

The Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

Professional Development

Introduction to RI Early Learning Standards

Course Outline

Purpose

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

Outcomes

As a result of participation in Rhode Island Early Learning Standards Level 1 participants will:

1. Gain a working knowledge of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards
2. Develop a beginning understanding of key components of child development that influence practice
3. Understand and begin to use the 4 components of curriculum
4. Use the Standards as the basis for designing developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for children
5. Use *Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers* to engage families in their child's learning

15 hours of training - Five sessions, each session is three hours in length.

Module 1: Introduction to the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

In this first session participants will get to know other participants in the group. They will receive an overview of this professional development series, review basic concepts of child development and begin to use a comprehensive definition of curriculum. Participants will see how these concepts were used to guide the development of the Standards and also serve as the basis for using the Standards to support children's learning.

Outcomes

As a result of their experience in this session, participants will:

1. Become knowledgeable in the general areas of child development for young children
2. Understand that children's growth and development occur in predictable sequential stages
3. Become familiar with the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards document and Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers resource for families
4. Begin to recognize how they can be intentional in supporting children's growth and development

Module 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. Module 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 Module 2, participants will understand how to start with the Standards as they use the first two domains and learning goals when planning curriculum for children. In addition, participants will learn new strategies for supporting children's growth and development in these two areas.

Outcomes

As a result of their experience in this session, participants will:

1. *Gain knowledge about the four (4) components of quality curriculum*
2. Learn to use the RI Early Learning Standards as a source for curriculum development
3. Gain a general understanding of the learning goals in two domains: *Approaches to Learning* (Domain 1) and *Social and Emotional Development* (Domain 2)
4. Learn teaching and facilitation strategies to help children develop skills in these two areas

Module 3: Language Development and Communication & Literacy

Module three is devoted to an exploration of domains 3 and 4: Language Development and Communication and Literacy. As a result of participation in Module 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.

Outcomes

As a result of their experience in this session participants will:

1. Have a general understanding of the learning goals in two domains: *Language Development and Communication* and *Literacy*
2. Learn to plan and implement curriculum to help children develop skills in the two areas
3. Apply Early Learning Standards in the areas of *Language and Communication* and *Literacy* in settings where children speak languages other than English
4. Learn to create environments that will support children to develop skills in the two areas

Module 4: Mathematics and Science

Module four is devoted to an exploration of Mathematics and Science. As a result of participation in Module 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.

Outcomes

As a result of their experience in this session participants will:

1. Have a general understanding of the learning goals in two domains: Mathematics and Science.
2. Learn to implement curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.
3. Develop a deeper understanding of how children learn – the process
4. Participants will 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.

Module 5: Creativity, Physical Health and Development and Putting It All Together

As a result of participation in Module 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.

Outcomes

As a result of their experience in this session, participants will:

1. Have a general understanding of the learning goals in two domains: *Creativity* and *Physical Health and Development*.
2. Learn to design their curriculum to help children develop skills in these two areas.
3. Recognize how the domains are interrelated.
4. 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 at 5 3-hour sessions
- Completion of session assignments. Following each session, participants 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 engage in intentional teaching. Students will use the RI Early Learning Standards as the framework for enhancing curriculum by designing an activity that includes learning goals from *Creativity* or *Physical Health and Development* domain and uses the four components of curriculum.

