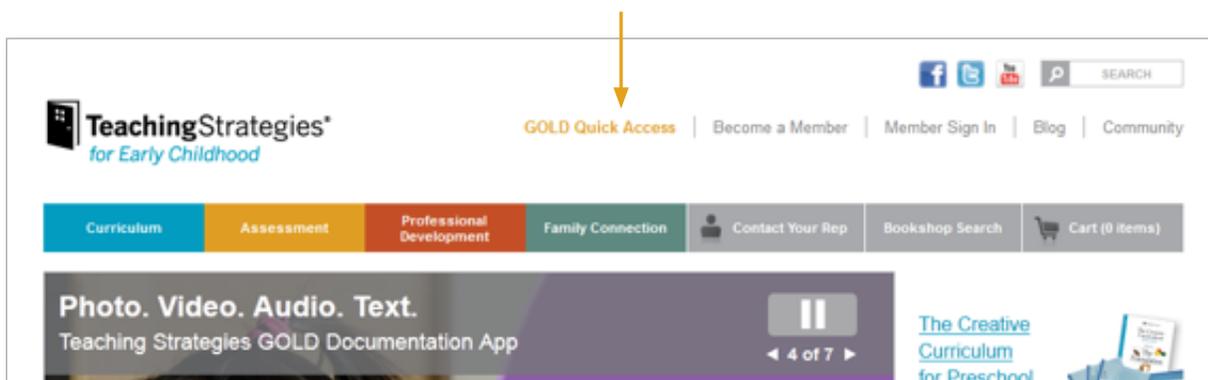
Logging in with your username and password will take you to the *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* online Family Home Page.

The Family Home Page

- Find updates listed in bold under "Family Home Page."

- Click **Help ?** to access the Support and Resources Library.

- Click **TeachingStrategies® Dashboard** to access the Teaching Strategies member Dashboard to update your profile.

- Place your cursor on **DOCUMENTATION** **COMMUNICATION** or **PLANNING** to access shared information from teachers or to add observation notes of your own.

- Click **Home** to return to the Family Home Page from any screen.

- Click **Logout** to log out of *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* online.

Teaching Strategies Member Dashboard

The Dashboard is where you can manage your online account settings.

- Click **MARKETPLACE** to track orders placed on TeachingStrategies.com.

- Click **COMMUNITIES** to communicate with other TeachingStrategies.com users by adding your own posts or commenting on other users' posts in our online community.

- Place your cursor on **MY PROFILE** to access the options for updating your account information. You can update your personal information, limit the e-mails you receive from Teaching Strategies, set your preferred language to English or Spanish, reset your password, reset your security questions, or change your username.

Under the **MY PROFILE** tab, select **Edit My Profile** and scroll down to "GOLD Preferences":

Select [ ] **Yes** to receive only one daily e-mail alerting you to shared documentation instead of receiving an e-mail every time documentation is shared.

Select [ ] **Spanish** to set your preferred language for *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* online to Spanish. The default choice is **English**.

Click **GOLD** to return to *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* online.

GOLD Preferences

Family Members: Receive any shared documentation or messages from your child's teacher in one daily e-mail digest.

[ ] Yes   [•] No

Select language preference for viewing the *GOLD* Site.

[•] English   [ ] Spanish

[Submit]

Sharing Documentation

Sharing your own observations of your child helps us learn more about your child's development and learning. Place your cursor on **DOCUMENTATION** to reveal the following options:

Add Documentation: enter observation notes or upload pictures or videos.

View Documentation: view your own notes, pictures, or videos or those that we have shared with you.

Search Documentation: search for specific notes, pictures, or videos by date observed or keyword.

Forms: view forms that contain information we have collected about your child's alphabet, number, and shape recognition.

Adding Documentation

- Select your child under **Identify Children**.

- Select the date that the note, picture, or video took place under **Date**.

- If you are adding a note, type it into the text box under **Notes**.

- If you are adding a picture, video, or another type of media file, click **BROWSE** to upload the file from your computer.

- Click **SAVE** to add your documentation.

- We will have instant access to the documentation that you add to the system.

Viewing Documentation

- Select **Action ▼** to **View** documentation that we have shared with you or to **View**, **Edit**, or **Delete** documentation that you have added. (*Note: you will receive an e-mail and a message in Teaching Strategies GOLD® online when documentation is shared with you.*)

- Click **Print** to print documentation.

- Click **PDF** to save documentation to your computer as a PDF file.

Searching Documentation

- Search for your favorite documentation by **Keyword**, **Date Observed**, **Children**, and/or **Author**.

Forms

- When we share access to the "Alphabet Knowledge," "Spanish Alphabet Knowledge," "Number Concepts," or "Shapes" forms, you will be able to access them by selecting the name of the form from the **DOCUMENTATION** tab.

- These forms show the date when your child was observed recognizing, writing, or making connections to various letters, numbers, and shapes.

	Recognizes Letters		Writes Letters		Letter-Sound Connection
	Uppercase	Lowercase	Uppercase	Lowercase	
A	10/11/2010	11/11/2010	11/11/2010	11/11/2010	10/12/2010
B	10/08/2010	10/20/2010	10/20/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010
C	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010
D	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010
E	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	10/08/2010	
F					

Communicating

Staying in touch with us about your child's development and learning helps create a more complete picture of your child's progress and builds a strong home–school partnership. Place your cursor on **COMMUNICATION** to reveal the following options:

Compose Message: send us messages and/or pictures and videos.

View Messages: browse all messages sent to and from us.
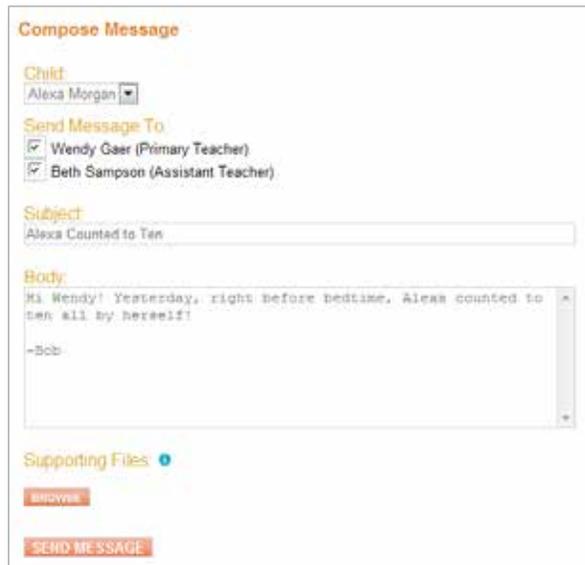
Search Messages: look for specific messages.

Family Conference Forms: view any shared conference forms.

Development & Learning Reports: view any shared outcome reports.

Calendar: view any upcoming classroom and/or school events.

Composing Messages

- Select your **Child**, and under **Send Message To** choose the teacher(s) to whom you are sending the message.

- Add a **Subject**.

- Type your message into the box under **Body**.

- Click **BROWSE** to add a picture, video, or other media file.

- Click **SEND MESSAGE** when you are ready to send.
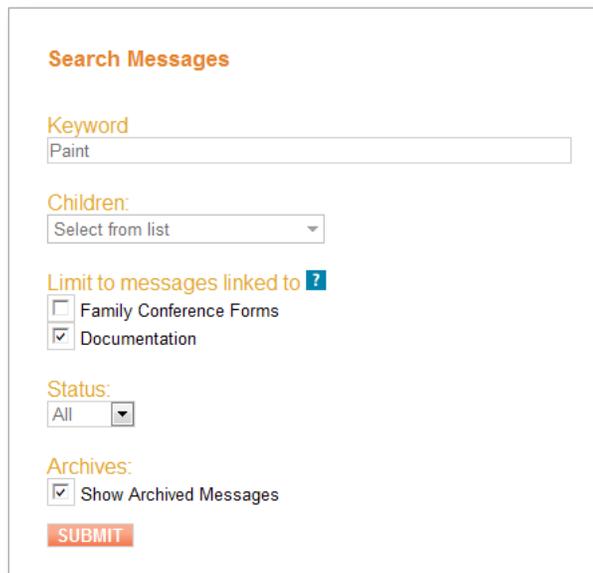
Viewing Messages

- Select **Action ▼** to **View/Reply** to a message, or to **Archive** a message.

- Use the options under **Change View ▼** to narrow your search.

Searching Messages

Search for your favorite messages by **Keyword**, **Children**, whether the messages are linked to **Family Conference Forms** or **Documentation**, **Status**, and **Archives** status.

The "Family Conference Form"

In preparation for a conference, we may share a "Family Conference Form" that you can review prior to the meeting. You will be able to access the form by clicking "View" next to the conference date. *(Note: you will receive an e-mail and a message in* Teaching Strategies GOLD® *online when a form is shared with you.)*

Family Conference Forms for Alexa Morgan

Date	Action
10/19/2012	View
11/16/2010	View

- Your child's growing abilities are listed on the form alongside observation notes in the "Describe this child's strengths..." sections of the form.

- The "Plan for this child's development & learning" section includes some of the ways we can support your child's development and learning together. Additional strategies will be discussed and added during the conference.

- Click Print to print the form.

- Click PDF to save the form to your computer as a PDF file.

◄ Back to Family Conference Forms   Change View ▾ Print PDF

Family Conference Form for Alexa Morgan

Date: 10/19/2012   **Child's Name:** Alexa Morgan
Family Member(s): Bob Morgan   **Teacher(s):** Wendy Gaer

Describe this child's strengths in social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development:

- Alexa and another child read a book together. Josie held the book the right way and turned the pages correctly. Jenny was asking questions as Josie explain some of the pages.

- Alexa colored and said, "look at my red dots!"

Is beginning to hold drawing and writing tools by using a three-point finger grip but may hold the instrument too close to one end

Responds appropriately to specific vocabulary and simple statements, questions, and stories

Follows simple requests not accompanied by gestures

Engages in conversations of at least three exchanges

Uses acceptable language and social rules while communicating with others; may need reminders

Sustains work on age-appropriate, interesting tasks; can ignore most distractions and interruptions

Is beginning to plan and pursue a variety of appropriately challenging tasks

Describe this child's strengths learning literacy and math.

Matches beginning sounds of some words

Is beginning to identify and name 11-20 upper- and 11-20 lowercase letters when presented in random order

Pretends to read, reciting language that closely matches the text on each page and using reading-like intonation

Plan for this child's development & learning:

Support Alexa to:

- Begin to sustain attention to tasks or projects over time (days to weeks); return to activities after interruptions
- Describe and tell the use of many familiar items

Teacher(s) Signature(s): _____   Family Member(s) Signature(s): _____

The "Development and Learning Report"

The "Development and Learning Report" summarizes your child's progress. When we share a "Development and Learning Report," you will be able to access it by clicking "View" next to the report date.

Development and Learning Reports

Child	Date of report	
Alexa Morgan	January 24, 2013	View

Teaching Strategies GOLD® **Development and Learning Report**

Date: 1/24/2013
Child: Alexa Morgan
Area of Development and Learning: Language
Period: Spring 2011/2012

This report highlights your child's strengths in particular areas of development and learning.

Currently, Alexa:	Recommended Activity
Responds appropriately to specific vocabulary and simple statements, questions, and stories	ABC Song (View Other Activities)
Follows directions of two or more steps that relate to familiar objects and experiences	Action! (View Other Activities)
Is beginning to describe and tell the use of many familiar items	Being Kind to Our Pet (View Other Activities)
Is understood by most people; may mispronounce new, long, or unusual words	Our Class Book (View Other Activities)
Is beginning to use three- to four-word sentences; may omit some words or use some words incorrectly	Yes or No Sounds
Is beginning to tell stories about other times and places that have a logical order and that include major details	"All About Me" Books (View Other Activities)
Engages in conversations of at least three exchanges	Backhoes, Dump Trucks, and Front-End Loaders (View Other Activities)
Is beginning to use acceptable language and social rules while communicating with others; may need reminders	Conversations (View Other Activities)

Next Alexa will:

- Begin to respond appropriately to complex statements, questions, vocabulary, and stories
- Begin to follow detailed, instructional, multistep directions
- Describe and tell the use of many familiar items
- Begin to pronounce multisyllabic or unusual words correctly
- Use three- to four-word sentences; may omit some words or use some words incorrectly
- Tell stories about other times and places that have a logical order and that include major details
- Begin to engage in complex, lengthy conversations (five or more exchanges)
- Use acceptable language and social rules while communicating with others; may need reminders

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For each area of development and learning, your child's current knowledge, skills, and behaviors are listed under "Currently, [your child's name]." When we share activities, you will be able to access those by clicking the link under "Recommended Activity." Your child's next knowledge, skills, and behaviors are listed under "Next [your child's name] will."

Calendar

We can place classroom events or meetings on your *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online calendar.

- Select the event on the calendar to access more information.

Newsletter

Every week or month, we will e-mail you a newsletter. This newsletter will keep you informed of the current classroom study topic or focus, and will contain information about upcoming events.

Activities

One of the most exciting features of the Family Site is keeping up with what is happening in your child's classroom and having access to activities you can use with your child at home. Place your cursor on **PLANNING** to reveal the following options:

Weekly Planning Forms: view weekly classroom plans that we have shared with you.

Activities: view and search through activities that we have shared with you.

The "Weekly Planning Form"

If we share a "Weekly Planning Form," you will be able to access it by clicking "View" next to the form name. This is a great way for you to see what has been happening in the classroom.

View Weekly Planning Forms for Alexa Morgan

Study / Project / Focus	Week	
Buildings	03/18/2013	View
Buildings	03/11/2013	View

- The date and study topic/project name are listed at the top of the form.

- Below each day of the week are the different events of the day.

- Click the name of an activity in orange to access its family version.

Weekly Planning Form

Week of: Mar 18, 2013   **Study/Project**: Buildings   **Teacher(s)**: Wendy Gaer, Beth Sampson

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Interest Areas	Blocks: foam blocks Dramatic Play: Construction hats Toys & Games: blocks Library: Add Books about Buildings Sand & Water: boats Outdoors: inflatable balls	Blocks: foam blocks Toys & Games: blocks Library: Add Books about Buildings Sand & Water: boats Outdoors: inflatable balls	Blocks: foam blocks Toys & Games: blocks Art: Construction Materials Library: Add Books about Buildings Sand & Water: boats Outdoors: inflatable balls	Blocks: foam blocks Toys & Games: blocks Library: Add Books about Buildings Sand & Water: boats Outdoors: inflatable balls	Blocks: foam blocks Toys & Games: blocks Library: Add Books about Buildings Sand & Water: boats Outdoors: inflatable balls
Large Group	• Hello Song **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** None	• Building Responsibility **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 1b, 3a, 8b, 9a, 11b, 12b, 29, 1c, S8b, S9a • Reading to Share **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 2a, 2c, 3a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11a, 12b, 17b, 18a, 29, 1c, S8a, S9a, S10a, S17b, S18a	• Hello Song **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** None • Reading to Share **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 2a, 2c, 3a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11a, 12b, 17b, 18a, 29, 1c, S8a, S9a, S10a, S17b, S18a	• Active Listening **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 1a, 2c, 3b, 8a, S8a	• Active Listening **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 1a, 2c, 3b, 8a, S8a • Hello Song **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** None
Small Group	• Getting To Know You **Description:** Describe the activity... **Notes:** Make sure you have the CD ready	• Look at My Day **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 1a, 2a, 9d, 9b, 9a, 10a, 12a, 29,	• Getting To Know You **Description:** Describe the activity... **Notes:** Make sure you have the CD ready	• Getting To Know You **Description:** Describe the activity... **Notes:** Make sure you have the CD ready	• Look at My Day **Notes:** **Objectives / Dimensions:** 1a, 2a, 9d, 9b, 9a, 10a, 12a, 29,

Shared Activities

Teaching Strategies GOLD® online offers a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities that help children develop the skills and knowledge related to all the objectives for development and learning. When we share an activity, you will be able to access it by clicking "View" next to the activity name.

Shared Activities for Alexa Morgan

Activity	Action
B-I-N-G-O	View
Building Responsibility	View
Here's the Plan	View
Simon Says	View

Each selected activity is designed to address your child's knowledge and skills.

- Click Print to print the form.

- Click PDF to save the form to your computer as a PDF file.

You can use the search feature to browse all activities by clicking View All Activities, or search for specific activities by typing in the name of the activity under **Keyword**.
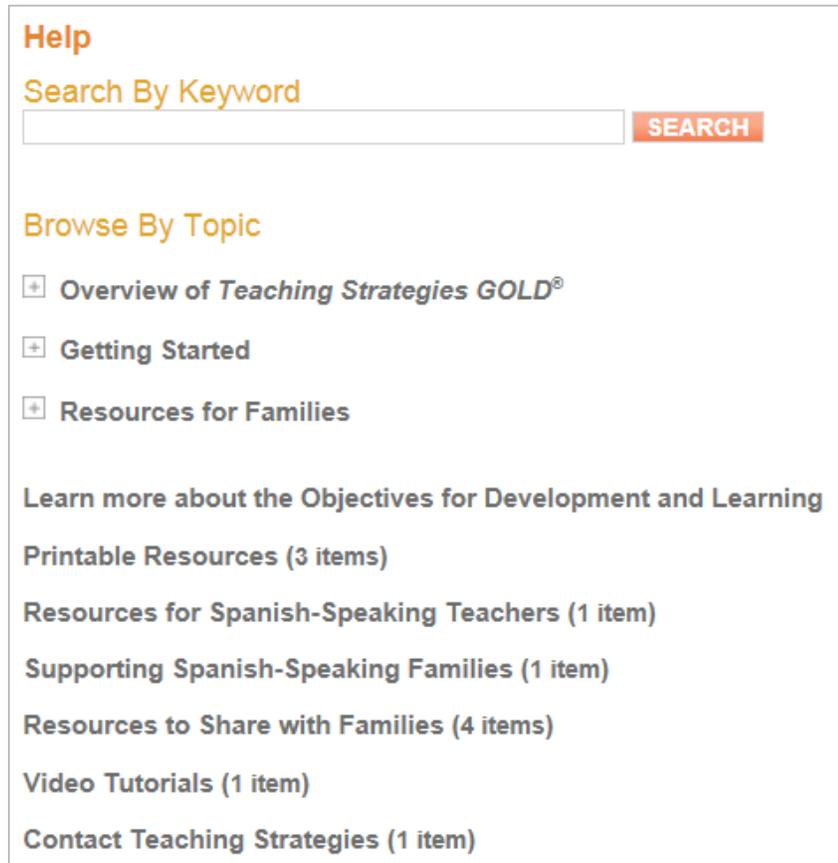
Activity Library Search

View All Activities

To limit your results, use the form below.

Keyword

SUBMIT

Accessing the Support and Resources Library

In the Support and Resources Library, you will find videos that explain how to navigate the online system, as well as articles and support documents. Family members can access the library from any screen in *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online by clicking [Help ?] in the top right corner of their screen. The library will then appear in a pop-up window:

Help

Search By Keyword

[_____] [SEARCH]

Browse By Topic

⊞ **Overview of *Teaching Strategies GOLD*®**

⊞ **Getting Started**

⊞ **Resources for Families**

Learn more about the Objectives for Development and Learning

Printable Resources (3 items)

Resources for Spanish-Speaking Teachers (1 item)

Supporting Spanish-Speaking Families (1 item)

Resources to Share with Families (4 items)

Video Tutorials (1 item)

Contact Teaching Strategies (1 item)

- Click ⊞ next to the topics under **Browse By Topic** to view additional support items:

  - "Overview of *Teaching Strategies GOLD*®" provides more information about the topics explained in part 1 of this guide.

  - "Getting Started" gives you navigation resources.

  - "Resources for Families" includes articles written by early childhood experts.

- "Learn More about the Objectives for Development and Learning" is where you can listen to audio clips or watch video clips about how your child's teacher uses *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online.

- "Video Tutorials" offers a video tutorial on how to use the online features available to families.

- "Contact Teaching Strategies" is the best way for you to get in touch with a support representative who can help you with any technical questions or problems.

- Use the **Search By Keyword** feature to find any of the resources on this site.

Conclusion

We hope *A Family Guide to* Teaching Strategies GOLD® has answered your questions about what your child is learning and how we use ongoing assessment to support your child's development and learning. Your involvement in this process—sharing your own observations of your child and reviewing the observations we share with you—will give all of us a richer and more accurate picture of your child's
growing abilities. The resources you have access to will help you find new ways to promote your child's development and learning at home.

It always takes time to learn to use a new system. Choose the features of *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online that interest you the most and explore those first. And keep in mind the support resources that are built into the system:

•   Overview of *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online

•   Video Tutorials

For *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® online technical support, call **800.637.3652**, option 4, or e-mail **Implementation@TeachingStrategies.com**.

We look forward to a wonderful partnership that will enable your child to develop the skills and knowledge to be successful in school and in life. Thank you for joining us!

TeachingStrategies®

Objectives for Development & Learning

Birth*Through* Kindergarten

Social–Emotional

1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors
2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships
3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations

Physical

4. Demonstrates traveling skills
5. Demonstrates balancing skills
6. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills
7. Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination

Language

8. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language
9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs
10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills

Cognitive

11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning
12. Remembers and connects experiences
13. Uses classification skills
14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present

Literacy

15. Demonstrates phonological awareness
16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet
17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses
18. Comprehends and responds to books and other texts
19. Demonstrates emergent writing skills

Mathematics

20. Uses number concepts and operations
21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes
22. Compares and measures
23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Science and Technology

24. Uses scientific inquiry skills
25. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things
26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment
28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks

Social Studies

29. Demonstrates knowledge about self
30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
31. Explores change related to familiar people or places
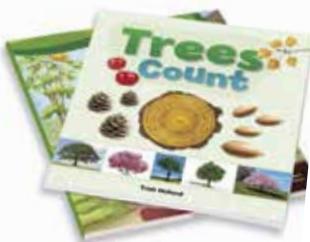32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge

The Arts

33. Explores the visual arts
34. Explores musical concepts and expression
35. Explores dance and movement concepts
36. Explores drama through actions and language

English Language Acquisition

37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English
38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English