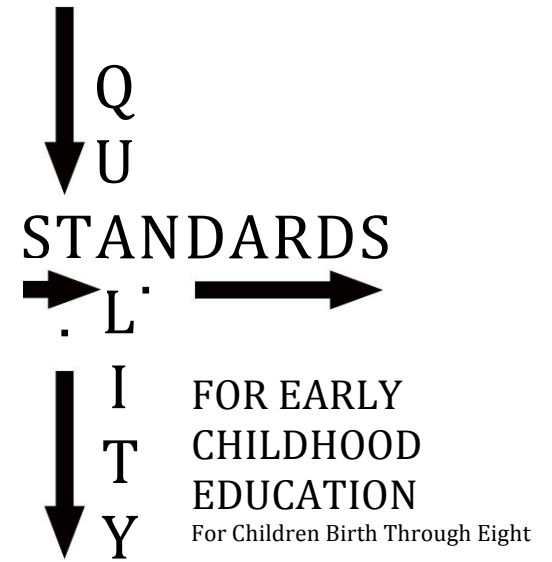


Where Do I Call For Information?

- Make A Difference Information Network
800-332-6262 V/TT
- Parents As Teachers
Kansas State Department of Education
785-296-4964 or 800-203-9462
- Child Care and Early Education
Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services
888-369-4777
- School Nurse Consultant
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
785-296-1307 or 800-332-6232
- Families Together, Inc.
888-815-6364
- Head Start Collaboration Project
785-291-3314
- Kansas Assoc. for the Education of Young Children
785-280-0088
- Child Care Aware of Kansas
785-823-3343
- Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities
800-227-3578
- Early Learning Services Unit
Kansas State Dept. of Education
785-296-5352 or 800-203-9462
- Infant Toddler Services
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
785-296-6135
- Early Childhood Special Education
Kansas State Dept. of Education
785-296-1944 or 800-203-9462
- Kansas Division for Early Childhood
620-275-0291

(April 2011)



Addressing the needs of:

- ☞ Infants
- ☞ Toddlers
- ☞ Preschoolers
- ☞ Kindergartners
- ☞ Early Primary Students

Kansas Stakeholders Advisory Committee
Early Childhood Education

Overview

The Quality Standards were developed to be an indication of quality as well as a guide for all early childhood providers. Nine topics were selected to describe concepts underlying the Quality Standards:

1. Family Involvement,
2. Community,
3. Program Administration,
4. Personnel,
5. Learning Experiences,
6. Physical Setting and Safety,
7. Health and Nutrition,
8. Child Assessment, and
9. Program Evaluation.



For each topic, an outcome was written, accompanied by standards and indicators.

What is the purpose?

The Quality Standards are a comprehensive guide, addressing the total child in the context of his or her family. They contain the outcomes, standards and indicators necessary for programs to provide quality care and education.

All environments for young children are educational and provide opportunities for learning. Using the standards will:

- ease transitions for families using services for children from birth through age eight;
- ensure services are developmentally, individually and culturally appropriate;
- encourage responsibility and collaboration within communities; and
- support family strengths, needs and differences.

A Change in Early Childhood Philosophy

With more understanding about child development, the age range of early childhood is now recognized to include the period in a child's life from the prenatal period through age eight. Instead of focusing only on standard prekindergarten programs ("nursery schools"), we now realize that ALL environments for young children are educational and must be nurturing. Families are recognized as the primary providers for their children and as important participants in all early childhood services and programs.



How Can These Standards Be Used?

By individual providers –

- self-assessment to suggest areas of strength and possible topics for training.

By programs –

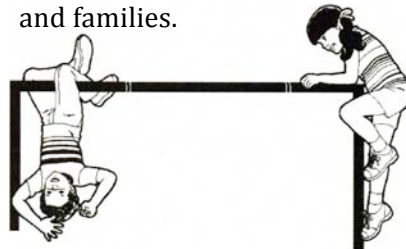
- self-assessment for staff development and school or program improvement.

By families –

- to gain information to recognize quality early childhood services for children from birth through age eight.

By individuals interested in the welfare of young children –

- to increase the quality in early care and education programs, strengthen community collaboration, and impact child development in a positive manner resulting in better educational and social outcomes for children and families.



What are the Guiding Principles?

1. Families are respected as the first and most important teachers for their children. Parents are the key decision makers, working with providers.
2. All children learn within their families and communities. Experiences for learning happen all day. This affects the whole child.
3. Early childhood education includes parent education, family support, child care, health, social service, and education programs for young children.
4. Young children learn everywhere. All places for young children are educational.
5. Early childhood education provides comprehensive services for children from birth through age eight.
6. Programs for young children provide activities that are appropriate for the child's age and development.
7. Every child is special. Programs must individualize for differences, interests, cultures and needs of young children.
8. Communities will support families in finding quality child care, education, and family services.
9. Quality early childhood services provide a good foundation for lifelong learning.



Stakeholders Advisory Committee

The Quality Standards were developed by the Kansas Stakeholders Advisory Committee, including a diverse representation of the early childhood community.