

## INTRODUCTION

The *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds* (2011) describe skills that four-year-olds should know and be able to do by the end of their prekindergarten year. They are designed to guide prekindergarten administrators and teachers in designing and implementing appropriate early learning environments.

The Standards for Four-Year-Olds are based on what we know about children, including what they should know and be able to do along a continuum of development. Four-year-olds will typically demonstrate the skills included in the standards by the end of the prekindergarten year. The Standards for Four-Year-Olds are grouped around five domains of development including:

### Physical Development

### Approaches to Learning

### Social and Emotional Development

### Language, Communication, and Emergent Literacy

### Cognitive Development and General Knowledge



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Florida Department of Education in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), offers a variety of both online and instructor-led professional development opportunities.
- For a comprehensive listing of current instructor-led and online professional development opportunities offered for directors, teachers, assistants and parents visit the Department's website at [www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/resource.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/resource.asp).
- To register for professional development on the Standards for Four-Year-Olds, please visit DCF's website at <https://training01dcf.myflorida.com/dcf/cct/inf0001.html>.

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## FLORIDA EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARDS FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS



For use in School Readiness and  
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)  
Education Programs

## MISSION

The mission of the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds* (2011) is found in Section 1(b), Article IX of the State Constitution:

*Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development and education program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.*



## HOW TO USE THE STANDARDS FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS



The Standards for Four-Year-Olds will be most helpful when used to optimize the daily experiences of four-year-olds. Their uses may include:

- ⊗ creating a shared framework and common language to understand how four-year-olds learn and grow
- ⊗ setting realistic expectations for four-year-olds
- ⊗ understanding the sequence of development across multiple domains and the important factors that influence development
- ⊗ creating safe, appropriate, and stimulating environments
- ⊗ guiding the selection of toys, curricula, equipment, and materials
- ⊗ improving classroom instruction
- ⊗ providing preservice and inservice professional development for prekindergarten teachers
- ⊗ refining professional preparation programs.

Work sheets, drills, or simply allowing children to play without instructional planning and reflection are not effective teaching strategies for the prekindergarten classroom.

## BACKGROUND

In 2010, Florida's Office of Early Learning (formerly the Agency for Workforce Innovation) and the Florida Department of Education began a collaboration to create one *set* of standards for four-year-olds throughout the state.

A State Panel of Experts was convened on November 16 and 17, 2010, and critically reviewed each of the domains to ensure that the 2010 review of the *Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards (2008)* was based on the most current research and evidence-based, effective practices in the field of early childhood education. Additionally, state continuity reviewers and national experts were identified and reviewed the draft *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011)*, which resulted from the State Panel of Experts meeting. These reviewers looked at *content* within each domain as well as continuity across all domains.

The *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds (2011)* were presented to the State Board of Education for approval. These standards establish one *set* of performance standards for Florida's four-year-olds in School Readiness and VPK programs, are aligned with the kindergarten *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards* and *Common Core State Standards*, and prepare children for kindergarten.