



# 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](http://www.NewMexicoKids.org)

