

WHY DO I NEED SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO WORK WITH CHILDREN?

Because....

- the early years are the most important for learning
- young children learn in unique ways
- quality programs for young children require staff who
 - understand developmentally appropriate practices
 - facilitate all aspects of child development and learning
 - establish partnerships with parents and community
 - model language and support literacy skills
 - design their program and curriculum based on children's needs
 - provide a healthy, safe, challenging learning environment
 - seek on-going training and professional development

WHAT WILL I STUDY TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL IN EARLY CARE, EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT?

Seven areas of competency with multiple indicators have been identified as essential for individuals working with young children and their families.



WHAT DO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS DO?

Demonstrate competence in:

I. Child Growth, Development, and Learning.

Use knowledge of child development to plan meaningful experiences and activities that promote physical, motor, social, emotional, language, and cognitive development.

II. Health, Safety, and Nutrition.

Establish and maintain an environment that ensures children's safety and healthy development, good nutrition, safe surroundings and practices, and the building of self-confidence and competence.

III. Family and Community Collaboration.

Develop positive and productive relationships with families and community members.

IV. Developmentally Appropriate Content.

Implement a program that is age appropriate, individually appropriate, linguistically appropriate, and culturally appropriate.

V. Learning Environment and Curriculum Implementation.

Provide meaningful, child involving, stimulating, active learning activities for children that advance all areas of development.

VI. Assessment of Children and Evaluation of Programs.

Engage in on-going program assessment to maintain high quality and observe children's behavior to plan and individualize teaching and learning practices.

VII. Professionalism.

Demonstrate understanding of the early childhood profession and implement best practices through continued learning and study.

This is a summary of the competency areas.

To obtain New Mexico's [Common Core Content](#) competencies, go to www.NewMexicoKids.org

