



**THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

## News RELEASE

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OFFICE of INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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### **State Center Awards “Texas Readiness Certification” to Pre-K Classrooms**

HOUSTON - (Aug. 13, 2007)—The State Center for Early Childhood Development at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is awarding over 450 classrooms across the state with the new “Texas Readiness Certification” for the 2007-08 school year.

The “Texas Readiness Certification: Ready for School, Ready for Life” program, developed by the State Center and 20 community partnerships from across Texas evaluates pre-school, Head Start and childcare classrooms and supports teacher training.

The way it works: pre-schools and centers apply to the state center and provide the staff with information about its classrooms, such as the learning environment and curriculum. The children in those classrooms then are followed from pre-K into kindergarten and evaluated by the state center on their early reading and social development to determine if the pre-K classroom helped prepare the student for success in elementary school.

“This certification will most benefit families. For the first time, parents will finally have something very clear to look at, to see if the pre-K they are considering will help their child be prepared for kindergarten, to help their children start school ready to learn,” said Susan Landry, Ph.D., the State Center’s director and the director of the Children’s Learning Institute at the UT Health Science Center at Houston.

A crucial part of the program is the web-based training developed for teachers. “The goal is to link the training the teacher receives to the learning experiences they provide for preschoolers - to change what they do in the classroom to make sure it is helping the child get ready for school. The right teacher, with the right curriculum, can help a child develop a foundation for not just kindergarten, but for their entire education,” said Landry, who also is the University of Texas Medical School at Houston’s Michael Matthew Knight Professor of Pediatrics.

Each year, pre-school, Head Start, and childcare centers can apply to the state center for this accreditation. Likewise, every center that received it this year will have to reapply for the next school year. “Each year new preschoolers enter these classrooms. Our goal is to help provide each of them with a school ready experience,” said Landry.

7000 Fannin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor    [www.uthouston.edu](http://www.uthouston.edu)  
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*Located in the Texas Medical Center*

This certification program was set in motion in 2005 with passage of Senate Bill 76, which approved state funding.

(MORE)

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For more information, to apply, or to find out which classrooms are accredited with “Texas Readiness Certification,” log onto [www.TexasSchoolReady.org](http://www.TexasSchoolReady.org) or call 1-800-315-7204. Classrooms given this state award will also be given stickers and plaques to display their certification.

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### **Una Organización del estado en la Universidad de Tejas en Houston da Premios de “Texas Readiness Certification” para el año escolar ’07-’08.**

HOUSTON – (Aug. 13, 2007)— Un sistema de calificación desarrollado por el Centro del Estado para el Desarrollo Temprano de Niñez en el Centro de la Ciencia de la Salud de la Universidad de Tejas en Houston ha marcado 417 aulas con el nuevo "Texas Readiness Certification" para el 2007-08 año escolar.

El " Texas Readiness Certification: Ready for School, Ready for Life " evalúa clases preescolares y aulas de cuidado de niños mientras que sostiene la instrucción del maestro.

Como funciona: escuelas preescolares y centros solicitan al centro del estado y proporcionan a los empleados con información sobre sus clases, como el ambiente y el programa. Los niños en estas clases entonces son seguidos por investigadores del estado y éstos evalúan su desarrollo cognitivo y social, sus resultados en el “Texas Primary Inventory (TPRI) y otras cien pruebas para determinar si el niño está lo suficientemente preparado para la escuela primaria.

“La certificación beneficiará a la mayoría de las familias. Por fin los padres tendrán algo muy claro para ver si el Pre-K que están considerando para sus niños va a ayudarlos y prepararlos para el kinder,” dice Susan Landry, Ph.D., directora del centro del estado y directora del instituto de aprendizaje para niños en la Universidad de Tejas en Houston.

El centro del estado no solamente evalúa las clases sino también tiene instrucción para los maestros disponible en el Internet. “La meta es ver si la instrucción ayuda a los maestros a desarrollar programas y presencia fuertes en la clase. El maestro adecuado, con el programa adecuado puede ayudar al niño a desarrollar una fundación no solamente para el kinder sino también para su educación entera, ” dice Landry que también lleva el titulo de profesora Michael Matthey Knight de Pediatría de la escuela médica de la Universidad de Tejas.

Este programa de certificación empezó en 2003 con el paso del “Senate Bill 76,” que aprobó financiación del estado.

Para más información, o para solicitar o para encontrar que clases son acreditadas con el “Texas Readiness Certification,” visite [www.TexasSchoolReady.org](http://www.TexasSchoolReady.org) o llame al 1-800-315-7204.

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Las clases con esta acreditación también recibirán pregatinas y certificados.

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