

Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals

Core Knowledge Areas and Subheadings

1. Child Development

Early childhood professionals have an understanding of how children develop and the factors that are involved in development. They use their understanding of child development combined with their knowledge of each child as an individual to support children's overall development.

Child Development Sub-headings:

- A. How Children Develop
- B. Influences on Child Development
- C. Individual Variance

2. Families and Communities

Early childhood professionals understand that children are members of a family and that both the family and the program are part of a community. They work in partnership with families by communicating respectfully and by sharing information and resources that support children and families.

Families and Communities Sub-headings:

- A. Relationships
- B. Communication
- C. Community Involvement and Resources

3. Teaching and Learning

Early childhood professionals understand that the substance of teaching and learning is in the combination of interactions, routines, and experiences in children's daily lives.

Teaching and Learning Sub-headings:

- A. Interaction
- B. Learning Environment
- C. Curriculum & Content
- D. Assessment

4. Healthy and Safe Environments

Early childhood professionals use practices that protect children and promote health, including good nutrition and physical activity.

Healthy and Safe Environments Sub-headings:

- A. Healthy Environments and Health Needs
- B. Safe Environments
- C. Nutrition
- D. Physical Activity

5. Professionalism and Program Organization

Early childhood professionals understand they have the responsibility to provide services that meet or exceed standards of practice and support positive outcomes for children, families and professionals, including themselves, staff and other colleagues.

Professionalism and Program Organization Sub-headings

- A. Professionalism
- B. Working with Staff and Colleagues
- C. Program Organization and Administration