

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards



Level I Professional Development

Using the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards to Support Children's Learning

15 hours

Purpose:

To prepare beginning early childhood professionals to use the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards to design developmentally appropriate activities in all eight domains of learning and to engage families in their child's learning.

Objectives:

- To gain a working knowledge of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards
- To understand the components of a quality curriculum
- To use the Standards as the basis for designing developmentally appropriate activities for children
- To use *Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers* to engage families in their child's learning

Five sessions. Each session is three hours in length.

Session 1: Introduction to the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

In this first session participants will get to know other members of the group. They will receive an overview of this professional development series and examine basic concepts of child development. Participants will see how these concepts guided the development of the Standards and also serve as the basis for using the Standards to support children's learning.

Competencies: Participants will:

- Become knowledgeable about the general areas of child development for young children
- Understand that children's growth and development occur in sequential stages
- Become familiar with the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards document and *Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers* resource for families
- Recognize how they can be purposeful in supporting children's growth and development

Session 2: Approaches to Learning and Social and Emotional Development

In sessions two through five, participants will explore the eight domains of learning of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards. Session two is devoted to an exploration of Domains 1 and 2: Approaches to Learning and Social and Emotional Development. As a result of participation in Session 2, participants will understand how to start with the Standards as they use the first two domains, learning goals and expectations when planning curriculum for children. In addition,

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participants will learn new strategies for supporting children’s growth and development in these two areas.

Competencies: Participants will:

- Gain a common understanding of the definition of “curriculum.”
- Have a general understanding of the learning goals and expectations in two domains: Approaches to Learning (Domain 1) and Social and Emotional Development (Domain 2)
- Learn to design their curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.

Session 3: Language Development, Communication & Literacy

Session three is devoted to an exploration of domains 3 and 4: Language Development and Communication and Literacy. As a result of participation in Session 3, participants will understand how to use learning goals and expectations in these domains when planning curriculum for children. Participants will also learn specific strategies for supporting children’s growth and development in these two areas and discuss their role in supporting English Language Learners.

Competencies: Students will:

- Have a general understanding of the learning goals and expectations in two domains:
 - Language Development & Communication
 - Literacy
- Learn to design their curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.
- Learn how to apply Early Learning Standards in the areas of Language and Literacy in settings where children speak languages other than English.

Session 4: Mathematics and Science

Session four is devoted to an exploration of Mathematics and Science. As a result of participation in Session 4, participants will understand how to use learning goals and expectations in these domains when planning curriculum for children. Participants will also learn specific strategies for supporting children’s growth and development in these two areas.

Competencies: Participants will:

- Gain a general understanding of the learning goals and expectations in two domains: Mathematics and Science.
- Learn to design their curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.
- Apply strategies they have learned in sessions 1-4 to work independently as they prepare their final projects that focus on the last two domains: Creativity and Physical Health and Development.

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Session 5: Creativity and Physical Health and Development and Putting It All Together

As a result of participation in Session 5, participants will understand how to use learning goals and expectations in the domains of creativity and physical health and development when planning curriculum for children. In addition, participants use this final session to better understand the interconnectedness of the standards and make commitments to continuing their professional development once the sessions have ended.

Competencies: Participants will:

- Have a general understanding of the learning goals and expectations in two domains: Creativity and Physical Health and Development.
- Learn to design their curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.
- Recognize how these two domains are interrelated.
- Commit to using the resources they have learned about to continue using the standards to improve the quality of their work and their impact on children

Books and Materials:

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards
Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers
Student Workbook
Standards Educational Materials

Certificate Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation
- Completion of Session Assignments- Following each session, students will have an assignment that requires them to apply what they have learned to their work with children
- Final Project- During the final session, each participant will present their final project which represents how they now engage in purposeful teaching. Students will use the RI Early Learning Standards as the framework for enhancing curriculum by designing an activity that promotes children to attain a specific learning goal and expectation within the domains of Creativity or Physical Health and Development.