

The Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines

Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks Workgroup
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The Guidelines are...

- A statewide resource for everyone who loves, cares for and educates young children.
- Information on ways to support and enhance children's development and learning by area:
 - About me and my family and culture
 - Building relationships
 - Touching, seeing, hearing and moving around
 - Growing up healthy
 - Communicating
 - Learning about my world

The Guidelines are NOT...

- An exhaustive guide to child development, which is unique to each child.
- An assessment tool or for use to determine children's eligibility for programs or services.
- An instrument to collect statewide data on the overall status of children in Washington.
- Permanent or unchanging: The Guidelines will be reviewed and updated every five years.

The Guidelines can be used to...

- **Parents:** Find out more about growth and learning at different ages, and get tips on ways to support development.
- **Caregiver or child care professional:** To work with a child's family, and to reach out to kindergarten and primary grade teachers.
- **Kindergarten through 3rd grade teacher or school-age caregiver:** To help you talk with child care and preschool teachers, and with parents.
- **Health care provider:** To talk with parents and caregivers about children's learning and development.

Why the Guidelines were updated

- Reviewed and revised to:
 - Reflect new brain/child development research.
 - Extend the guidelines through third grade and align with the K-3 learning expectations, including Common Core Standards.
 - Celebrate Washington's increasingly diverse population.
 - Be written in a simpler way that better supports parents as their child's first and most important teachers.

Reviewing and revising

- Year-long process, led by DEL, OSPI and Thrive by Five Washington
- Work group included individuals representing:
 - Parents
 - Early learning providers
 - K-3 teachers
 - Principals
 - Advocates
 - Tribes
 - State ethnic commissions
 - Special needs experts
- Broad public outreach from more than 400 individuals and organizations via survey, meetings

Reviewing and revising, cont'd

- Key resources considered:
 - *2005 Benchmarks*
 - Other states' early learning standards
 - Head Start and ECEAP standards
 - Washington's academic learning standards (grade level expectations) for grades K-3 in all subjects.

Reviewing and revising, cont'd

- Cultural competency expertise:
 - State contracted with national equity expert to review the draft document
 - Examples of key changes made as a result:
 - ✓ The five questions to reflect on at the beginning of each age/stage
 - ✓ Verbal/nonverbal language

Ages and Stages of Development

- Young Infants (Birth to 11 Months)
- Older Infants (9 to 18 Months)
- Toddlers (16 to 36 Months)
- Ages 3 to 4 Years
- Ages 4 to 5 Years
- Ages 5 and Kindergarten
- First Grade
- Second Grade
- Third Grade

Social Emotional Domains

- About me and my family and culture
 - Family and culture
 - Self-concept
 - Self-management
- Building Relationships
 - Interactions with adults
 - Interactions with children
 - Social behavior

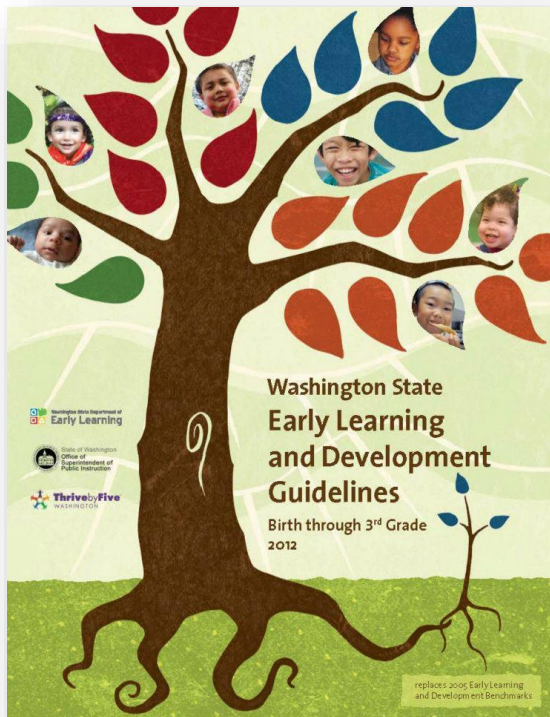
For more information and to get copies

To download:

www.del.wa.gov/development/guidelines

To request hard copies (English and Spanish):

communications@del.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

