



Ten Core Knowledge Components for Early Care and Education

COMPONENT 1: CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Knowledge and understanding of developmental stages, processes, theories and their implications for work with children and families

COMPONENT 2: THE ENVIRONMENT, CURRICULUM, AND PRACTICE

- Developmentally appropriate practice that supports physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and creative development

COMPONENT 3: CHARACTER BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Ability to identify developmentally appropriate behavior with a variety of positive guidance strategies that promote self-regulations, respect for others, and meet the needs of all children

COMPONENT 4: RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

- Building collaborative relationships with families and community resources to maximize support and services for each child and family

COMPONENT 5: OBSERVING, RECORDING, AND ASSESSING CHILD OUTCOMES

- Understanding the how and why of observing children and utilization of informal, authentic, and formal assessment techniques as a tool for curriculum planning, goal setting for individuals in partnerships with parents, and preparation of the learning environment to enhance growth and learning

COMPONENT 6: PROGRAM OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- Knowledge of regulations, policies, and quality standards that apply to the program and how to organize, evaluate, and implement regulations and standards to enable a quality environment

COMPONENT 7: PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP

- Making a commitment to the early childhood profession by advocating for quality programs and services while adhering to the professional code of ethics and keeping current in the field of early childhood education and child development

COMPONENT 8: HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION

- Ensure child safety, promote health practices, recognize and respond to child abuse and neglect, and provide nutritious meals and snacks

COMPONENT 9: DIVERSE ABILITIES

- Knowledge and understanding of developmental stages, processes, theories and their implications for work with children with diverse abilities (special needs) and their families, and to provide inclusive opportunities

COMPONENT 10: PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Knowledge and understanding of the five protective factors and seven strategies as defined by Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education