

School readiness: What, so what, now what?

Anne Mitchell

Alliance for Early Childhood Finance

National Smart Start Conference, May 2011





National Education Goals Panel (1990-2002)

Definition: Five Dimensions of Early Development and Learning

- (1) physical well-being and motor development;
- (2) social and emotional development;
- (3) approaches toward learning;
- (4) language development; and
- (5) cognition and general knowledge.

Good Start, Grow Smart (2002)

States develop guidelines for early learning:

- 3-5 year olds
- Literacy and Math (at least)

2000: 12 States had ELGs for 4-year olds

2003: 36 States had ELGs

2010: all States have ELGs for 3-5; 30 for 0-3

Research Report

SERVE's

Expanded Learning Opportunities National Leadership Area

March 2005

INSIDE THE CONTENT: THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

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*Improving Learning through
Research & Development*

Are ELGs aligned with 5 domains?

- 48 have physical health and development guidelines
- 48 have social-emotional
- 34 have approaches to learning (curiosity, initiative, persistence)
- 50 have guidelines for literacy
- Many have cognition/general knowledge:
 - 49 math
 - 48 social studies
 - 46 science
 - 41 creative arts

Getting Ready



Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative A 17 State Partnership

Sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation,
the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation

Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

February 2005

National School Readiness Indicators Initiative (2001-2004)

SR Equation:

ready families +
ready communities +
ready services +
ready schools =
children ready for school

Final Report
of the NGA Task Force on School Readiness



Building the Foundation
for **Bright Futures**

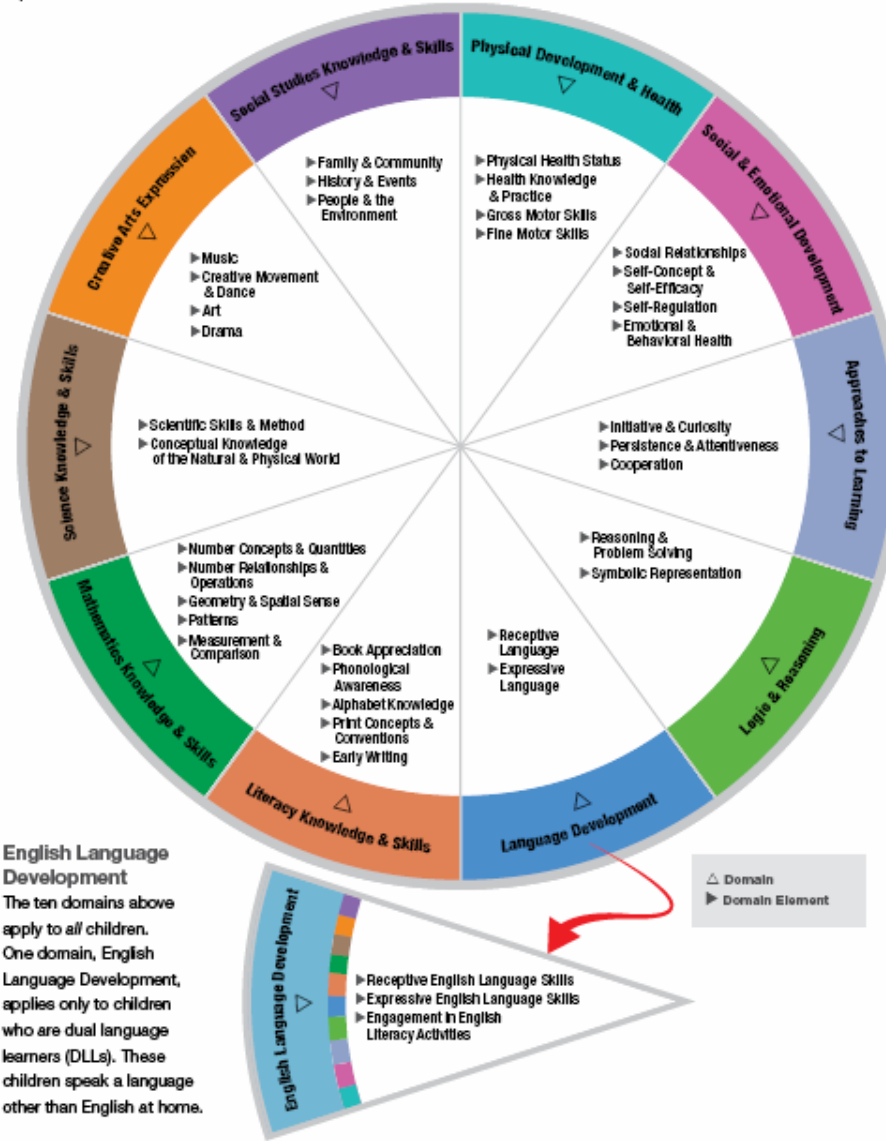


National Governors' Association: Task Force on School Readiness (2005)

- ready states,
- ready schools,
- ready communities,
- ready families,
- ready children

FIGURE 1: The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework

These domains \triangle and domain elements \blacktriangleright apply to all 3 to 5 year olds in Head Start and other early childhood programs, including dual language learners and children with disabilities. A black and white figure for reproduction purposes is at the end of the document.

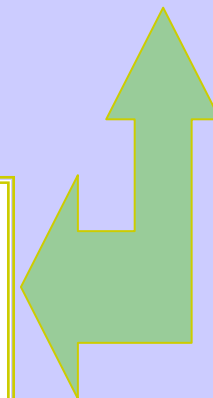
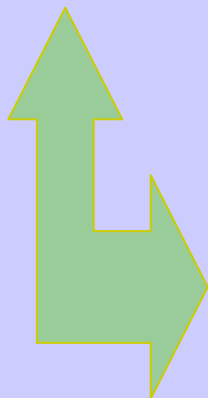


Aligned Industry-Wide EC&E Standards

**Standards
for
Programs
(QRIS)**

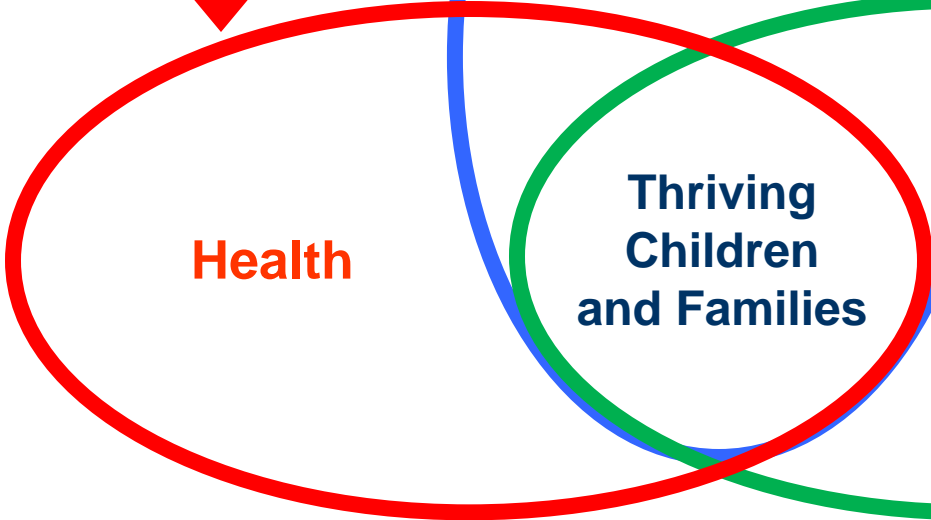
**Standards
for
Practitioners**

**Early Learning Guidelines
(Outcomes for Children)**





Comprehensive services that promote children's physical, developmental, and mental health



Nurturing relationships, safe environments, and enriching experiences that foster learning and development



Resources, experiences, and relationships that strengthen families, engage them as leaders, and enhance their capacity to support children's well being



Comprehensive Early Childhood System



Purposes of Assessment

- **Plan teaching** for a particular child/report progress to the child's family
- **Screen** a child for developmental delays
- **Accountability** for effectiveness of a program (school, center)
- **Measure readiness** of a large group of children (city, county, state)

Assessment Challenges

- Assessments must be reliable, valid, fair for each specific purpose
- Always developmentally and linguistically appropriate
- For school readiness, ‘multiple domain’ i.e., broad to match child development and learning (i.e., not just literacy)
- Assessments must be worth the time and effort to conduct



Kindergarten readiness assessment in the states 2010

- Half the states require some assessment of children in K
- Just 7 states track readiness statewide (ready, in progress, not ready – AK, CT, FL, HI, MD, MN and VT)
- 2 states (HI and VT) also assess the readiness of schools

What's next?

The Early Development Inventory...

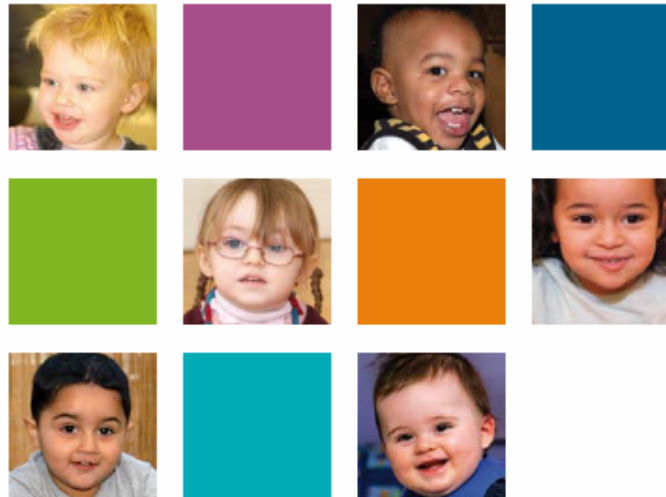
- EDI is used nationally in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Jamaica
- Multi-domain, predictive of performance through Grade 5
- Results reported by neighborhood
- Paired with asset maps of community
- United Way: 20 communities piloting in US



Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

May 2008

Setting the Standards for Learning, Development
and Care for children from birth to five



Every Child Matters
Change For Children



department for
children, schools and families

Questions? Comments....

