

The Role of Curriculum in Early Childhood Special Education

Early Childhood Standards

Preschool Policy Matters: Child Outcome Standards in Pre-K Programs

The development and use of early childhood standards must take into account the way young children learn. The following issue of the National Institute for Early Education Research's (NIEER) *Preschool Policy Matters*, provides an overview of how the standards movement is being extended to preschool programs in an effort to improve school readiness and lay the foundation for later achievement. Shore, Bodrova and Leong (2004) describe child outcome standards in relation to other types of standards and quality indicators. They outline nine crucial aspects for effective standards and for each address the particular conditions needed for child outcome standards to have a positive impact on preschool children and programs. The recommendations in this document can be used to understand and guide the implementation of standards for young children. This issue can be found on the NIEER website at <http://nieer.org/docs/index.php?DocID=95>

Chelie Nelson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
David P. Lindeman, Ph.D.
University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities
Kansas Inservice Training System
2601 Gabriel, Parsons, Kansas 67357
620-421-6550 ext. 1618
<http://kskits.org>

Early Learning Standards Resources

Compare and contrast early learning standards across states using the State Standards Databases which can be found at:

<http://nieer.org/standards/statelist.php>

or

<http://www.nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/elgwebsites.html>

Several national and education organizations have also created educational standards or guidelines, including the following:

- **Fine Arts Standards from the Kennedy Center**
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teach/standards.cfm>
- **Language Arts Standards from National Council of Teachers of English**
<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/standards>
- **Mathematics Standards from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics**
<http://standards.nctm.org/document/appendix/numb.htm>
- **Physical Education Standards from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education**
<http://www.aahperd.org/NASPE/template.cfm?template=publications-nationalstandards.html>
- **Social Studies Standards from the National Council for the Social Studies**
<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/>
- **Technology Standards from the International Society for Technology in Education**
http://cnets.iste.org/students/s_stands.html



Questions for Reflection: Early Childhood Standards

These questions can be used for personal study and/or as questions to guide study group discussions.

1. Describe the difference between program standards, classroom standards, curriculum standards, child outcome standards, content standards and performance standards.
2. What does research say about outcome standards in the preschool years?
3. Why should standards represent values that make sense to children's families and communities?
4. On what types of evidence should standards be based?
5. Why should standards be broad and not narrowly defined?
6. How could standards help a teacher with their day-to-day work?
7. On what standards is your program based?