

## HOW ARE THE STANDARDS ORGANIZED?

The standards are organized into what are called “Domains.” Domains are general areas of child development and include the following:



### Physical Health and Motor Development

Children are naturally active and enjoy learning by exploring their environment. Your child will begin to gain control over their bodies and movements. It is important to practice healthy behaviors, offer your child the ability to explore and provide opportunities for them to develop their small (fingers and toes) and large (legs, arms, trunk) muscles.



### Social and Emotional Development

Children grow and learn by developing positive relationships with close caregivers. They develop increasing knowledge of their family and community, demonstrate a desire to play with peers and learn to appropriately express a broad range of emotions.



### Language Development

Language development includes the ability to understand language, express ideas, and increasingly follow social norms. This is a key period for learning words and language and it is important for families to use the child's home language.



### Literacy

Literacy is the foundation of later reading and writing skills. This learning area includes knowledge of the alphabet, recognizing print, beginning writing and learning to understand the written meaning of words.



### Cognitive Development

Young children grow and change in their abilities to pay attention to and think about the world around them. It is important that children have everyday opportunities to solve problems, learn how their actions affect others and make choices about things they find interesting.



### Mathematics

Mathematics contributes to children's ability to make sense of the world and to solve problems they encounter in their everyday lives. Your child may begin to identify numbers, amounts, patterns, make measurements, make comparisons, and learn about shapes and the order of things.



### Science

Children are scientists from the moment they are born, using their senses to observe and gain knowledge about the world around them. Children also learn that simple investigations can help answer questions and you will see them observing, collecting information, using their senses, and learning about their outside world. Your child will attempt to gain understanding by asking questions, looking, listening, touching and tasting.



### Social Studies

Social studies involves children's ability to understand how they relate to their family and community, understand social norms and recognize and respect similarities and differences in people. Your child will attempt to gain an understanding of the past, present and future in relation to the world around them.



### Creative Arts

Your child may begin to explore and participate in dance, drama, music and art. These mediums provide your child the opportunity to express themselves. Through a variety of music and movement, children hear and learn to recognize various sounds of language. This will help them in the beginning stages of reading. Also, through art and pretend play, children get an opportunity to develop their imagination and creativity. These skills will be needed later on for problem solving, conflict resolution and leadership.



Rhode Island Department of Education  
255 Westminster Street  
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RI EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT  
**STANDARDS**



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The contents of this brochure were developed under a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

# RI EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS



## What Parents Should Know About Standards Based Education for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers



## USING THE EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS WITH YOUR CHILD

The Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS) have been developed to assist families and educators in understanding the typical development of children from birth through 60 months. Standards show what children should know and be able to do and can serve as a guide for doing activities which add to children's learning and development. The Standards have been developed incorporating the latest research as well as information provided by national experts. The Standards are designed to reflect children's individual rates of development, their different approaches to learning, and the cultural context in which they live.



### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

Parents, caregivers, and other family members have a critical role in supporting the growth and development of children as they serve as a child's first, and lifelong teacher. The Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards can easily be used by parents, grandparents and other family members. If you would like to learn more about how you can use the standards with your child, the Rhode Island Department of Education has created two resources specifically for parents and caregivers of young children. These include:

- The Fun Family Activity Cards are designed for families to provide information and enjoyable ways to support the development of your child.
- Fun Family Activity Trainings builds of information presented in the cards to provide hands on activity ideas or families.
- Additionally, this Guide can serve to provide additional information on Standards-Based early care and education programs.



For more information on how you can obtain a copy of the Fun Family Activity Cards or register for training please visit the Resources for Families section of this brochure.

### WHY STANDARDS ARE IMPORTANT

Well-planned early experiences are important to beginning a child's lifelong journey of learning and success. Standards help highlight the developmental continuum for children. The Standards are intended to help inform educators in the development of their curriculum, to inform families about learning milestones, to promote optimal learning and to provide a framework for high quality early care and education.



“During an exploration time at zoo camp, my daughter decided that the string that was out for another project could be used to create the letters M for Mommy, D for Daddy, and an O, “well, just because...” At pick up time, the educator shared with me how my daughter thought outside the box when using the materials, which lead to a conversation about these letters – all of which provided an example of the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards “in action.” (Whereas, my daughter was so glad to be able to “find” more letters in her daily explorations while at zoo camp!) – Rhode Island Parent, 2013

## STANDARDS-BASED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

It can be helpful to use the Standards when having a discussion with your current, or potential child care provider. When visiting the program for a tour or when doing daily drop off and pick up routines try to spend a few minutes in the program and use this time to have a conversation with staff about their use of the Standards in curriculum and classroom planning as well as their attendance at professional development offerings.

### STANDARDS-BASED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

Standards based early learning programs have the following in common:

- They implement a quality early childhood curriculum guided by the Early Learning and Development Standards. A curriculum is a written plan that described how the learning of each child will be supported.
- Use an assessment system throughout the year to gather information about children's learning styles, interests, developmental level and progress toward the Standards. Assessment is the collection, review, and use of information undertaken for the purpose of improving learning and development. Well-planned assessments inform teaching and contribute to better outcomes for children.
- Standards based programs use multiple opportunities to engage families in their program and the child's learning. There should be regular communication about your child's growth and development.
- Opportunities for learning occur through play and daily routines. Teachers ensure children have access to play materials and learning environments that are interesting and age-appropriate.
- They provide opportunities for children based on the varying abilities of that individual child. Teachers take into consideration the child's language, culture and unique learning needs.
- Teaching and Administrative staff have children completed training on the *Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards*.

### RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

For more information on how families can use the Early Learning and Development Standards to inform milestones please visit:

**RI Department of Education**  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401.222.4600  
[www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)

**RI Parent Information Network**  
1210 Pontiac Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401.270.0101 or Toll Free within  
the U.S. at 800.464.3399  
[www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)

If you have concerns about your child's learning and development please contact:

**RI Department of Human Services**  
Early Intervention Program  
600 New London Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401.462.5300  
[www.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.dhs.ri.gov)

**RI Department of Health**  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908  
401.222.5960  
<http://www.health.ri.gov/>



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