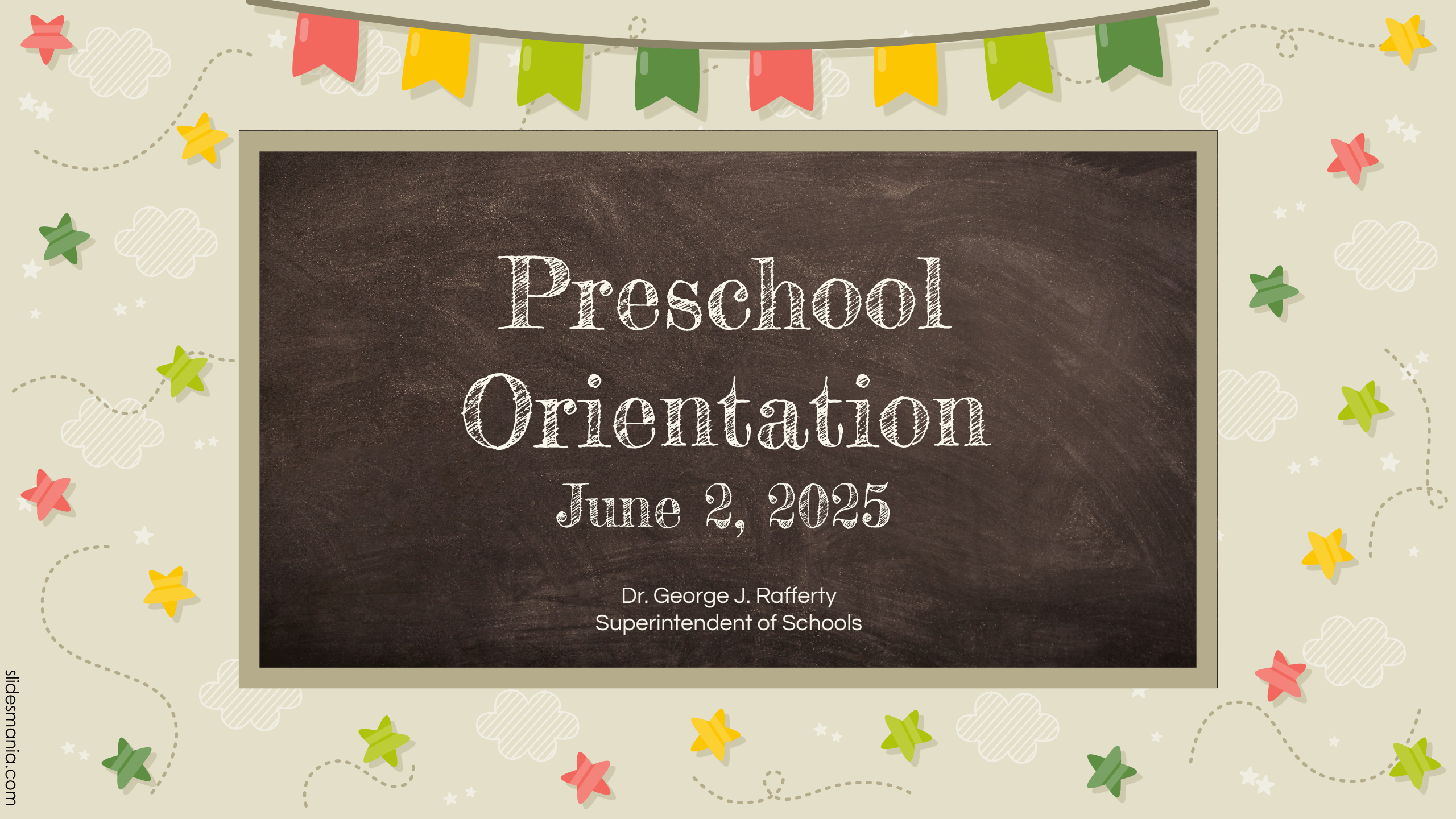


A decorative banner at the top of the slide features a string of colorful flags (red, yellow, green) and stars. The background is light beige with scattered stars, clouds, and dashed lines. The central text is on a dark chalkboard.

# Preschool Orientation

June 2, 2025

Dr. George J. Rafferty  
Superintendent of Schools

# Mount Laurel Preschool Program Leadership

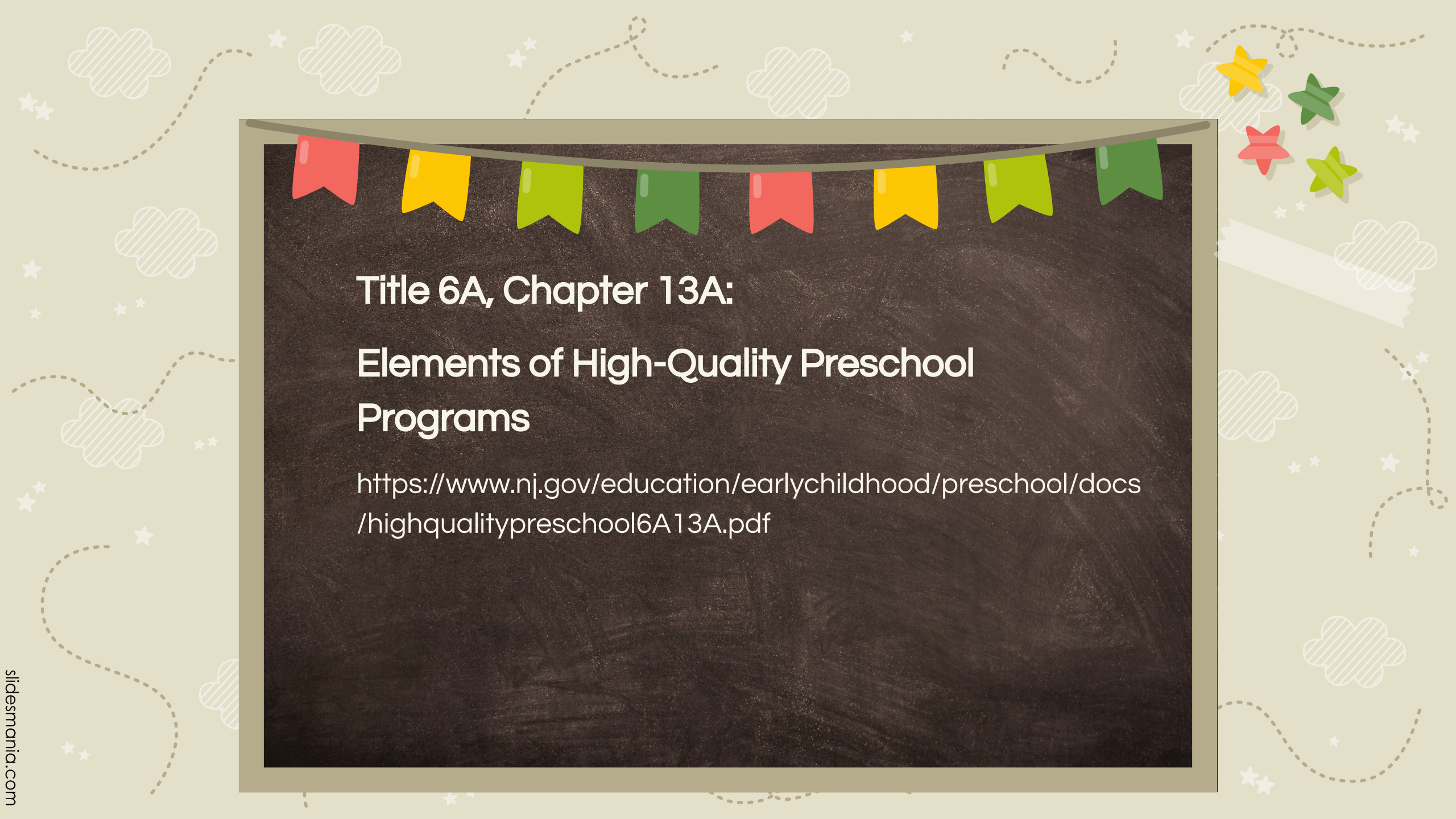
James B. DeSimone,  
Director of Early Childhood Education





# Program Locations

- Adath Emanu-El Early Childhood Center
- Bright Beginnings -Church\*
- Bright Beginnings -Rt. 38
- Fleetwood Elementary School
- Hillside Elementary School\*
- Just Children - Commerce\*
- KinderCare - Larchmont
- Larchmont Elementary School
- The Learning Experience\*
- LightBridge Academy
- Little Darlings\*
- Parkway Elementary School
- YMCA - Briggs
- YMCA - Commerce



**Title 6A, Chapter 13A:**

**Elements of High-Quality Preschool  
Programs**

<https://www.nj.gov/education/earlychildhood/preschool/docs/highqualitypreschool6A13A.pdf>



# Objectives for full-day preschool

## Standards-based curriculum

- Meaningful teacher-student interactions
- Small-group and individualized instruction
- Learning through guided play
- Learning centers
- Gross motor play-outdoors weather permitting

## Universal Design for Learning/inclusion

## Performance-based assessment

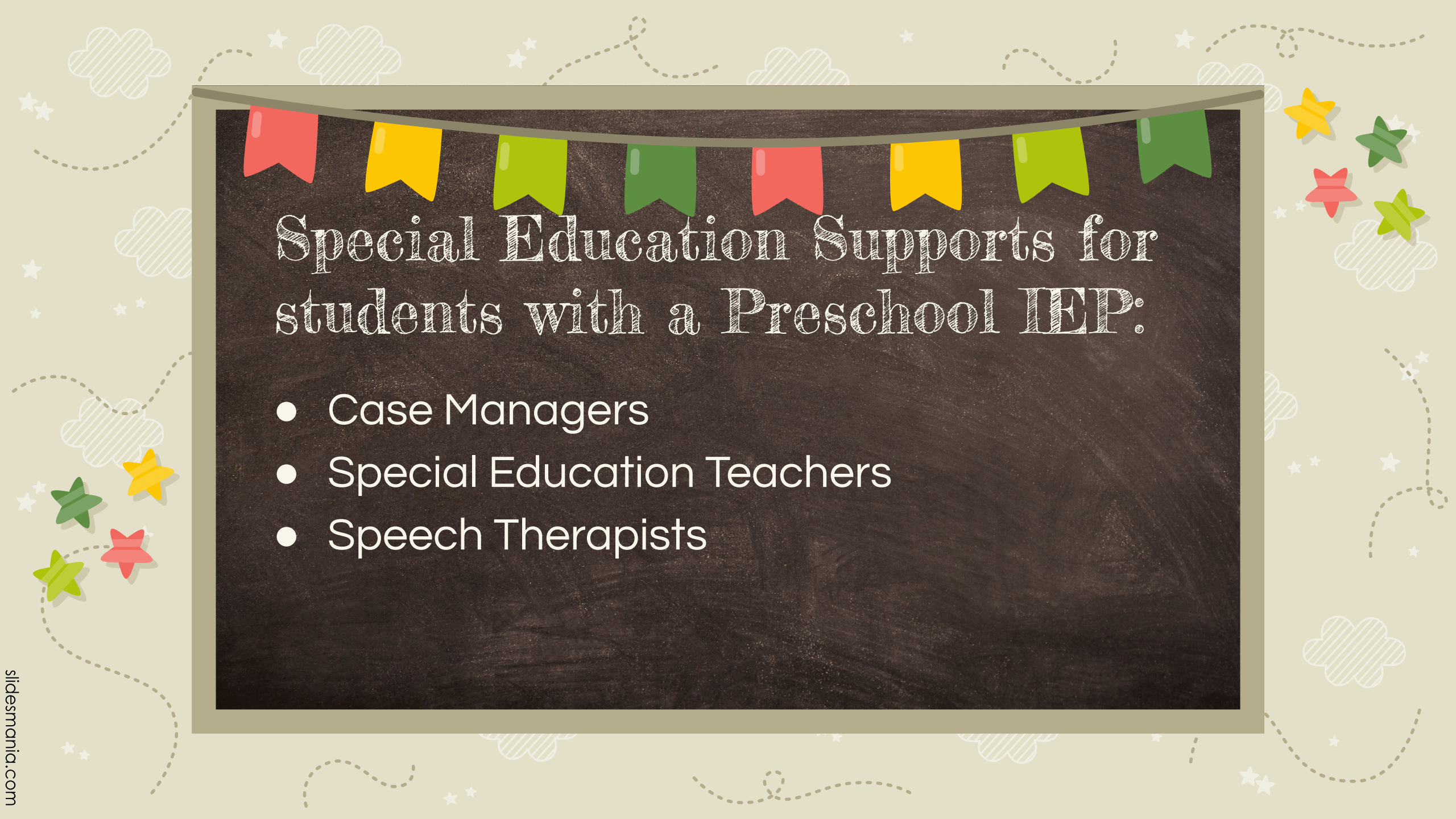
## Developmentally appropriate practices





# Preschool Program Staff

- Early Childhood Instructional Coaches / Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialists
- Social Worker/Community & Parent Involvement Specialist
- Preschool Nurses
- Administrative Assistant
- Director of Early Childhood



# Special Education Supports for students with a Preschool IEP:

- Case Managers
- Special Education Teachers
- Speech Therapists



## School Staff

- Building Principal
- School Nurse
- Certified Preschool Teacher
- Classroom Aide
- Special Education Services
- Social Worker

## Provider Staff

- Center Director
- Preschool Nurse
- Certified Preschool Teacher
- Classroom Aide
- Special Education Services
- Family Worker



## What is the structure of our preschool classrooms?

- 1 certified teacher (Bachelor's Degree or higher)
- 1 classroom aide
- Up to 15 children
- Mixed ages (3, 4 and 5 year olds)
- Inclusive (languages, cultures & abilities)

The background is a light beige color with various decorative elements. In the top left corner, there are four colorful stars (green, yellow, red, and green) arranged in a cluster, with a dashed line curving around them. Scattered throughout the background are white stars of different sizes and white clouds with diagonal hatching. A banner with seven colorful flags (red, yellow, green, green, red, yellow, green) hangs across the top of the central chalkboard area. The title text is written in a bold, black, serif font on a white rectangular background that is tilted slightly to the right.

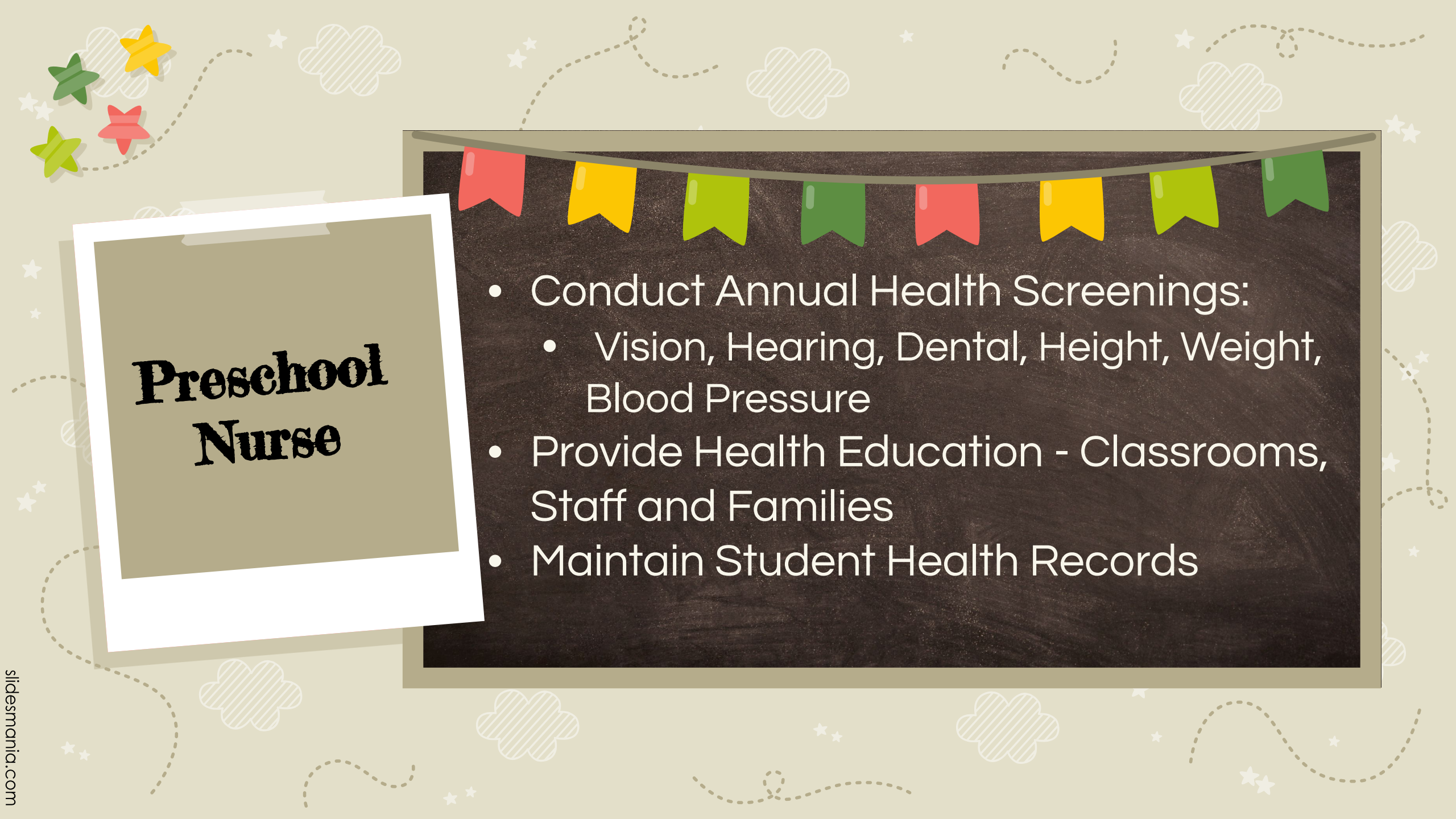
# **Social Worker/ Community Parent Involvement Specialist**

- Connect with families and determine needs
- Advocate for families and obtain appropriate resources and community services
- Coordinate family and community involvement through planned activities, workshops, and shared resources
- Work with community agencies and partners
- Facilitate the Early Childhood Advisory Council



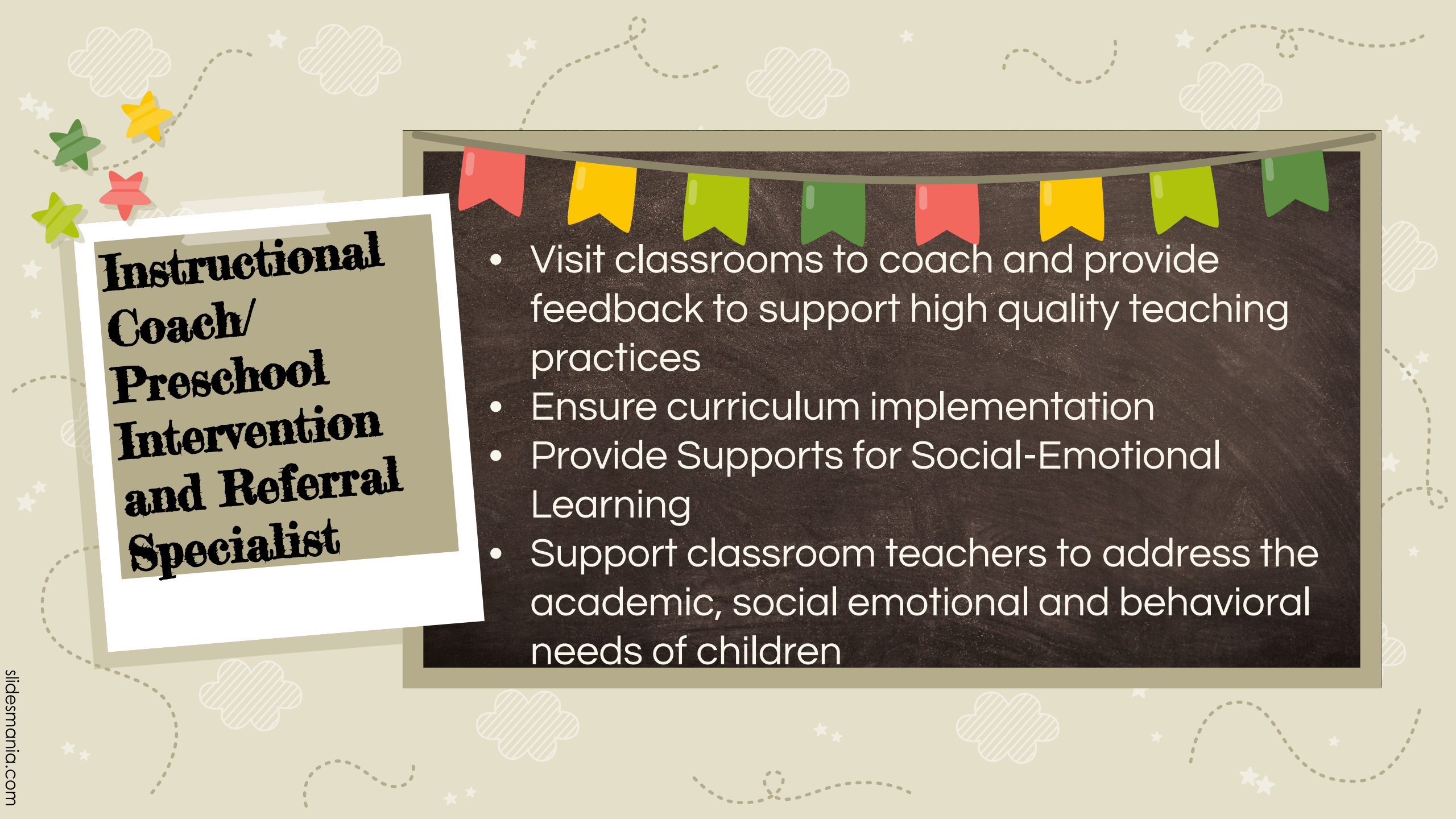
# **Family Worker**

- Provider-based support
- Provide family support through check-ins, meetings, and visits
- Coordinate with district to meet the needs of families
- Coordinate family involvement and social service activities



# **Preschool Nurse**

- Conduct Annual Health Screenings:
  - Vision, Hearing, Dental, Height, Weight, Blood Pressure
- Provide Health Education - Classrooms, Staff and Families
- Maintain Student Health Records

The background is a light beige color with various decorative elements. There are several white stars of different sizes, some with dashed lines trailing behind them. There are also white clouds with diagonal hatching. A banner with colorful flags (red, yellow, green) is draped across the top. A large, dark brown rectangular area on the right side contains a list of bullet points. On the left side, there is a white rectangular box with a black border containing the title text.

## **Instructional Coach/ Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist**

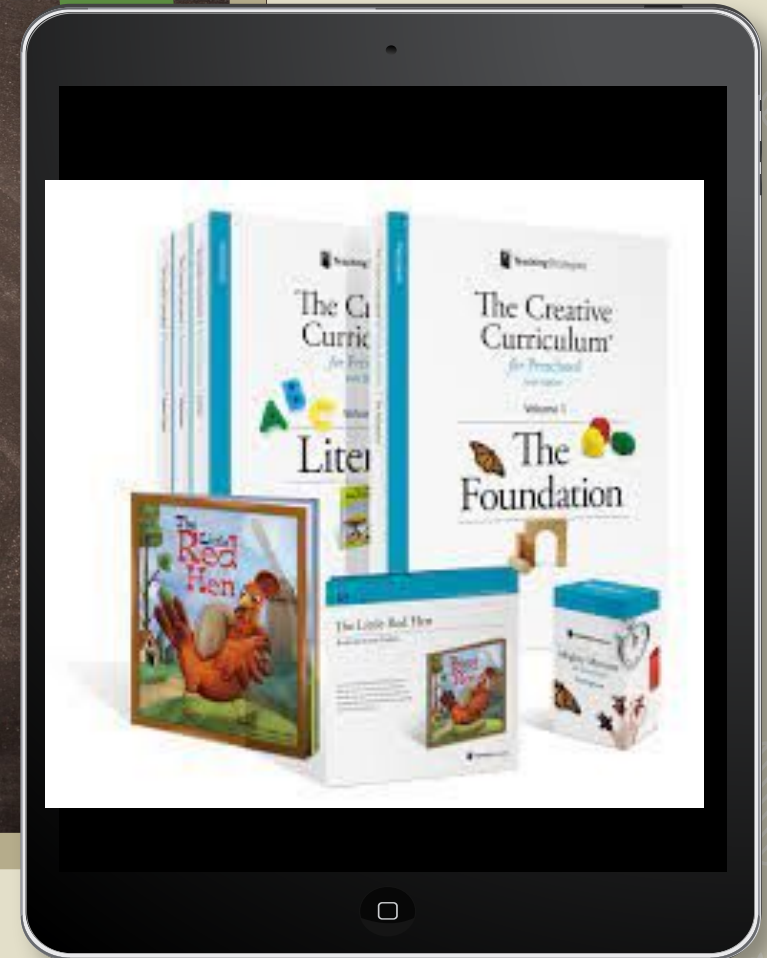
- Visit classrooms to coach and provide feedback to support high quality teaching practices
- Ensure curriculum implementation
- Provide Supports for Social-Emotional Learning
- Support classroom teachers to address the academic, social emotional and behavioral needs of children

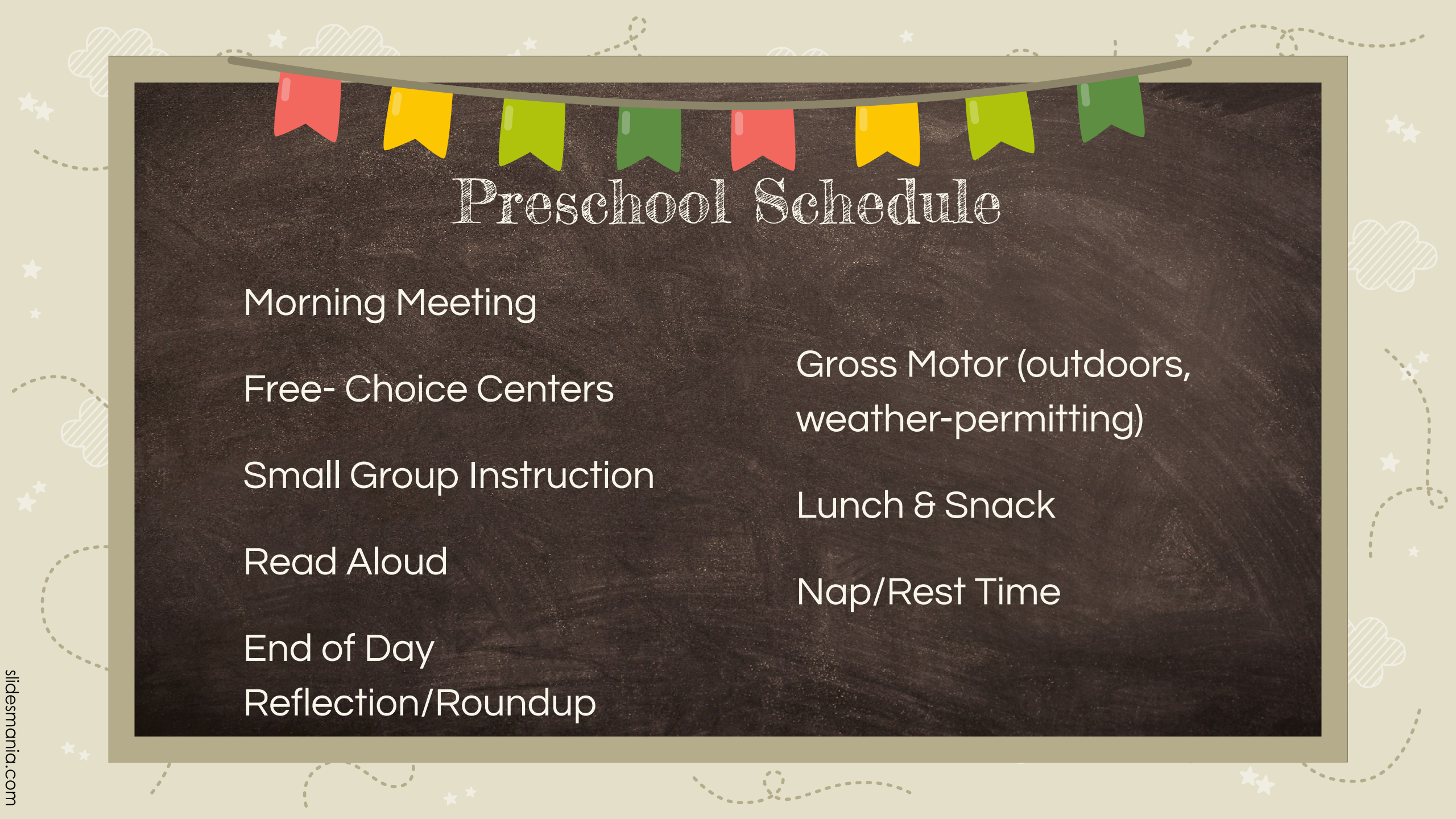
# Social Emotional Learning In Preschool



# Creative Curriculum

- Meaningful Teacher-Child Interactions
- Social-Emotional Competence
- Constructive, Purposeful Play
- Classroom Environment as Third Teacher





# Preschool Schedule

Morning Meeting

Free- Choice Centers

Small Group Instruction

Read Aloud

End of Day

Reflection/Roundup

Gross Motor (outdoors,  
weather-permitting)

Lunch & Snack

Nap/Rest Time

# Interest Areas & Choice Time

Dramatic Play



Blocks



Art



Discovery

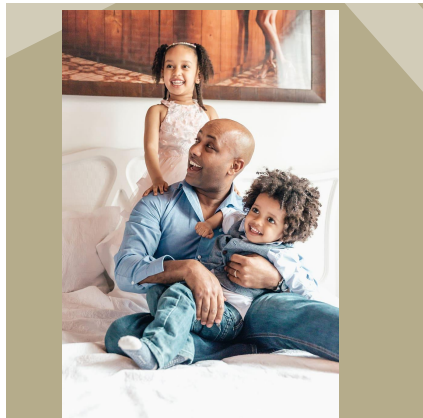


Library



Toys & Games





Teaching  
Strategies App



Ready Rosie

# Partnering with Families



### How to Help You and Label Emotions

You can help your child expand her emotional vocabulary by using words you can help her to label her own feelings. For example, do you remember a time you were sad at the grocery store or other public place? Soothing your child by telling her to "calm down" or "take a deep breath" can help her understand and label her feelings. You can also help her understand and label her feelings by saying, "You look sad and I feel that way too. I wonder what we can do to help you feel better?"

#### About this Series

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection

#### Try This at Home

- Simply state how your child is feeling. "You look really excited! I see your eyes are big and your mouth is open."
- State how others are feeling. "Wow, that little boy is really mad. I see he is crying and making fists with his hands. I wonder why?"

BackPack Series



Parent Guest  
Visits



Celebrations of  
Learning

|  | Not Yet | 1                                                                                                                                                   | 2 | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4 | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 6 | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 8 |
|--|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
|  |         | <b>Shows interest in books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gazes at the pages of a book</li> <li>Brings book to adult to read</li> </ul> |   | <b>Orients book correctly; turns pages from the front of the book to the back; recognizes familiar books by their covers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hands teacher book and says, "Let's read <i>Corduroy</i>!"</li> </ul> |   | <b>Knows some features of a book (e.g., title, author, illustrator, front and back covers); connects specific books to authors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Says, "I want to read this Dr. Seuss book today."</li> <li>Says, "Eric Carle wrote this book. He is the author."</li> <li>Selects a book in the library and talks to the librarian about the front and back cover; points out the title page when prompted</li> </ul> |   | <b>Uses various types of books for their intended purposes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selects a nonfiction book about insects to identify the butterfly seen on the playground</li> </ul> |   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Birth to 1 year   |  |
| 1 to 2 years      |  |
| 2 to 3 years      |  |
| Preschool 3 class |  |
| Pre-K 4 class     |  |
| Kindergarten      |  |
| First Grade       |  |

# Teaching Strategies Gold



# Teaching Strategies Gold

Social Emotional  
Development

Physical  
Development

Language  
Development

Cognitive  
Development

Literacy

Mathematics

Science, Social  
Studies, Technology  
and The Arts

English Language  
Acquisition



# Three Checkpoints

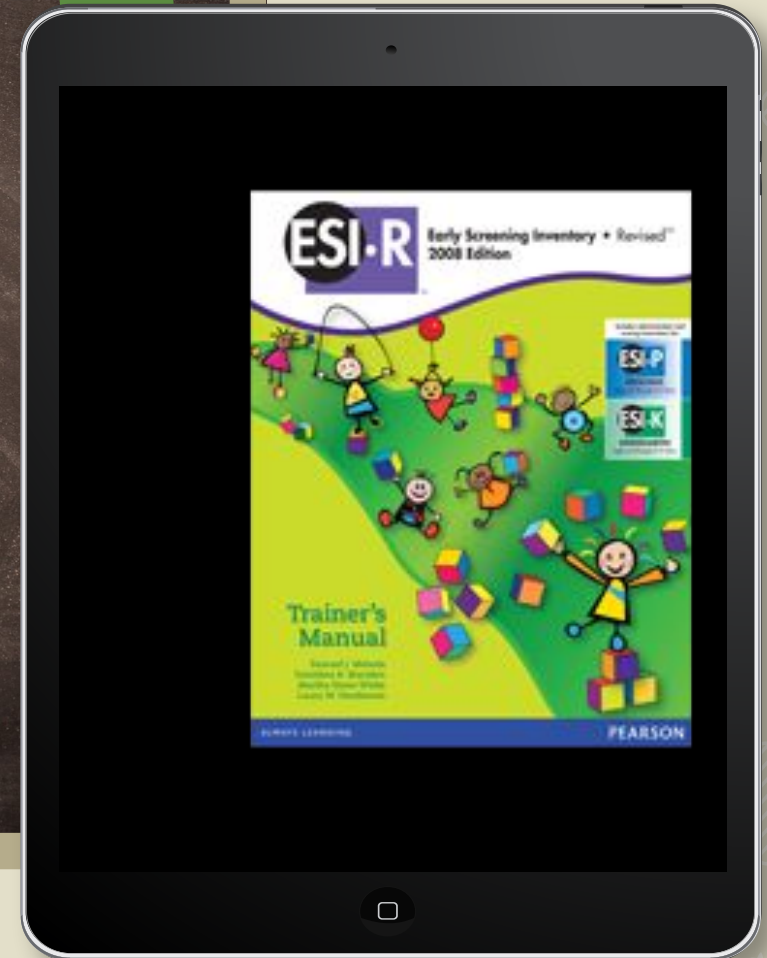
First  
Trimester  
(December)

Second  
Trimester  
(March)

Third  
Trimester  
(June)

# Screening

- Early Childhood Screening Inventory- 3 (ESI-3)
- Initial screening (October)
- Follow-Up Rescreening (December)
- Identification of additional supports (ongoing)





# Preschool Intervention and Referral

## What is Preschool Intervention and Referral?

- Preschool Intervention and referral is a process of providing strategies to teachers to support your children's individual needs

## When you might hear from your child's Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS)?

- After the ESI-3 Screening
- If your child's teacher requests additional assistance for supporting your child

## What happens at a Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT) meeting?

- Your child's teacher comes together with our early childhood team to develop strategies to best support your child's individual needs.
- You may be asked to join a meeting or be contacted for information

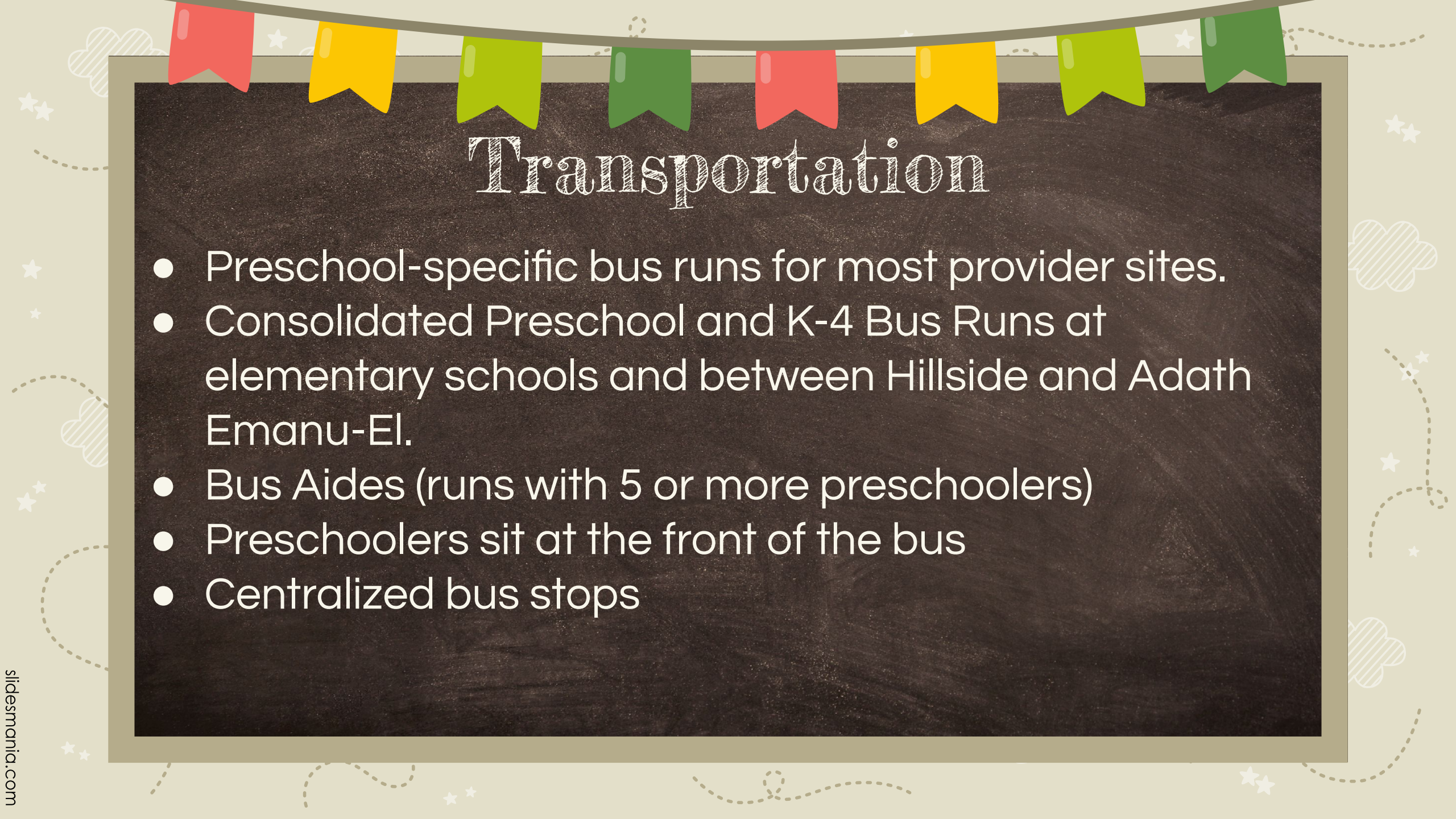
## Who attends a PIRT meeting?

- Parents or Guardians
- Classroom Teacher
- Preschool Social Worker
- Center Director or School Principal
- Family Worker
- Early Childhood Instructional Coaches/ Preschool Interventional and Referral Specialists



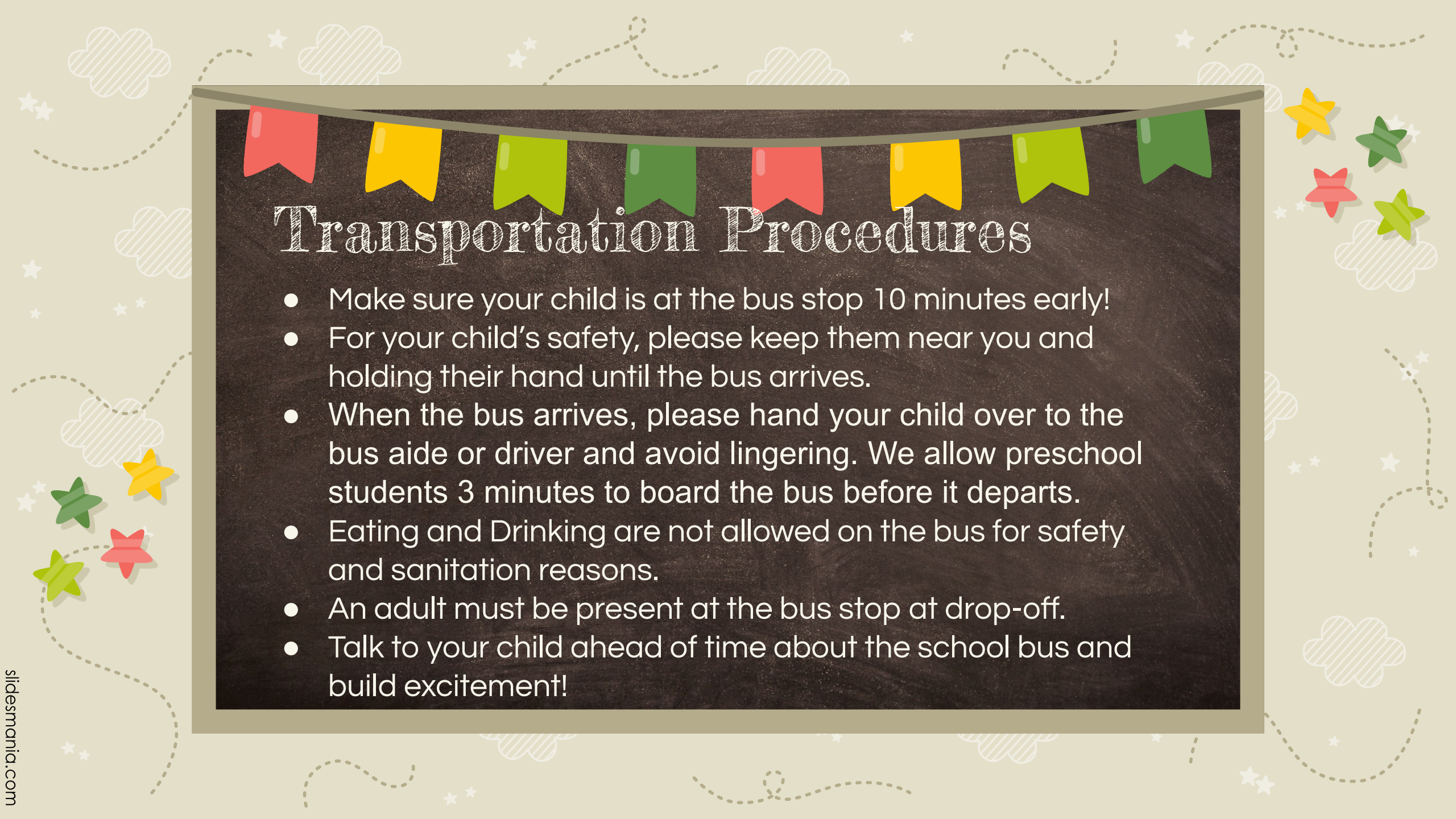
# Before/After Care

- Available at provider sites
- Transportation from district schools to provider sites for daycare; info on website.
- <https://www.mtlaurelschools.org/DayCare.aspx>



# Transportation

- Preschool-specific bus runs for most provider sites.
- Consolidated Preschool and K-4 Bus Runs at elementary schools and between Hillside and Adath Emanu-El.
- Bus Aides (runs with 5 or more preschoolers)
- Preschoolers sit at the front of the bus
- Centralized bus stops



# Transportation Procedures

- Make sure your child is at the bus stop 10 minutes early!
- For your child's safety, please keep them near you and holding their hand until the bus arrives.
- When the bus arrives, please hand your child over to the bus aide or driver and avoid lingering. We allow preschool students 3 minutes to board the bus before it departs.
- Eating and Drinking are not allowed on the bus for safety and sanitation reasons.
- An adult must be present at the bus stop at drop-off.
- Talk to your child ahead of time about the school bus and build excitement!



# Information to Follow

- School Open Houses/Orientations (late August)
- Back to School Night (September)
- Class Placements (mid- to late-August)
- Bus Information: bus-stop location, times, bus numbers, etc. (late-August)
- School/Center Specific Information (June-August)

The background is a light beige color with various decorative elements. At the top, there is a banner with eight colorful flags (red, yellow, green, red, yellow, green, green) hanging from a string. The background is also decorated with white stars, white clouds with diagonal lines, and dashed lines. On the right side, there are several colorful stars (yellow, green, red, green) and a white cloud with diagonal lines.

# Mount Laurel Board of Education

Danielle Stuffy, President

Melissa DeClementi, Vice President

Roger Gibson

Curtis Green

John Lasken

Susan Lovato

Jade Moustakas

Jonathan Paradise

Sapna Rustagi



Mount Laurel Preschool Program

# PREPARING FOR PRESCHOOL!

Scan here for helpful  
information about your  
child's transition to Preschool!  
Prepare for transitions,  
goodbyes, helpful skills to  
practice, supplies list, and  
more!



Questions may be emailed to:



[mtlpreschool@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:mtlpreschool@mtlaurelschools.org)

SCAN ME

