

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress

Minnesota's Early
Learning Standards:
Birth to Kindergarten

January 2017



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Early Childhood Indicators of Progress

Minnesota's Early Learning Standards



Introduction

The early childhood years (from birth to the start of kindergarten) are an important time of rapid growth and learning. Children's brains are developing more quickly at this time than at any other. They are exploring what they can do with their bodies and creating relationships with loved ones. They are investigating how the world works and their place in that world. Because of this complex and rapid development in young children, a shared set of expectations of what young children can know and do is necessary to build successful early childhood education programs and supports. In Minnesota, this set of shared expectations is called the *Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards* (ECIPs). The areas of learning or domains covered by the ECIPs include physical and movement development; language, literacy and communications; cognitive; mathematics; science; social systems; approaches to learning; the arts; and social and emotional development.

The first years of life are critical for later outcomes. Young children have an innate desire to learn. That desire can be supported or undermined by early experiences. High-quality early childhood education can promote intellectual, language, physical, social, and emotional development, creating school readiness and building a foundation for later academic and social competence. By defining the desired content and outcomes of young children's education, early learning standards can lead to greater opportunities for positive development and learning in these early years (NAEYC & NAECS/SDE 2002, 2).

How children learn in the early years

Every moment for a young child is a learning moment. Every interaction and experience gives them information, increases their understanding, and provides them with foundational skills that they will use for the rest of their lives.

"We now know that rich and engaging early learning experiences and nurturing, responsive relationships with parents and caregivers are as important to a young child's developing mind as nutritious meals and good health care are to their developing bodies." (Council of Chief State School Officers 2010, 3)

When nurtured and guided, children flourish. They thrive in supportive relationships and grow in confidence. Through hands-on interactions with objects and people, they begin to figure out how the world works.

"We must ensure that all students enter school physically healthy, with key language and literacy skills as well as the social and emotional capacity to approach learning - and life - with confidence, curiosity and enthusiasm." (Council of Chief State School Officers 2010, 1)

Play, Exploration and Active Learning

The most effective curricular approaches in early childhood are based on young children as active learners emphasizing play, exploration, and constructive learning more so than didactic, teacher-led, passive learning experiences. The ECIPs support play, exploration, and active learning for children from birth through kindergarten entry.

“...a preponderance of research has shown that there is a false dichotomy between more rigorous academic learning and play...Students are more likely to learn important academic skills and content through play than by having teacher-directed instruction outside of a playful context, as with, for instance, the filling out of a worksheet.” (Lieberman and Cook 2016, 9)

For infants and toddlers, play and exploration are rooted in strong attachments to family members as well as teachers and providers. The young, non-mobile infant observes and explores the adults who care for him, touching, listening, looking, and taking in all that is around him. He also explores his own body, figuring out what he can do with his hands, his arms, his torso, and his toes. As older infants begin to crawl and walk, they are able to interact more with the physical environment and explore their surroundings, still needing the base of support provided by familiar and trusted adults. Toddlers are even more active as they play and explore with a greater range of motion and physical capabilities. Their increasing communication skills and growing independence allow them to be more adventurous and always more able to explore with a solid base of adult support. Effective teachers and providers

structure the environment with safety in mind and offer intriguing objects appropriate for the age group. They interact with children as they play and explore, giving descriptions that increase vocabulary, engaging in longer conversations as children’s language usage increases, and encouraging curiosity and problem solving. Carefully planned experiences and toys increase the opportunity for children to learn.

Effective teachers and providers of infants and toddlers use the ECIPs to plan appropriate play experiences. They observe children at play and during routines, and refer back to the standards to identify what skills and knowledge the child is demonstrating and what he or she is ready to do next. Based on their observations and reflections related to the ECIPs, they offer more play experiences and observe again. The ongoing planning/observation/reflection cycle is at the heart of best practices

For preschoolers, play and exploration are the most meaningful ways for children to acquire skills and knowledge as well as to practice skills and refine understanding of new concepts. Rather than view play as nonacademic, effective teachers and providers of preschoolers recognize that high quality play experiences present many learning opportunities that have long-lasting effects for children. Research has found greater academic achievement in the primary grades for children who engaged in child-initiated, productive play in the preschool years (Copple and Bredekamp 2009). Links have been made between play and the development of basic literacy skills, creative problem-solving, prosocial behavior, self-regulation, and executive function. Young children’s



Children are such curious creatures. They explore, question and wonder, and by doing so, learn...For too many children, curiosity fades. Curiosity dimmed is a future denied. Our potential — emotional, social, and cognitive — is expressed through the quantity and quality of our experiences. And the less-curious child will make fewer new friends, join fewer social groups, read fewer books, and take fewer hikes. The less-curious child is harder to teach because he is harder to inspire, enthuse, and motivate. (Perry 2001, 1)

engagement in high quality play supports their curiosity as they experiment and hypothesize. Play provides strong motivation for learning and multiple opportunities for practice and skill development.

Teachers and providers who work with preschoolers plan for play experiences with learning in mind. Using the indicators in the ECIPs to plan, they can scaffold learning by individualizing play activities and carefully choosing materials, offering ideas, and interacting with children.

Purposes for Early Learning Standards

The ECIPs were developed and revised so that Minnesota's children are served by teachers and providers with a shared set of expectations. The ECIPs are based on the most recent research and demonstrate a continuum of learning that includes expectations for all children. They are a framework that fulfills multiple purposes:

1. **Provide a resource** for early childhood professionals as they work with young children and their families across the state.
2. **Support** quality improvement initiatives in early childhood care and education
3. **Align** across the full educational spectrum from birth through secondary levels.

The ECIPs as a Resource

The ECIPs offer research-based information about expectations for children's capabilities at different ages and across varying domains of development. They provide a progression of learning so that teachers and providers in Minnesota have a common framework and vocabulary by which they can plan curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for children of different ages, that is sensitive to the individual needs of children, and that is culturally relevant for children's varying life experiences. The continuum of learning in the ECIPs and the alignment to kindergarten standards helps teachers talk with parents and families about generally accepted expectations, their child's progress, and individualized planning for next steps.

The ECIPs as a Support to Quality Improvement Initiatives

As a framework for accountability, the ECIPs are designed to inform curricula design and assessment selection. While not an assessment tool, the ECIPs serve as the foundation for the authentic assessment processes.

The Alignment of the ECIPs

The ECIPs align with the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and with the Common Core State Standards Initiative for Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade (CCSS) for English Language Arts. They reflect the child development knowledge that defines the foundational skills necessary to build toward the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards and the CCSS expectations





Background of the ECIPs Revision

The preschool version of the ECIPs was initially developed in 2000, and revised in 2005; the infant and toddler version was developed in 2007. These were revised and expanded into a single continuum of expectations in the 2016 version of the ECIPs.

The revision process of the ECIPs used committees composed of professionals from school districts, Head Start and child care, including diverse content specialists, teachers, providers, coaches, faculty, trainers and administrators, convened to address specific domains. Proposed indicators were reviewed by additional content experts. Finally, the standards were reviewed for plain language to ensure the standards are as clear as possible.

The 2016 revision includes the following changes:

- The infant and toddler and preschool versions are combined into one set of standards for birth to kindergarten entrance.
- The display of the standards was revised.
- The age ranges were increased to make the ECIPs more helpful in planning.
- The primary audience was clarified to be teachers and providers in early childhood programs.

Guiding Principles for ECIPs Development

The ECIPs revision is based on the following guiding principles. The ECIPs:

□Recognize that young children are:

- Competent and capable of positive developmental outcomes and deserve high expectations
- Individuals who develop at different rates and will vary in their progress within learning domains.
- Best understood and supported within the context of their family, culture and community.
- In a rapid period of brain development and need nurturing environments with appropriate interaction and encouragement to take full advantage of this growth period.
- Active learners who learn best in environments where they can construct their knowledge and practice their skills in a variety of ways, with teachers and providers who respect and respond to their needs.

“For optimal development and learning of all children, individuals who work with children must respect, value, and support the culture, values, beliefs, and languages of each home and promote the meaningful, relevant, and active participation of families.” (Division for Early Childhood 2010, 1)

□Support equity and excellence for all children in the state of Minnesota.

High-quality early childhood education supports the optimal development of each and every child regardless of income, ability, race, culture, or special needs. The ECIP promote equity and excellence so that every child has access to teachers and providers whose expectations are the same for each and every child. These expectations are the foundation on which teachers and providers build the supports for individual children while working toward generally accepted expectations for all. The ECIP are written in a way so that teachers and providers can plan experiences that reflect the families’ cultures, interests and perspectives. This is necessary so that children are then better able to focus, interact, play and learn.

□Describe observable behaviors.

The ECIP are written in language that allows for consistent understanding and implementation by teachers and providers. Because the indicators are formed across a continuum of age groups, the standards make it possible for children to demonstrate an outcome through a variety of culturally appropriate ways and with a variety of materials. This helps teachers and providers use authentic assessment practices based on ongoing observation and documentation. In addition, the language of the ECIP allows for flexibility as teachers and providers work closely with a child’s family to learn more about how the child is developing in his or her family, neighborhood, religious sect or ethnic group.

□Demonstrate a continuum of learning from birth to kindergarten entrance.

Whenever appropriate, they have consistent domains across ages and components. In this way, teachers and providers can refer to the continuum in the ECIPs as they observe what the child can do, have a general idea of what to expect next, and identify ways to support each child’s learning and development.

While young children’s development follows a predictable sequence, development is not uniform. Each child’s pattern and pace of development varies. There may be strengths in certain domains and opportunities in others. Sometimes children have an identified delay or disability that requires adaptations and accommodations. The continuum in the ECIPs helps teachers and providers address individual differences among children in their program.

□ **Demonstrate a continuum of learning from birth to kindergarten entrance.**

Learning is strongest when integrated across domains or broad areas of growth and development. Development in one domain influences development in other domains. For example, children with a strong self-concept and expanding oral language skills may engage in more successful social interactions with peers and adults. The ECIPs address this interrelatedness in the inclusion of some similar indicators across different domains. As teachers and providers observe children’s performance related to the ECIPs, they recognize children’s strengths, build upon them, and maximize connections across domains.

What the ECIPs Are and What they Are Not

The ECIPs demonstrate a **continuum of increasingly complex learning** for children from birth to kindergarten entrance. They address the development and learning of ALL children, including typically developing children, dual language learners, children with disabilities, and children with high needs.

They are not an all-inclusive resource about children’s development. The standards reflect a selection of **important developmental expectations** that highlight the learning and skills children need in order to be prepared for kindergarten and to continue as life-long learners.

There are appropriate and inappropriate uses of the ECIPs. They are not intended to be used as a curriculum or an assessment tool. However, they should be used to **inform curricular decisions** and to correlate with authentic assessment procedures and content.

The ECIP are not to be used to determine children’s eligibility for various programs or services or to deny children access to programs or services.



Opportunities for Children

- Children and families will experience consistent expectations for the child’s development regardless of the early childhood program the child attends.
- All children will have access to challenging content and the supports they need to learn that content.
- Children will experience a coherent progression of learning expectations throughout early childhood, aligned to those in kindergarten and the primary grades.

How to Read the New ECIPs

The organization of the domains is designed to be easy-to-understand and aid in planning for individuals and small groups of children. The ECIP are now displayed as an age continuum within each domain and include the following elements:

- **DOMAINS** are major areas of development.
- **COMPONENTS** are specific areas of learning within each domain.
- **SUBCOMPONENTS** are consistent strands within a component across the full age-range continuum
- **INDICATORS** are expectations for observable outcomes for the child at specific ages. For quick reference, indicators are now numbered within the domain and subcomponent.
- **INDICATOR NUMBERS** identify the location of an indicator within the domain, component and subcomponent.

The learning domains included in the ECIP are:

1. Social and Emotional Development
2. Approaches to Learning
3. Language, Literacy and Communication
4. Creativity and the Arts
5. Cognitive Development: Mathematics, Science and Social Systems
6. Physical and Movement Development

There are five age ranges identified, one for each year of a child's life from birth to kindergarten entry. The age ranges in the new ECIPs are:

- 0-1 year
- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 3-4 years
- 4-5, K-readiness

Note: In the Language, Literacy and Communications domain, the first two age ranges are slightly different than in the other domains. This is because of the large amount of research that highlighted these age ranges as important in language development.

Remember, children's development is highly variable. Children will not always demonstrate indicators identified for their chronological age. They may show some behaviors identified for younger children or may demonstrate some skills and knowledge beyond their present age. The ECIPs are formed in a continuum across different age ranges so that teachers and providers can identify where each child is performing and easily see what the next expectation is in the continuum. They can also see the indicator(s) in a previous age range, which can guide teachers to plan for missed or needed experiences and adapt curricula accordingly.



How Different Groups Can Use the Standards

The primary audience of The Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP) is teachers and providers in early childhood care and education programs that serve children from birth to kindergarten entrance. The settings or these programs may include school districts, child care, community preschools and Head Starts. Administrators, directors, principals, educational leaders, policy makers, community members, and other stakeholders will use the ECIPs when planning for or assessing the effectiveness of current policies and resources related to the optimal development of young children.

Communication with families should include discussion of the ECIP so parents have the information they need to support their children's learning and development. Potential uses of the ECIP by different groups are described more fully below.

Families

Family engagement is an essential component of successful implementation of the early learning standards. Families of young children in Minnesota better understand their children's development and communicate more fully when teachers and providers share this framework with them. The standards create a common vocabulary for the families and the staff so that communication flows easily. As they work in partnership with teachers and providers, families see high quality early childhood practices in action.

Teachers and Providers

The ECIPs should be used frequently as a tool to assist in meeting the individual needs of all children. Teachers and providers will use the ECIPs in three primary ways:

1. To guide planning for learning experiences and effective caregiving and teaching strategies.
2. To provide direction for authentic assessment of young children.
3. To support family engagement.

In addition, teachers and providers will be impacted by the ways that the ECIPs influence program standards and evaluation. Plans for staff training and development sessions, as well as higher education coursework in Minnesota will integrate the ECIPs into all areas of best practices for those working with young children.

Curriculum Planning

When planning for curricular approaches for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, teachers and providers can turn to the ECIPs to identify the concepts, knowledge, and skills appropriate for children at different ages. Teachers and providers use the broad developmental trajectories identified in the ECIPs to plan for individual children and determine the best ways to support each child's continued growth. In addition, by considering the diverse cultural backgrounds of the children and their families, teachers ensure that the curricular approaches are culturally inclusive as they plan activities and experiences.

The ECIPs support strong communication among all professionals within and across early childhood programs when everyone uses the common vocabulary of the ECIPs.

Authentic Assessment

The ECIPs provide direction for teachers and providers when using authentic assessment procedures to monitor young children's progress. Assessment tools aligned with the ECIPs should be selected to ensure standards, curricula, assessments and teaching strategies create a coherent experience for the children and enable teachers and providers to impact children's learning and growth. Teachers and providers can engage in criterion-referenced, observational assessment that is authentic, grounded in the everyday practice of observation, documentation, and collection of work samples.

Staff Training and Development

Higher education coursework and ongoing staff training and development are important ways to further the professionalism of teachers and providers in early childhood education programs. The ECIPs will be integrated into these learning experiences for teachers and providers, offering a framework of child development expectations and developmentally appropriate practices. Higher education coursework and staff development sessions increase familiarity with the ECIPs as well as address the implications of the standards for curriculum and assessment.

How the ECIPs Relate to Program Standards and Program Evaluation

Program standards and the ECIPs share the same goal: to improve outcomes for young children. The ECIPs are a framework that supports high quality programming for young children, within any set of program standards. Programs may be accountable to the Head Start Program Performance Standards or to accreditation processes such as those established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). In fact, these program standards create the conditions for successful implementation of the ECIP by creating high quality learning environments for young children.



Conclusion

The ECIPs are a solid foundation for the Minnesota early childhood care and education programs that offer services for young children and their families. The indicators in the ECIPs clarify expectations for all children's development while supporting teachers and providers in offering the highest quality services for young children and their families. Improved programs, teacher interactions and individualized planning result in better outcomes for young children.

The ECIPs are the basis for pedagogy, curriculum, child assessment, teacher preparation curricula, and evaluation in Minnesota. We hope that teachers and providers use the standards to communicate with parents and family members so that, together, they make a difference in the lives of children. In addition, community members and policymakers will use the standards to make neighborhoods and cities robust places for children and families to thrive. The goal of these united efforts to implement the Minnesota Early Indicators of Progress fully is to support each child to grow, develop and learn while reaching his or her full potential

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Approaches to Learning Domain



"My friends and I decided to build a house on the floor at our preschool. We had some small wooden blocks, some magnetic blocks, and some Legos that we stacked up to make walls. Lydia said, "We need a roof." I said, "Good idea, Lydia! We could make it out of magnet blocks." She agreed and together with our friend, Kylee, we started laying the magnet blocks across the walls we had built. But the roof kept falling down. Kylee said, "I think our walls are too far apart." We all helped to move them closer and rebuild the roof for our house. It worked! We continued to build more rooms and put roofs on them for the next twenty minutes."

In the early years, children are learning so many things. Their brains are rapidly developing and multitudes of cognitive connections are being created. They're learning to use their bodies. They're learning the ins and outs of relationships and to express their feelings. Communicating with others and processing language is a big step. Skills and concepts are acquired rapidly during early childhood if children are given the opportunity to explore.

But most importantly, young children are learning how to learn and manage their learning. The domain of Approaches to Learning focuses on the very traits that children must develop so that they can be successful as learners in later schooling and throughout their lives:

- Curiosity
- Engagement
- Persistence
- Inventiveness
- Organizing information

There is research to support the importance of children's approaches to learning and success in school. One study found that children with higher levels of attentiveness, task persistence, eagerness to learn, learning independence, flexibility, and organization, generally did better in literacy and math at the end of the kindergarten school year and the beginning of their first-grade year. In addition, children who approach learning tasks or novel situations with these positive approaches to learning are better able to regulate their learning experiences, and more quickly acquire general knowledge and cognitive skills. (Conn-Power 2006, 2)



The expectations that are set out in the Approaches to Learning domain of the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs) show the ways that children demonstrate these approaches at different ages. There is no alignment with the indicators in this domain with the Minnesota Academic Standards for Kindergarten because there is no similar domain in K-12 Standards. Instead, early childhood professionals can turn to other resources for kindergarten expectations

The Approaches to Learning Domain includes four components:

- AL 1-2 Initiative and Curiosity - Showing an active interest in surroundings, people, and objects. Demonstrating an eagerness to learn.
- AL 3-6 Attention, Engagement and Persistence - Focusing and maintaining attention, makes constructive choices, plans to achieve a goal.
- AL 7-9 Creativity - Demonstrating originality and inventiveness in a variety of ways. Appropriately expressing one's unique ideas.
- AL 10-13 Processing and Utilizing Information – Gathering, storing, and organizing information that is perceived through the senses in order to use or apply in new situations. Constructing and using knowledge.

The sub-components and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on the ways that infants show interest in their environment, interact with others and objects for short periods of time, begin to manage frustration, begin to generalize experiences, and recognize cause and effect relationships.
- The indicators for toddlers include how they are beginning to examine the characteristics of objects, make some independent choices, handle transitions, seek out others to play and carry out play plans, pretend, and identify and communicate about problems.
- The indicators for preschoolers focus on how children show their eagerness to investigate new things, engage in play with peers for extended periods of time, persist, experiment with new ways to combine materials, and contribute relevant information to discussions.

The skills and concepts in the Approaches to Learning Domain are highly interrelated to children's development in other domains. Teachers and providers of young children must remain attentive to this important area so they build practice in these skills throughout the curriculum and children develop this important foundation

Children's ability to stay focused, interested, and engaged in activities supports a range of positive outcomes, including cognitive, language, and social and emotional development. It allows children to acquire new knowledge, learn new skills, and set and achieve goals for themselves. Many early learning experts view approaches to learning as one of the most important domains of early childhood development. (Head Start 2015)

Resources:

Conn-Powers, Michael. 2006. All Children Ready for School: Approaches to Learning. Early Childhood Briefing Paper Series. Bloomington: Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

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Domain: Approaches to Learning

Components AL1-2: Initiative and Curiosity

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>AL1 Inquisitiveness Child explores the environment and seeks interaction with people and objects; willingly tries new things</p>	<p>AL1.1 Shows interest in the environment primarily through looking and listening</p> <p>AL1.2 Responds to people by looking kicking legs, vocalizing, reaching</p> <p>AL1.3 Demonstrates readiness for new experiences</p>	<p>AL1.4 Uses senses to explore their environment</p> <p>AL1.5 Seeks and taking pleasure in new skills</p>	<p>AL1.6 Approaches new materials in the environment with interest</p>	<p>AL1.7 Investigates and experiments with materials with enthusiasm</p> <p>AL1.8 Tries different ways of combining materials</p> <p>AL 1.9 Asks question</p>	<p>AL1.10 Scans environment and notices new objects, materials and activities right away. Asks about them</p> <p>AL1.11 Eager to investigate new things and have new experiences</p>
<p>AL2 Wonderment Child expresses interest in novelty</p>	<p>AL2.1 Vocalizes in response to a new person, toy or experience</p>	<p>AL2.2 Bangs, moves, throws and dumps materials with pleasure</p>	<p>AL2.3 Turns objects around, upside down and inside out to examine characteristics</p>	<p>AL2.4 Verbally expresses interest when encountering novel objects or events</p>	<p>AL2.5 Independently seeks out new experiences, objects, or materials for own enjoyment</p>

Components AL3-6: Attentiveness, Engagement and Persistence

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
AL3 Attending Child focuses visual and auditory attention on relevant aspects of the environment	AL3.1 Recognizes primary caregiver and familiar objects by touch, sight, sound, smell	AL3.2 Stays focused on activities for a short period of time	AL3.3 Maintains attention for longer periods of time	AL3.4 Returns to an activity after an interruption AL3.5 Engages in play with peers for extended period of time AL3.6 Attends in a large group for short periods	AL3.7 Attends in large group activities led by teacher for sustained periods AL3.8 Participates in large group activities and discussions AL3.9 Listens to others
AL4 Self-direction Child makes choices based upon own interests	AL4.1 Shows preference for people, objects, and food	AL4.2 Makes choices seeking occasional assistance from adult	AL4.3 Makes choices independently	AL4.4 Engages in self-initiated activities for sustained periods of time	AL4.5 Creates a plan to achieve a goal and follows through to completion
AL5 Diligence Child is focused and productive	AL5.1 Repeats actions intentionally to achieve goals	AL5.2 Interacts with others, objects or activities for short periods of time	AL5.3 Seeks assistance then persists to complete task	AL5.4 Works at a task despite distractions	AL5.6 Conscientiously attempts to complete assigned tasks
AL6 Resilience Child responds to challenge by adapting	AL6.1 Calms self when frustrated	AL6.2 When upset, can recover in a reasonable amount of time	AL6.3 Handles transitions comfortably	AL6.4 Copes with change, persists and moves ahead AL6.5 Approaches new tasks with confidence	AL6.6 Maintains a positive outlook in spite of challenges AL6.7 Demonstrates ability to adjust to changes

Components AL7-9: Creativity

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
AL7 Immersion Child becomes absorbed in the process of exploration	AL7.1 Looks and listens with intensity	AL7.2 Explores environment with purpose	AL7.3 Shows preference for certain activities, objects and materials through sustained involvement	AL7.4 Repeatedly becomes engrossed in activities of own choosing. AL7.5 Rarely shows boredom when engaged in preferred activities	AL7.6 When interested in a topic seeks opportunities to learn more and satisfy own curiosity
AL8 Playfulness Child demonstrates a sense of humor and imagination in their play	AL8.1 Smile, coos and laughs AL8.2 Begins to be playful with familiar people and objects	AL8.3 Explores and uses materials in new and unconventional ways AL8.4 Observes others when they are laughing and smiles or laughs too	AL8.5 Shows interest in other's play and seeks out others to play AL8.6 Uses a variety of voice inflections and facial expressions in play; laughs	AL8.7 Tries out various pretend roles AL8.8 Experiments with new ways to combine materials when playing	AL8.9 Approaches tasks with imagination and inventiveness
AL9 Production Child expresses ideas, thoughts and opinions and creates products that are unexpected, original and relevant	AL9.1 Shows excitement and pleasure at making something happen (acts mobile by kicking foot, drops toy and hears a "bang")	AL9.2 Wants to do things by self and has own way of doing thing AL9.3 Begins to play with toys, objects and materials in new, ways.	AL9.4 Begins to organize play and carry out own plans	AL9.5 Engages in inventive social play AL9.6 Engages in inventive play with materials AL9.7 Tries out different ways to accomplish a task	AL9.8 Becomes absorbed in the process of creating AL9.9 Purposefully works to create unique products of own choosing

Components AL10-13: Processing and Utilizing Information

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>AL10 Working Memory Child stores and retrieves information in order to use it purposefully</p>	<p>AL10.1 Demonstrates understanding of object permanence</p>	<p>AL10.2 Uses some prior experiences to build new knowledge and solve problems</p> <p>AL10.3 Anticipates familiar, daily events</p>	<p>AL10.4 Able to remember and pretend a sequence of events</p> <p>AL10.5 Recites simple songs, rhymes, a short sequence of letters, numbers, etc.</p>	<p>AL10.6 Recalls and follows multi step directions of increasing complexity</p> <p>AL10.7 Recites complete songs or rhymes</p>	<p>AL10.8 Independently carries out all of the steps in daily routines such as putting toys away, preparing for lunch, etc</p> <p>AL10.9 Participates in discussions about familiar topics and contributes relevant information</p>
<p>AL11 Symbolic Representation Child uses sounds, actions, objects and materials (paint, clay, blocks, etc.) to express their ideas and understanding as well as to make new connections</p>	<p>AL11.1 Imitates actions or makes a sound to represent or stand for an object or event (“Arf” for dog)</p>	<p>AL11.2 Acts out a sequence of related actions to recreate personal experiences (feeding teddy bear with a spoon, etc)</p>	<p>AL11.3 Begins to use one object to stand for another in play (block as a telephone)</p> <p>AL11.4 After exploring and experimenting with materials, labels their creations</p>	<p>AL11.5 Begins to intentionally plan how to use materials to express an idea (may have a story in mind when pretending)</p> <p>AL11.6 Notices written words represent objects, people or events and begins to use in play</p>	<p>AL11.7 Plans and creates elaborate play plots, stories, block structures and art projects</p> <p>AL11.8 Begins to use print as a tool to express thoughts, ideas and to intentionally communicate</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>AL12 Cognitive Flexibility/ Reasoning Child considers more than one possible outcome to a problem or situation; begins to create theories for why things happen; can recognize how one thing relates to or affects another thing</p>	<p>AL12.1 Recognizes their actions can cause a specific response</p>	<p>AL12.2 Notices similarities and differences</p> <p>AL12.3 Anticipates what will happen next</p>	<p>AL12.4 Makes inferences based on what is seen, heard, smelled, etc.</p> <p>AL12.5 Considers possibilities for why something happened</p>	<p>AL12.6 Predicts and hypothesizes what will happen next</p> <p>AL12.7 Forms theories about why things happen</p>	<p>AL12.8 Draws conclusions and can explain their thinking</p> <p>AL12.9 Considers another point of view and will change opinion or idea when faced with new information</p> <p>AL12.10 Collaborates with others to investigate a situation or problem</p>
<p>AL13 Problem Solving Child seeks and finds solutions to problems</p>	<p>AL13.1 Notices and pays attention to things that seem amiss</p>	<p>AL13.2 Examines objects that don't respond as usual; attempts to make object work as expected</p>	<p>AL13.3 Communicates to others that there is a problem and request that they solve it</p>	<p>AL13.4 Makes guesses about how a problem might be solved and with support is willing to follow through to a solution</p>	<p>AL13.5 Independently attempts to solve problems</p> <p>AL13.6 Explains the possible solution and the outcome</p> <p>AL13.7 Evaluates the outcome of attempted solutions and makes revisions if necessary</p>

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to The Arts Domain



"I am four-years-old and I like to make things. I make towers and buildings with blocks. I make snakes and balls with modeling dough. I make sounds and rhythms when I pound on a drum. I make up stories and act them out when I put on dress-up clothes or play with puppets. I really like to look at the pictures in books, to sing songs, to dance and move to music, and to paint and draw with different kinds of materials. Sometime I want to sing because I'm happy and sometimes I like to paint people that I'm thinking about. Sometimes I feel better when I'm I've pretended with my friend. At my preschool program, I have time to do these things and my teachers help me, encourage me, give me new ideas and things to work with, and join me in joyfully experiencing creativity in many ways."

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist when he grows up." -Pablo Picasso

Children's development related to creative expression in the arts begins in their very first days. They interact with their family members in loving care that may include the soothing sounds of lullabies and the rhythmic movements of being rocked and patted. As their visual capabilities develop, they see the colors and shapes in their home environment and in nature. As their mobility increases, they move their bodies and experiment with what their muscles can do to get places and to express themselves. And, as children are able to make use of various tools, they make marks on paper, engage their senses with finger paint and modeling dough, and explore and create with various toys and objects. Books, photographs, music and media surround young children and expose them to the creativity of others. The arts for the young child are an integral part of living in the world and figuring out one's own capabilities for self-expression.

The expectations that are set out in the Early Indicators of Childhood of Progress (ECIPs): Minnesota's Early Learning Standards recognize that in the early years, children are developing skills in the arts that allow them to explore a variety of ways to be creative and to express themselves. For this domain, the term "arts" is used to include all types of artistic expression that can be used in an early childhood classroom (painting, drawing, making to music, dancing, pretend play, photography, building, etc. In addition, exposure to a variety of experiences help children further their appreciation of the arts and set life-long patterns for enjoying the arts. The indicators in this domain are aligned with the Minnesota Kindergarten Academic Standards. The ECIPs provide guidance so that teachers and providers can know appropriate expectations for young learners and understand how best to support children in their development in the arts.



The Arts Domain includes three components:

- A1-2: Exploring the Arts
- A3-4: Using the Arts to Express Ideas and Emotions
- A5: Self-Expression in the Arts

The subcomponents and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus is on the ways that children begin to explore their senses, and their own preferences
- The indicators for toddlers include how they begin to explore art materials including finger paint, crayons, music, dancing and clay.
- The indicators for preschoolers focus on how children intentionally use the arts, develop the vocabulary to describe their own creations and begin to combine artistic elements.

Creative thinking and innovation are skills that are promoted in educational standards that lead to workforce readiness and academic success. Skills in the arts are seen as highly interrelated with development across domains. Teachers and providers can infuse arts experiences into all parts of their curricular planning for young children and bring about meaningful engagement. Arts experiences are motivating and allow children to learn in fun and interesting ways.

When students experience learning through creativity, they will be better prepared for meeting the challenges of society and participating in the workforce (NEA 2012). Embracing creativity as a 21st century skill by addressing academic and arts standards in one lesson can inspire, motivate, and engage children in the learning process and move them forward in their learning and in their future careers. (Hunter-Doniger 2016, 35)

The indicators in the ECIPs help teachers and providers, along with children's family members, understand the expectations for arts development that are appropriate for the youngest learners.

Resources:

Hunter-Doniger, Tracey. 2016. "Snapdragons and Math Using Creativity to Inspire, Motivate, and Engage." Young Children. 71, no. 3: 30-35.

Domain: The Arts

Components A1-2: Exploring the Arts

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>A1 Interest in Art: Child shows an interest in learning about different artistic experiences</p>	<p>A1.1 Actively explores their environment (through song, music, movement etc) to enrich their senses</p>	<p>A1.2 Begins to choose senses to explore</p>	<p>A1.3 Investigates different art experiences</p>	<p>A1.4 Select their own art experience during play</p>	<p>A1.5 Integrates a variety of art experiences during play</p>	
<p>A2 Understanding Differences: Child can distinguish differences within each area of artistic expression</p>	<p>A2.1 Notices differences</p>	<p>A2.2 Show a preference for toys, people, experiences</p>	<p>A2.3 Chooses a artistic expression of their choice</p>	<p>A2.4 Uses art-related vocabulary when discussing different media (stage, easel, brush, etc.</p>	<p>A2.5 Discuss differences among artistic expression</p>	<p>K1.1.1.1 – K1.1.5.1 Identify the elements of dance, media arts, music, theater, visual arts</p> <p>K1.2.5.1 Identify the tools, materials and techniques from a variety of two- and three-dimensional media such as drawing, printmaking, ceramics or sculpture</p>

Components A3-4: Using the Arts to Express Ideas and Emotions

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
A3 Using Art: Child demonstrates interest and emotions in artistic expression	A3.1 Responds to music by vocalizing, moving body, smiling or frowning at pictures, colors, shapes, etc.	A3.2 Shows emotion when engages in artistic expression	A3.3 Chooses to spend time in artistic expression with available materials (paint, crayons, dramatic play, music etc.) and shares ideas	A3.4 Demonstrates their preference by combining artistic elements (color, sound, media etc.)	A3.5 Elects to spend time in artistic expression with purpose and analyzes their work	K2.1.2.2 Revise creative work based on feedback of others
A4 Patterns: Child understands patterns in artistic media	A4.1 Imitates sounds, motions and gestures	A4.2 Shows preference for familiar sounds, motions and gestures	A4.3 Begins to duplicate artistic patterns	A4.4 Extends their artistic patterns with sounds, music, motions, gestures and materials	A4.5 Creates their own artistic patterns	K1.1.3.1 Identify the elements of music including melody, rhythm, dynamics, tone color, texture, form and their related forms (and other standards in the strand Artistic Foundations)

Component A5: Self-Expression in the Arts

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
A5 Self-Expression: Child uses art for self-expression	A5.1 Expresses emotions when exposed to the arts	A5.2 Shows preference in a variety of the arts to express oneself	A5.3 Shares feelings and ideas through the arts	A5.4 Describes own feelings through artistic expression	A5.5 Intentionally uses art for self-expression	K3.1.2.1 Share and describe a personal media work

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Language, Literacy and Communications Domain



“Amaani, my family child care provider, talks and sings with me and the other children in her care every day. I am three-and-one-half years old and go to her home with my little baby brother and several other children of differing ages. My family speaks English only but I love to listen to the lilt in Amaani’s voice when she talks with me in English and as she sings my baby brother to sleep with a song from her native Somalia. I hear different sounds and am learning some Somali words as well as some Spanish ones as my best friend, Gabriella, and her family speak that language. Amaani makes sure that we can all communicate with each other. My favorite times of the day are book times. Amaani has many different kinds of books and lets us look at them ourselves, reads them to us, and helps us understand the stories and learn new words. Sometimes we act stories out. Sometimes the story has a song that we sing or items that we can count. I really like the pictures in books about plants and animals and houses and big trucks. Amaani has markers and crayons that we can use to write and draw. I can make some of the letters in my name, Emily, but not perfectly. Amaani says that’s okay. That I’m learning just right for a three-, almost four-year-old. Gabriella can make her “G” but my little brother just makes marks on the paper. But Gabriella and me know which name cards belong to us and to the other children. We like to pass them out. When we do it right, Amaani claps and smiles.”

Language, literacy, and communication skills begin in the very first months of life and strong development of young children’s skills and abilities depends on interactions with families, teachers, caregivers and friends. The expectations that are set out in the Minnesota Early Indicators of Child Progress (ECIPs) recognize that young children are developing foundational knowledge and skills that will lead to more rigorous academic study in the English Language Arts domain in the elementary school years. The alignment of the ECIPs with the Minnesota Academic Standards for Kindergarten is included and, as the kindergarten standards are revised, this alignment will be updated. The ECIPs provide guidance so that teachers and providers know appropriate expectations for young learners.

The Language, Literacy, and Communications domain includes four components:

1. Listening and Understanding; Receptive Language LLC 1-2
2. Communicating and Speaking; Expressive Language LLC 3-4
3. Emergent Reading LLC 5-13
4. Writing LLC 14



The subcomponents and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus more on the children's receptive language and beginning communication skills with loved ones and caregivers. Interactions with books and early phonological awareness are seen within the context of relationships with caregivers.
- As toddlers grow in their capabilities to express themselves in words and phrases, vocabulary in their home languages is emphasized, both from the receptive as well as the expressive mode. Phonological awareness is seen in the ways that children engage with word play, songs and rhymes. As caregivers provide opportunities to interact with books and story-reading experiences, they help build initial concepts of print and early comprehension. Toddlers make initial attempts at writing as they scribble and draw with various writing tools.
- Preschoolers show their rapidly expanding vocabulary in the ways they can respond to adult directions and engage in conversations. They express their wants and needs more clearly and in greater complexity as their understanding of grammar and syntax grows. They show enjoyment in being read to and may read the pictures or retell the stories in books they know well. They begin to make sense of letters and print as they play with reading and writing and engage in word play with the sounds of language as they develop phonological awareness.

The domain of Language, Literacy and Communications is foundational to children's development in all domains. Their development of oral language and the ability to communicate with others helps children function socially and in their daily lives. Their growing vocabulary includes the language of other domains. They incorporate mathematical and scientific terminology as they learn more about the world around them. They grow in understanding of roles and responsibilities as they engage in dramatic play and imitate family life.

Certainly reading and writing are important long-term goals in school experiences. The indicators in the ECIPs are designed to work toward those goals with the foundational skills appropriate for the youngest learners. It's important for teachers and providers to remember that literacy in the early years is built on the foundation of oral language.

"Early literacy is an emerging set of relationships between reading and writing. These relationships are situated in a broader communication network of speaking and listening, whose components work together to help the learner negotiate the world and make sense of experience (Thelen & Smith 1995; Lewis 2000; Siegler 2000). Young children need writing to help them learn about reading, they need reading to help them learn about writing; and they need oral language to help them learn about both." (Roskos, Christie, and Richgels 2004, 1)

Resource:

Roskos, Kathleen A., James F. Christie, and Donald J. Richgels. 2003. Essentials of Early Literacy Instruction. Young Children, Vol. 58, No. 2: 52-60.

Domain: Language, Literacy and Communications: Cognitive

Component L1: Listening and Understanding; Receptive Language

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L1 Language comprehension: Child understands the meaning of words and phrases (receptive) and uses those words and phrases to communicate effectively (expressive)</p>	<p>L1.1 Turns toward and focuses on nearby adult caregiver who is speaking</p> <p>L1.2 Watches caregiver actions and gestures</p>	<p>L1.3 Responds to nonverbal and verbal cues</p> <p>L1.4 Responds to conversation, questions, and requests</p> <p>L1.5 Responds to an object or action label such as ball or eat</p>	<p>L1.6 Responds to increasingly complex sentences</p> <p>L1.7 Responds to descriptive language about objects, actions, and concepts</p>	<p>L1.8 Shows understanding of questions and statements about people, objects, ideas, and feelings</p> <p>L1.9 Points to or places an object in/out, under/over and top/bottom when asked</p> <p>L1.10 Notices when adults use unusual or uncommon words</p>	<p>L1.11 Responds to direct questions and follows simple directions</p> <p>L1.12 Points to or places objects before, after, above, and below based on verbal cues</p>	<p>L1.13 Follows directions that involve two or more steps</p> <p>L1.14 Responds to increasingly complex prepositional directions, such as beside, around and next to</p>	<p>K 0.8.1.1.d Follows basic oral directions</p> <p>K 0.8.1.1.a Follows agreed upon rules for discussions</p> <p>K 0.8.1.1.d Follows basic oral directions</p>

Components L2-3: Communicating and Speaking; Expressive Language

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L2 Social conversation: Child meaningfully engages in talk with others to express feelings, wants and ideas</p>	<p>L2.1 Coos and gurgles, babbles, and imitates facial expressions to caregivers</p> <p>L2.2 Begins a conversation through body movements</p>	<p>L2.3 Uses sounds, gestures, or actions to communicate and express needs and wants</p> <p>L2.4 Makes different sounds in response to objects, people, or activities</p>	<p>L2.5 Uses real or made-up words or signs to express basic wants and needs</p> <p>L2.6 Adds to or extends conversations with others</p>	<p>L2.7 Uses sounds, signs, words, phrases for desires and interests</p> <p>L2.8 Begins to ask “why” question</p> <p>L2.9 Starts conversations with others</p>	<p>L2.10 Continues conversations with comments or question</p>	<p>L2.11 Negotiates, shares, plans, and solves problems with others</p> <p>L2.12 Asks and answers questions to seek help or get informatio</p>	<p>K 0.8.1.1.b Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges</p> <p>K 0.8.3.3 Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood</p>

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L3 Vocabulary and syntax: Child understands word order and grammatical rules</p>	<p>L3.1 Imitates and repeats pitch and duration of caregiver sounds</p>	<p>L3.2 Uses a few words or word approximations to represent concepts</p> <p>L3.3 Names a few objects and people</p> <p>L3.4 Imitates animal and other environmental sounds</p>	<p>L3.5 Constructs simple two-word sentences (object and action)</p> <p>L3.6 Rapidly increases use and number of sounds and words</p>	<p>L3.7 Uses increasingly complex and varied vocabulary and language</p> <p>L3.8 Rapidly increases use of descriptive words such as giant, scary, silly</p> <p>L3.9 Uses verbs such as have, had, or will in everyday conversation</p>	<p>L3.10 Uses short sentences to share information about experiences, people, places, and things</p> <p>L3.11 Uses increasingly precise adverbs such as quietly, loudly, quickly</p> <p>L3.12 Uses more new and precise words</p> <p>L3.13 Correctly uses some past tense and irregular verbs (go, went, gone)</p>	<p>L3.14 Uses sentences that express logical relationships between concepts</p> <p>L3.15 Uses increasingly specific words to name objects and their features and function</p> <p>L3.16 Shares information about experiences, people, places, and things in sequence</p>	<p>K 0.8.4.4 Describes familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail</p> <p>K 0.10.4.4 Identifies new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately</p> <p>K 0.8.6.6 Speaks audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly, and responds to poems, rhymes and songs</p>

Components L4-8: Emergent Reading

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L4 Motivation, engagement: Child has an interest in and sustained attention for literacy acts</p>	<p>L4.1 Likes to be read to and shown pictures</p>	<p>L4.2 Makes sounds while looking at text or images</p> <p>L4.3 Points to a few pictures in books and in response to adult question</p> <p>L4.4 Demonstrates interest and involvement with books and other print materials</p>	<p>L4.5 Relates an object in a book or print to the real object</p> <p>L4.6 Imitates reading</p>	<p>L4.7 Shows interest in both pictures and text</p> <p>L4.8 Asks for or picks out favorite texts</p> <p>L4.9 Focuses on a book while listening to the reader</p>	<p>L4.10 Shows persistence with longer and more complex narratives and informational text</p> <p>L4.11 Offers a personal response to stories read aloud</p>	<p>L4.12 Actively participates in reading activities with enjoyment and purpose</p> <p>L4.13 Retells familiar stories using the book as a guide</p>	<p>K 0.1.10.10 Actively participates in group reading activities with purpose and understanding including the appropriate selection of text for personal enjoyment, interest and academic tasks</p>
<p>L5 Phonological awareness: Child is able to hear and understand the discrete sounds that make up language</p>	<p>L5.1 Looks at caregiver's lips and face when caregiver is speaking</p> <p>L5.2 Pays attention to sounds in the environment and the spoken language from caregivers</p>	<p>L5.3 Shows interest in songs, rhymes, chants, and stories</p> <p>L5.4 Recognizes sounds used by speakers of child's home language</p>	<p>L5.5 Imitates sounds heard in the environment</p> <p>L5.6 Identifies sounds heard in the environment</p>	<p>L5.7 Repeats different sounds in rhymes and familiar words</p> <p>L5.8 Distinguishes between spoken language and environmental sounds</p> <p>L5.9 Recalls previously heard words, songs, and rhymes</p>	<p>L5.10 Shows interest in and associates sounds with words</p> <p>L5.11 Playfully explores sounds, words, and language, including rhyme and alliteration</p>	<p>L5.12 Identifies and continues sound patterns in words</p> <p>L5.13 Plays with the sounds in spoken language, independent of meaning</p>	<p>K 0.3.0.0 Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)</p>

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L6 Letter recognition: Child recognizes the shapes of letters and recalls the names of letters</p>	<p>L6.1 Recognizes familiar faces</p>	<p>L6.2 Shows interest in familiar photos, pictures, and drawings</p>	<p>L6.3 Recognizes familiar photos, pictures, drawings</p>	<p>L6.4 Recognizes symbols, colors, and shapes</p>	<p>L6.5 Points to and names some letters (especially in their own name)</p>	<p>L6.6 Recognizes how features of a letter combine to make a specific letter</p> <p>L6.7 Differentiates between letters and other symbols</p>	<p>K 0.3.1.1.(d) Recognize and name all upper and lower case letters of the alphabet</p>
<p>L7 Concepts of print: Child understands the fundamentals of print, such as orientation, organization, and features of print</p>	<p>L7.1 Explores books by grasping and bringing to mouth to suck and chew</p>	<p>L7.2 Attempts to hold board books with both hands</p> <p>L7.3 Turns pages of board books</p>	<p>L7.4 Turns book or text right side up</p>	<p>L7.5 Identifies front and back of book</p> <p>L7.6 Demonstrates understanding that print has meaning</p>	<p>L7.7 Looks at books or shares them from front to back</p>	<p>L7.8 Recognizes some parts of a book and conventions of print</p> <p>L7.9 Knows that English print is left to right and top to bottom</p> <p>L7.10 Points to words and attempts to read, or asks, "what does it say?"</p>	<p>K 0.3.1.1 (a-d) Demonstrates understanding of the organization and basic features of print</p>

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L8 Comprehension of narrative text: Child understands the events and order of events in a story</p>		<p>L8.1 Pays attention to stories read out loud</p> <p>L8.2 Points to or gestures toward characters during reading</p>	<p>L8.3 Understands stories read or told</p> <p>L8.4 Talks about, gestures, or points to characters and events during reading or storytelling</p> <p>L8.5 Relates objects in stories to objects in the real world</p> <p>L8.6 Talks about characters and events during reading</p>	<p>L8.7 Asks and answers questions during story reading</p> <p>L8.8 Acts out, draws, or describes parts of a story</p> <p>L8.9 Can identify and describe basic information from the text</p>	<p>L8.10 Retells important information from a story</p> <p>L8.11 Tells simple stories and experiences about own life</p> <p>L8.12 Responds to and uses vocabulary related to key concepts in the text</p>	<p>L8.13 Predicts what will happen next in a story using words or drawings</p> <p>L8.14 Retells a story using a variety of media, materials, and props</p> <p>L8.15 Restates and describes the concepts from the text</p>	<p>K 0.1.3.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings and major events in a story</p> <p>K (0.1.2.2, 0.2.1.1, 0.2.2.2, 0.2.3.3) With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details</p> <p>K 0.1.1.1 With prompting and support ask and answer questions about key details in a text</p>

Component L9: Writing

Subcomponent	Birth to 6 months	6-15 months	15-24 months	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>L9 Writing conventions: Child understands the forms and function of written language</p>	<p>L9.1 Grasps and squeezes a toy or object</p> <p>L9.2 Uses hands or feet to make a connection with objects or people</p>	<p>L9.3 Coordinates eye and hand movements and has control over grasp</p>	<p>L9.4 Uses small muscles to do simple tasks</p> <p>L9.5 Attempts to use a variety of writing tools such as crayons and markers</p>	<p>L9.6 Uses scribbles, shapes, or pictures to represent thoughts and ideas</p> <p>L9.7 Demonstrates interest in writing as a way of communicating</p>	<p>L9.8 Uses letter-like symbols to make letters or words</p> <p>L9.9 Uses drawing to represent writing</p>	<p>L9.10 Writes own name, and words about things that interest them</p> <p>L9.11 Understands there are different purposes for writing, such as stories, lists, signs, etc.</p> <p>L9.12 Uses invented spelling</p> <p>L9.13 Uses words, pictures, letters, or letter-like symbols to communicate information and ideas, or compose original stories</p>	<p>K 0.6.3.3 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened</p>

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Mathematics - Cognitive Domain



"We do math all day long in my PreK classroom at Lakeview Elementary School. As we arrive, we move a photo of ourselves from the Home column to the At School column. Then, at circle time, we count how many children are in each row. I like to count! Both at circle time and investigation stations, we sing counting songs and read counting books. One time, I counted all the connecting cubes it took to go from one end of the table to the other. My teacher, Kevin, helped me when I got to nineteen. I couldn't remember what came next. It's fun to build things with the different shapes in the block area. I tried to build a rainbow with only the rounded ones but they kept falling down. I figured out that I needed to stack some rectangles on the bottom to make it stand. At the manipulatives table, we have baskets to sort different things into and pattern cards to help us create colorful, geometric patterns. I like when we have measuring cups and pitchers at the water and sand table. Kevin gives me a challenge: How many little cups of water will fill the pitcher? He writes it down on a clipboard so we won't forget!"

Children's development of mathematical understanding begins in the very first months of life and continues to grow and expand as they interact with others and with the world around them. Babies begin to see patterns in the world in familiar caregiving routines and a need to objects and sounds relative to themselves. Toddlers begin to understand the words "one" and "more" and maneuver through their world with growing spatial understanding. Preschoolers begin to make sense of numbers as they play with counting. Their math understanding is directly related to their playful explorations of blocks, water, sand, puzzles, and games.

The expectations that are set out in the Minnesota Early Indicators of Child Progress (EICPs) recognize that young children are developing the foundational knowledge and skills that will lead to more rigorous academic study in the Mathematics domain in the elementary school years. The alignment of the EICPs with the Minnesota Academic Standards for Kindergarten is included and, as the kindergarten standards are revised, this alignment will be updated.

The Mathematics domain includes five components:

- Component M1-6 Number Knowledge
- Component M7 Measurement
- Component M8 Patterns
- Component M9-11 Geometry and Spatial Thinking
- Component M12-13 Data Analysis



The subcomponents and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on the children's beginning understanding of patterns and predictability as they anticipate familiar routines, spatial awareness as they respond to objects and sounds relative to themselves, and recognition of similarities and differences among people and objects.
- Toddlers are growing in their mobility and independence in exploring the environment. Therefore, the indicators focus on the imitation of counting and early understanding of one-to-one correspondence, awareness of full and empty, following simple patterns, beginning awareness of shape and place in space, and matching and sorting.
- The growing language capabilities of preschoolers include their use of an ever-increasing vocabulary of mathematical terms to describe and make sense of their world. They recite numbers and count objects with one-to-one correspondence to higher quantities. Preschoolers identify geometric shapes and use the comparative language of measurement. Developing sorting strategies that grow in complexity and duplicating and creating patterns using various rules are skills best developed within the context of preschooler's play

While the terminology and concepts in the domain of mathematics are unique and explicit, they are interrelated with children's development in other domains as well. Mathematics is highly correlated with the domain of Language, Literacy, and Communications

...research suggests there are rich connections between early literacy and early numeracy skill development that may help us think more broadly about children's early academic learning. Ultimately, we can use this information to create rich environments that support both early literacy and numeracy skill development." (Hojnoski 2014)

As children investigate mathematical concepts in hands-on experiences, they grow in their approaches to learning. They solve problems, think creatively, and apply concepts. Their social-emotional skills are enhanced as they develop greater confidence as learners and work collaboratively with others. Mathematics and science are linked easily in a rich, engaging early childhood environment where children experiment with water, sand, construction materials, and living things.

The indicators in the ECIPs are designed to work toward mathematics knowledge and skills; these goals are met most successfully as teachers and providers interact with children throughout each and every day. Children's interest and understanding of mathematics is best supported by showing the importance of mathematics in daily life.

Resource:

Hojnoski, Robin. August 11, 2014. What do the connections between early literacy and numeracy mean in preschool?

http://www.schoolreadinessblog.com/author/robin_hojnoski/

Domain: Mathematics - Cognitive

Components M1-6: Number Knowledge

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M1 Rote counting: The child attends to sequences and use of number words, with or without items, sets, or numerals and without recognizing the link to quantity</p>	<p>M1.1 Releases one item to reach for another</p> <p>M1.2 Uses body language to indicate a desire for more</p>	<p>M1.3 Imitates use of at least one number word</p> <p>M1.4 Imitates counting</p>	<p>M1.5 Recites number words but not necessarily in the correct order</p> <p>M1.6 Recites number words correctly, up to 3</p> <p>M1.7 Names familiar numerals</p>	<p>M1.8 Shows interest in counting or number oriented play, and notices numbers in the environment during free play</p> <p>M1.9 Orders a few objects by size with assistance</p> <p>M1.10 Recites number words in the correct sequence up to 10</p> <p>M1.11 Recognizes when others make errors in the number word sequence</p> <p>M1.12 Points to objects while reciting number word sequence</p> <p>M1.13 Begins to write number-like forms</p>	<p>M1.14 Recites number word aloud, forward, up to at least 29 (allow for some mistakes), without objects</p> <p>M1.15 Recites number words aloud, backward, down from at least 10 without objects</p> <p>M1.16 Is able to name the next number word for numbers up to 9</p> <p>M1.17 Reads and writes numerals from 0 to 10, with some reversals possible</p>	<p>K.1.1.3 Count, with and without objects, forward and backward to at least 20</p> <p>K.1.1.2 Read, write, and represent whole numbers from 0 to at least 31</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M2 Meaningful Counting: The child uses counting to identify how many items are in a set, using one to one correspondence; uses number words to identify “how many”</p>			<p>M2.1 Imitates one to one correspondence</p>	<p>M2.2 Correctly uses 1:1 correspondence up to 4 items</p>	<p>M2.3 Demonstrates and uses 1:1 correspondence with sets larger than four</p>	
<p>M3 Cardinality: The child associates each of one or more number words to a unique and exact quantity, and knows that the final number word used when counting out an item set represents the exact number of items in the set</p>		<p>M3.1 Responds to request to give a small quantity items (one, two)</p>	<p>M3.2 Gives 1 item correctly, upon request</p> <p>M3.3 Gives 2 items or more upon request for 2, inconsistently</p>	<p>M3.4 Gives exactly 4 consistently when asked</p>	<p>M3.5 Gives 5 or more items correctly and consistently when asked</p>	<p>K.1.2.1 Use objects and draw pictures to find the sums and differences of numbers between 0 and 10.</p> <p>K.1.2.2 Compose and decompose numbers up to 10 with objects and pictures</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M4 Ordinality: The child matches symbols (digits or numerals) to a position in a sequence</p>			<p>M4.1 Identifies first or second item in a sequence, upon request</p>	<p>M4.2 Uses terms like first; most; last; before, to refer to ordinal position</p>	<p>M4.3 Recognizes that a number can be used to represent a position in a sequence</p>	<p>K1.1.1 Recognize that a number can be used to represent how many objects are in a set or to represent the position of an object in a sequence</p>
<p>M5 Comparing numbers and quantities: The child uses organizing strategies to know how many objects they have</p>	<p>M5.1 Grasps one object and reaches for another</p>	<p>M5.2 Demonstrates understanding of some descriptive words, such as responding to question</p> <p>M5.3 Separates a few items into groups using own method such as color, size, etc.</p> <p>M5.4 Nests smaller objects inside larger objects</p>	<p>M5.5 Compares two sets of up to 4 objects accurately using terms like more/less; a little/a lot</p>	<p>M5.6 Uses terms like more/less; bigger/smaller; a little bit/a lot; to refer to approximate quantity</p>	<p>M5.7 Verbally estimates quantities without counting, although inconsistently and allowing for mistakes</p>	

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M6 Relation and operations: The child can create a set or subset based on a rule, can combine or separate sets, and recognize the amount of items in a set does not change when the set arrangement changes</p>				<p>M6.1 Notices when the quantity of a set of up to 4 objects has increased or decreased</p>	<p>M6.2 States the number that comes next or before up to 5</p> <p>M6.3 Understands that a quantity changes (increases or decreases) when a set of objects is added to/ subtracted from (respectively)</p>	<p>M6.4 States the number that comes next or before up to 10</p> <p>M6.5 Understands that the quantity of a set of (more than 4) objects has been changed</p> <p>M6.6 Without recounting, can add one more to a set, even when the set isn't visible after counting</p> <p>M6.7 Demonstrates ability to combine and separate items within a small set without changing the total number in the set (up to 5)</p> <p>M6.8 Uses simple physical strategies to combine or separate sets</p>

Components M1-6: Number Knowledge

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M7 Measurement: Child recognizes and makes comparisons of measurable attributes (length, height, width, area, volume, physical distance, time duration).</p>		<p>M7.1 Experiments with “full” and “empty”</p> <p>M7.2 Orders a few objects by size with assistance</p>	<p>M7.3 Brings objects closer together to compare them</p> <p>M7.4 Imitates using an object to measure another object</p> <p>M7.5 Identifies which of two small sets (less than 4) is more upon request</p> <p>M7.6 Uses language to describe “full” and “empty”</p>	<p>M7.7 Shows understanding of measurement terms (longer/shorter, taller/shorter, fullest, farthest, closest)</p> <p>M7.8 Uses terms like more/less; a little bit; a lot; to refer to continuous properties like water, sand, height</p>	<p>M7.9 Compares and orders more than two items in some way</p> <p>M7.10 Uses comparison vocabulary (longer/shorter, taller/shorter, farthest/closest)</p>	<p>K.3.2.1 Use words to compare objects according to length, size, weight and position.</p> <p>K.3.2.2 Order 2 or 3 objects using measurable attributes, such as length and weight.</p>

Component M8: Patterns

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M8 Repeating patterns: The child can identify create and describe sequences in objects, colors or numbers with sequences that increase, decrease or grow in complexity</p>	<p>M8.1 Anticipates familiar routine</p>	<p>M8.2 Carries out familiar routine</p> <p>M8.3 Follows a familiar simple pattern (sound, body movement sequence like Patty Cake)</p>	<p>M8.4 Follows an unfamiliar simple pattern (sound, body, color, size, movement)</p>	<p>M8.5 Recognizes repeating patterns</p> <p>M8.6 Copies existing pattern with same materials</p> <p>M8.7 Extends a simple pattern with the same materials</p>	<p>M8.8 Uses words or pictures to describe a simple pattern</p> <p>M8.9 Applies a simple pattern rule to different materials or mode (sound, body, color, size, movement)</p> <p>M8.10 Copies complex patterns with same materials</p> <p>M8.11 Applies a complex pattern rule using different materials or mode (sound, body, color, size, movement)</p>	<p>K.2.1.1 Identify, create, complete, and extend simple patterns using shape, color, size, growing or shrinking such as ABB, ABB, ABB or number, sounds and movements</p>

Components M9-11: Geometry and Spatial Thinking

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M9 Knowledge and visualization of shapes: The child recognizes shapes, can describe 2 dimensional (2D) and 3 dimensional (3D) shapes and manipulate shapes with purpose.</p>		<p>M9.1 Shows interest in shapes</p>	<p>M9.2 Begins to recognize 2 dimensional (2D) and 3 dimensional (3D) shapes such as circles, spheres, squares, and cubes, such as by sorting or puzzle pieces</p>	<p>M9.3 Points to familiar 2D and 3D shapes (circle, spheres, squares, cubes, triangles) when asked, thereby showing recognition of shape names</p> <p>M9.4 Recognizes geometric shapes in the environment</p>	<p>M9.5 Begins to describe the features (attributes) that define 2D and 3D shapes, including sides and corners</p> <p>M9.6 Puts together (composes) and takes apart (decomposes) shapes</p> <p>M9.7 Composes and decomposes shapes/constructions with increasing complexity</p>	<p>K.3.1.1 Recognize basic two- and three-dimensional shapes such as squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, trapezoids, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders and sphere</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M10 Transformations and symmetry: The child can locate and manipulate shapes in space</p>	<p>M10.1 A ends and responds to moving objects and sounds, relative to themselves</p>	<p>M10.2 Develops increasing ability to change positions and move body from place to place</p> <p>M10.3 Demonstrates awareness of relationship between over and under, up and down, in and out</p>	<p>M10.4 Adjusts position and movement of own body relative to objects</p> <p>M10.5 Explores how objects fit together in space</p> <p>M10.6 Rotates objects to fit through holes</p>	<p>M10.7 Rotates, flips, or turns an object to fit once they realize object doesn't fit a defined space</p>	<p>M10.8 Puts together (composes) and takes apart (decomposes) shapes to create new shapes</p> <p>M10.9 Recognizes and creates shapes that have symmetry</p> <p>M10.10 Shows awareness that an object needs to be rotated, flipped, or turned before trying to fit the object into a hole or puzzle</p>	<p>K.3.1.3 Use basic shapes and spatial reasoning to model objects in the real world</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M11 Location, spatial relationships and landmark use: The child recognizes where a person or object is in relation to other people or objects</p>	<p>M11.1 Shows preference for familiar toys</p>	<p>M11.2 Recognizes familiar objects from different vantage points</p>	<p>M11.3 With verbal cues, uses simple maps to relate to real-world</p>	<p>M11.4 Uses terms like near/far; under; below; front; middle; end</p> <p>M11.5 Uses a simple map of a visible area to locate placement</p>	<p>M11.6 Recognizes and describes position of objects in space with greater accuracy</p> <p>M11.7 Draws a simple map</p> <p>M11.8 Matches 2 dimensional (2D) map with surrounding 3 dimensional (3D) layout Include this: (involves transformation scale, dimension, and orientation distance)</p>	<p>K.3.1.3 Use basic shapes and spatial reasoning to model objects in the real-world</p>

Component M12: Data Analysis

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M12 Sorting: The child recognizes that objects can be sorted by attributes</p>	<p>M12.1 Recognizes differences among people and among different objects</p>	<p>M12.2 Matches items based on attributes meaningful to the child</p>	<p>M12.3 Explores sorting</p> <p>M12.4 Imitates sorting</p>	<p>M12.5 Sorts objects based on an observable attribute</p> <p>12.6 Demonstrates understanding that attributes are measurable</p>	<p>M12.7 Describes the attribute used for sorting or comparing</p> <p>M12.8 While sorting, can make a shift to change the attribute being used to sort and describe the new sorting attribute</p>	<p>K.3.1.2 Sort objects using characteristics such as shape, size, color and thickness</p>

Components M13-14: Data Analysis

Subcomponent	0-1 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 year	4-5, K-Readiness	K Alignment
<p>M13 Collects, classifies, and organizes information The child collects, classifies and organizes data based on distinguishing characteristics</p>				<p>M13.1 Participates in simple data collection discussed by an adult or other child</p> <p>M13.2 Collects information by one or more attribute</p>	<p>M13.3 Participates as group member in the collection of data that is put on a chart or graph</p> <p>M13.4 Sorts information by one or more attribute</p> <p>M13.5 Independently collects data to put on a chart or graph</p>	
<p>M14 Describes data: The child can describe data by using data sets to solve problems or asking questions</p>				<p>M14.1 Identifies patterns, differences, or similarities of information collected</p> <p>M14.2 Uses language to describe those patterns, differences or similarities of data</p>	<p>M14.3 Uses language to compare data</p> <p>M14.4 Uses data to answer questions and solve problems</p> <p>M14.5 Discusses, compares and makes sense of collected data</p>	

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Physical and Movement Development Domain



"I'm eight-months-old and I'm pushing myself up on my hands and knees and rocking myself back and forth. My care provider, Ellen, knows that I need many opportunities for tummy time in a space that is safe and inviting so that I can feel motivated to propel myself forward until I am crawling. She stays nearby encouraging me as I figure out how to use my body to move. I'm excited and happy as she claps and smiles and enthusiastically urges me on. She's been letting me hold items while she changes my diaper and dresses and undresses me, too. I like grasping the fresh diaper or holding on to a sock that I know I'll be wearing shortly. I can pick up some of my own food off of my tray if I concentrate on using my thumb and fingers together. When I get the food to my mouth, I clap my hands together just like Ellen does. When she holds me in her lap to read a book, she lets me turn the pages and point to my favorite pictures. When I squirm to get down, she helps me to stand for a minute or two with her hands in mine. I can feel the strength growing in my legs as I support myself. I'm learning to do so many things with my body!"

Early childhood is a time for incredible changes in children's physical development. In gross motor development, infants begin as non-mobile beings, and in a matter of months, most creep, crawl, stand, and walk. Toddlers develop balance and coordination as they run and jump and climb. Preschoolers refine their movements and learn to use their large muscles to move with purpose and intent, to catch and throw, and to coordinate as they climb and gallop. Children's use of the muscles of their hands and fingers (fine motor development) continues to develop as they learn to feed and dress themselves and using drawing, writing, and other tools.

With widespread concerns about obesity among children and more sedentary lifestyles in general, there is agreement that rigorous physical development is essential for children's overall health. Researchers are finding direct links between how active babies are and how their brain development is affected.

"In infancy, you can see the relationship between a baby's motor development and the resultant learning. As a baby moves from a lying to a sitting to a creeping and finally to a standing position, his perspective changes, as do his perceptions of the world and its possibilities. The more mobile he becomes, the more he increases his knowledge about himself and the people and things around him, acquiring information through his tactile (touch), kinesthetic (muscular), proprioceptive (body awareness), and vestibular (motion awareness) senses. With each new experience, new neural connections are made." (Pica 2010, 48)



The expectations that are set out in the Physical and Movement Development Domain of the Early Childhood Indicators of Child Progress (ECIPs) show the ways that children demonstrate physical capabilities at different ages. The indicators in this domain are written in such a way that teachers and providers can know appropriate expectations for young learners and understand how best to support children in their development related to physical development. There is no alignment with the indicators in this domain with the Minnesota Academic Standards for Kindergarten because there is no similar domain in K-12 Standards.

The Physical and Movement Development Domain includes two components:

- Component P1-4 Gross Motor
- Component P5-6 Fine Motor

The subcomponents and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on the ways that children that young infants move both involuntarily and with purpose, how they begin to move through space, and how they reach and grasp and use their hands and fingers.
- The indicators for toddlers include how they are beginning to walk, climb, run, and jump, to roll, push, and throw balls, to use their hands and fingers to manipulate books, crayons, blocks, and other items, and to participate in dressing and personal hygiene.
- The indicators for preschoolers focus on how children show their increasing coordination and balance as they walk, run, climb, hop, jump, and gallop, kick, throw, catch, and bounce balls, and use their hands and fingers to manipulate puzzle pieces, to draw and write, and to put on articles of clothing.

The skills and concepts in the Physical and Movement Development Domain are interrelated with children's development in other domains. There are direct consequences to brain development for infants and ongoing connections to active movement and general health for all children. The physical health of a child is an important component for the optimal development of the whole child and impacts learning, social and emotional well-being, and realization of the child's full potential

Working closely with children and their families to advocate for an active, healthy lifestyle leads to supports for the development of children's gross and fine motor skills in programs and at home.

"By showing children the natural connections between all areas of learning and development and the activities they do at school and at home, [early educators can help] young children see themselves as learners and movers. This requires mutual cooperation and support among teachers, families, and children. After all, it takes a whole village to raise a healthy child." (Schilling and McOmber 2006, 2)

Resources:

Pica, Rae. 2010. "Babies on the Move." Young Children. 65, no. 4: 48-50.

Schilling, Tammy and Kelly Anne McOmber. 2006. Beyond the Journal: Young Children on the Web. May. Washington, D.C.: NAEYC.

Domain: Physical and Movement Development

Components P1-4: Gross Motor

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>P1 Early infancy - reflexive movements: Child moves involuntarily: not purposefully initiating movement</p>	<p>P1.1 Laying on back, kicks legs and waves arms</p> <p>P1.2 Laying on tummy, holds head up</p>				
<p>P2 Early infancy movement In and out of position: Child moves voluntarily and purposefully</p>	<p>P2.1 Rolls over: tummy to back/back to tummy</p> <p>P2.2 Moves into/out of sitti</p>				

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>P3 Locomotion: Childs moves their body through space from one place to another</p>	<p>P3.1 Crawls by one of these methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On tummy using arms/legs (tummy/commando) • Two straight arms and one bent leg (3-point), • Scoots instead of crawls: from a seated position by pushing forward with legs (bend & straighten)/arm assist <p>P3.2 Pulls to <i>stand</i> up against furniture</p> <p>P3.3 Cruises along surfaces (e.g., low tables, chairs, shelves)</p> <p>P3.4 Walks with assistance</p>	<p>P3.5 Crawls up a few stairs with adult observing</p> <p>P3.6 Walks independently</p> <p>P3.7 Runs freely</p>	<p>P3.8 Crawls up 3 to 5 stairs</p> <p>P3.9 Walks on some different surfaces</p> <p>P3.10 Walks up and down a few stairs with adult support or holding handrail (step up on stair, then brings next foot <i>to</i> same stair)</p> <p>P3.11 Runs in games and freely</p> <p>P3.12 Climbs onto/off furniture</p> <p>P3.13 Jumps with two feet <i>over</i> a line</p>	<p>P3.14 Crawls under and around 3 or more objects in an obstacle course</p> <p>P3.15 Walks along a wide (12" >) slightly raised straight pathway with assistance</p> <p>P3.16 Walks up and down a few stairs with adult support or holding handrail using alternating feet (step up on stair one foot, then use other foot to go to the next stair)</p> <p>P3.17 Climbs on play equipment</p> <p>P3.18 Hops on one foot a few times</p> <p>P3.19 Jumps <i>off</i> slightly elevated height with two feet</p> <p>P3.20 Jumps with two feet <i>over</i> and <i>out of</i> spaces or objects on floor ("river" w rope or tape markers/ hula hoops)</p>	<p>P3.21 Walks on a wide (12">) slightly raised pathway</p> <p>P3.22 Walks up and down stairs holding handrail</p> <p>P3.23 Jumps off variable heights using a one-foot lead or with two feet</p> <p>P3.24 Gallops freely or in a game (one foot and a step-hop, other foot and a step-hop)</p> <p>P3.25 Moves many times through an obstacle course: over, under and around</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>P4 Object control: Child can manipulate objects to propel or receive</p>		<p>P4.1 Pushes and pulls toys while walking</p> <p>P4.2 Throws small balls</p>	<p>P4.3 Pushes medium size ball forward with foot</p> <p>P4.4 Rolls a small ball to close target</p> <p>P4.5 Throws a small ball close to target</p> <p>P4.6 Pushes with legs while sitting on a scooter or balance bike</p>	<p>P4.7 Kicks a medium-sized ball</p> <p>P4.8 Throws a large playground ball using two hands</p> <p>P4.9 Catches a large or medium ball by cradling in arms toward body</p> <p>P4.10 Peddles a tricycle or riding toys</p>	<p>P4.11 Kicks playground ball or small soccer ball to a close wide target</p> <p>P4.12 Throws a small ball with some accuracy to a target or person</p> <p>P4.13 Catches a large or medium-sized ball using two hands</p> <p>P4.14 Bounces and catches a playground ball a few times using two hands</p> <p>P4.15 Attempts to pump legs to swing on swing</p>

Components P5-6: Fine Motor

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>P5 Dexterity: Child can coordinate and control movement of hands and fingers to grasp and manipulate objects</p>	<p>P5.1 Reaches for toy, grasps it and releases</p> <p>P5.2 Grasps small food objects using finger and thumb</p> <p>P5.3 Transfers object from one hand to other hand</p>	<p>P5.4 Grasps toys, objects to release into container</p> <p>P5.5 Dumps out toys and objects from a container</p> <p>P5.6 Turns pages of a board book</p> <p>P5.7 Begins to grasp crayon to scribble</p> <p>P5.8 Stacks a few blocks</p>	<p>P5.9 Turns pages of a book</p> <p>P5.10 Grasps a crayon to scribble</p> <p>P5.11 Stacks 4 blocks</p>	<p>P5.12 Grasps a simple puzzle piece and can place a few pieces in the puzzle</p> <p>P5.13 Draws freely on paper</p> <p>P5.14 Strings large beads</p>	<p>P5.15 Grasps puzzle piece and can place 5-7 pieces in the puzzle</p> <p>P5.16 Draws letters and/or part of name with some reversals</p> <p>P5.17 Draws stick people and some objects</p>
<p>P6 Self Care: Child participates in daily care routines for feeding, dressing and personal hygiene</p>	<p>P6.1 Assists with dressing by lifting leg, arm, etc.</p> <p>P6.2 Feeds self with hands</p> <p>P6.3 Begins to drink from a cup</p>	<p>P6.4 When being dressed or undressed, assists with some clothes</p> <p>P6.5 Feeds self with hands and begins to use a child-size spoon</p> <p>P6.6 Drinks from a cup</p> <p>P6.7 Helps put away <i>a few</i> toys</p>	<p>P6.8 Attempts to dress self for indoors with support (help with buttons and zippers)</p> <p>P6.9 Helps put away toys</p> <p>P6.10 May use the bathroom with assistance</p>	<p>P6.11 Assists with putting shoes on and taking them off</p> <p>P6.12 Assists with putting boots on and taking off</p> <p>P6.13 Puts on coat and takes coat off with assistance</p>	<p>P6.14 Dresses with near independence</p> <p>P6.15 Puts shoes on the correct feet. May need help with ties and fasteners</p> <p>P6.16 Puts boots on correct feet and takes boots off. May need help with ties and fasteners</p> <p>P6.17 Puts coat on and takes off</p> <p>P6.18 Uses the bathroom independently</p>

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Scientific Thinking - Cognitive Domain



"I am eleven months old and I am a scientist and an investigator. I use my senses to explore the world around me. Today, I want to get to those interesting and inviting toys on the shelf across the carpet so I crawl as fast as I can while my caregiver, Ernestine, sits nearby. I pull a basket from the bottom shelf and several different-sized balls and beanbags fall onto the floor. I sit and try to pick up the balls but every time I reach out for them, they roll away from me. I laugh and smile and bat at them, clapping as they roll even further away. Ernestine rolls them back towards me. I watch the motion of the colored plastic as it moves across the rug and try to predict where the ball will roll but I'm not always right. Then, I pick up a beanbag. The corduroy fabric is soft in my hand and I feel the bumpy texture of the beans inside. I shake the bag and hear the sound of the beans. Ernestine shakes a bag too, then, pulls down a drum from another shelf and shows me how to pound on it to make a sound. I pound on the drum with the beanbag still in my hand, alternating between pounding and shaking, and squeal with delight at the sounds I make."

From birth, children are scientists. They are driven by their innate curiosity. Babies use their senses to take in information about their world, whether it's the smell of their mother's skin, the pitch of their father's voice, the feel of a soft blanket, or the taste of breast milk. Children's development of scientific thinking and inquiry begins in the very first months of life and continues to grow and expand as they interact with others and with the world around them. The world of mobile infants and toddlers expands so that they can crawl and walk across fresh, green grass or splash in a puddle. They explore the properties of objects and materials as they manipulate toys to make sounds or put things together. Preschoolers take their investigations further. They notice differences and similarities in both the natural and physical world. They try to figure out how something works. And they begin to make predictions and give explanations.

The indicators in the Scientific Thinking domain that are set out in the Minnesota Early Indicators of Child Progress (EICPs) reflect the new thinking in the science education field: that for young learners, scientific inquiry is more beneficial than occasional and unconnected science activities. Therefore, the focus for this domain is on scientific processes more than specific science content with the idea that this approach will lay the foundation for developing ways of thinking that support more rigorous academic study in the Scientific Thinking domain in the elementary school years. The EICPs provide guidance so that teachers and providers can know appropriate expectations for young learners and understand how best to support children so that they have the necessary foundation for later learning.

The Scientific Thinking and Inquiry domain includes three components:

- Component STPS 1-2: Discover
- Component STPS 3-4: Act
- Component STPS 5-6: Integrate



The sub-components and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on how children observe and respond to external stimuli, show interest in exploring, and begin to recognize familiar items, people, and situations
- For toddlers, the indicators reflect that they seek out items of interest, begin to use objects as tools, use simple strategies to carry out ideas, and build on past experiences.
- For preschoolers, the indicators show the ways they seek to gain knowledge and formulate questions, making plans and predictions, and verbally expressing their ideas and thoughts.

This broad view of the Scientific Thinking domain allows for ease of integration with other domains in the ECIPs. As children follow their curiosity in exploration, they build on their approaches to learning. As they discover new things, they are delighted and motivated to continue trying new things and learning more. Using the language of scientific inquiry, children’s vocabulary is expanded. And, mathematical understanding of measurement and representation of quantity is often a part of scientific investigations

Many in education are linking science and technology in what are called “STEM” initiatives. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Some researchers and public and private leaders relate the very future of our country to STEM:

“The nation’s capacity to innovate and thrive in the modern workforce depends on foundation of math and science learning. . . . A sustained, vibrant democracy is dependent upon this foundation in STEM.” (Sneiderman 2013, 1)

In early childhood education, STEM is a way to integrate other domains with scientific thinking. Teachers and providers can tap into the natural curiosity of young explorers so that science experiences are filled with learning opportunities that integrate skills from multiple domains.

Resource:

Sneiderman, Joshua M. 2013. “Engaging Children in STEM Education Early!” Natural Start Alliance, December. North American Association for Environmental Education. <http://naturalstart.org/feature-stories/engaging-children-stem-education-early>

Domain: Scientific Thinking - Cognitive

Components ST1-2: Discover

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST1 Observe and question: Child demonstrates awareness and engagement with phenomena, materials, and environment</p>	<p>ST1.1 Observes and responds to external stimuli</p> <p>ST1.2 Indicates surprise, curiosity, or hesitancy when presented with unfamiliar items, people, situation</p>	<p>ST1.3 Indicates interest by looking, pointing or verbalizing</p>	<p>ST1.4 Asks questions readily</p>	<p>ST1.5 Notices differences or similarities among materials, objects and phenomena</p> <p>ST1.6 Uses experiences to stimulate question</p>	<p>ST1.7 Verbally identify obvious differences and similarities</p> <p>ST1.8 Expresses curiosity and/or formulates questions of complex concepts</p>	<p>K1.1.2.1 Use observation to develop an accurate description of natural phenomena and compare one's observational and descriptive with those of others</p> <p>K2.1.1.1 Sort objects in terms of color, size, shape and texture and communicate reasoning for the sorting system</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST2 Investigate: Child actively shows wonder by demonstrating curiosity of self, others and surroundings</p>	<p>ST2.1 Explores people and objects using senses</p>	<p>ST2.2 Seeks out and explores objects and items with apparent interest</p> <p>ST2.3 Begins using objects as tools</p>	<p>ST2.4 Engages with objects of interest – whether familiar or new- for extended periods of time</p> <p>ST2.5 Explores properties of objects/ materials to gain understanding</p> <p>ST2.6 Identifies and uses some tools for their intended purpose</p>	<p>ST2.7 Seeks to gain additional knowledge in areas of interests</p> <p>ST2.8 Explores with the intention of finding out something specific</p> <p>ST2.9 Uses many tools as designed</p>	<p>ST2.10 Starts with a useful, general approach to investigation even if details may be lacking</p> <p>ST2.11 Uses discernment to inform exploration</p> <p>ST2.12 Uses tools in new and novel ways</p>	<p>K1.1.2.1 Use observation to develop an accurate description of natural phenomena and compare one’s observational and descriptive with those of others</p> <p>K4.1.1.1 Observed compare plants and animal</p>

Components ST3-4: Act

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST3 Experiment: Child develops and completes a process based on a question, interest or anticipated outcome, adjusting as needed.</p>	<p>ST3.1 Demonstrates recognition of familiar items, people, and situation</p> <p>ST3.2 Persists in looking for missing object(s)</p>	<p>ST3.3 Demonstrates willingness to try new things</p> <p>ST3.4 Uses simple strategies to carry out ideas</p> <p>ST3.5 Demonstrates ability to focus on one element of a situation</p> <p>ST3.6 Persists in actions or attempts to affect environment or objects</p>	<p>ST3.7 Approaches situations with intent to achieve a simple outcome</p> <p>ST3.8 Uses a variety of strategies to carry out ideas</p> <p>ST3.9 Demonstrates ability to focus on multiple elements of a situation</p> <p>ST3.10 Demonstrates resilience in trial and error process</p>	<p>ST3.11 Makes a simple plan in advance to see what will happen</p> <p>ST3.12 Uses a greater variety of strategies to carry out ideas</p> <p>ST3.13 Attempts to make a prediction of an expected outcome</p>	<p>ST3.14 Makes a plan in advance with an intended outcome</p> <p>ST3.15 Demonstrates awareness that different circumstances, materials and variables impact strategies and outcomes</p> <p>ST3.16 Makes a prediction when prompted</p> <p>ST3.17 Changes a plan or refines actions when outcome is not as expected</p>	<p>K4.2.1.1 Observe a natural system or its model and identify living and nonliving components of the system</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST4 Evaluate: Child analyzes, examines, critiques, and synthesizes outcomes in order to draw conclusions</p>	<p>ST4.1 Shows a preference for certain materials, people or situation</p> <p>ST4.2 Indicates surprise when outcome is not as expected</p>	<p>ST4.3 Associates objects that belong together</p> <p>ST4.4 Asks “what happened?” or “where did it go?” as a result of an experiment</p>	<p>ST4.5 Recognizes obvious differences among like objects</p> <p>ST4.6 Makes guesses at possible explanations or conclusions</p>	<p>ST4.7 Describes all parts of an outcome by comparing, sorting, classifying and/or organizing</p> <p>ST4.8 Open to more than one solution or answer to a problem</p> <p>ST4.9 Begins to rely on or expect evidence, things seen or experienced directly, as reasons for results obtained</p>	<p>ST4.10 Offers critique of an experience based on examination of outcomes</p> <p>ST4.11 Sees outcomes as the result of one’s behavior or actions</p> <p>ST4.12 Reflects upon evidence and draws reasonable conclusions using data gathered</p>	<p>K1.1.2.1 Use observations to develop accurate descriptions of a natural phenomena and compare one’s observations and descriptions with others</p> <p>K3.2.2.2 Identify the sun as a source of heat and light</p> <p>K3.2.2.1 Monitor daily and seasonal changes in weather and summarize changes</p>

Understanding Components ST5-6: Integrate

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST5 Communicate: Child effectively verbalizes thinking and share thoughts, ideas, conclusions with self and others</p>	<p>ST5.1 Vocalizes in response to stimuli or individual needs</p> <p>ST5.2 Seeks out/initiates interactions from others in service of own needs</p>	<p>ST5.3 Uses gestures, body language or a few words to express emotions related to an activity, person or experience</p> <p>ST5.4 Invites others to observe actions and results</p>	<p>ST5.5 Describes details associated with an experience such as materials, possible causes and effects</p> <p>ST5.6 Listens to others ideas and points of view</p> <p>ST5.7 Shares stories and related experiences with others unprompted</p> <p>ST5.8 Scribbles or draws to show and/or share ideas</p>	<p>ST5.9 Verbally expresses ideas/thought process</p> <p>ST5.10 Seeks input from others regarding an experience</p> <p>ST5.11 Verbalizes possible explanations for an outcome</p> <p>ST5.12 Uses drawing, writing, models, or other creative expressions to present ideas</p>	<p>ST5.13 Retells/describes own actions in process of experimenting</p> <p>ST5.14 Talks with others about questions, actions, ideas, observations or results</p> <p>ST5.15 Articulates and shares aloud explanations based on reasoning and evidence</p> <p>ST5.16 Uses more detailed drawing, writing, models, or creative expressions to present ideas</p>	<p>K1.1.2.1 Use observations to develop accurate descriptions of a natural phenomena and compare one's observations and descriptions with others</p> <p>K2.1.1.1 Sort objects in terms of color, size, shape and texture and communicate reasoning for the sorting system</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>ST6 Apply: Child leverages and uses knowledge unprompted or in a new situation</p>	<p>ST6.1 Finds comfort in familiar people and objects</p>	<p>ST6.2 Revisits and builds on past experiences</p>	<p>ST6.3 Generalizes knowledge gained from one situation to another</p> <p>ST6.4 Recognizes relevant attributes to inform the development of a rule</p>	<p>ST6.5 Recalls and uses information in new/ different experiences</p> <p>ST6.6 Generates new and more complex question</p> <p>ST6.7 Uses prior experience to identify details that may be relevant</p>	<p>ST6.8 Compares findings to predictions or expected results</p> <p>ST6.9 Identify what to look for, measure, or test to answer question</p> <p>ST6.10 Develops and applies rules</p> <p>ST6.11 Determines approach to situation, problem or challenge based on previous experience</p>	<p>K1.2.1.1 Sort objects into two groups: those that are found in nature and those that are human made</p> <p>K2.1.1.1 Sort objects in terms of color, size, shape and texture and communicate reasoning for the sorting system</p>

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Social and Emotional Domain



"I am two-and-one-quarter years old and I have strong feelings. Sometimes, I feel so overwhelmed with frustration that I throw things and strike out at others. Sometimes, I am frightened to try something new and want to hide in my mother's or caregiver's arms. Sometimes, I scream with delight and excitement. Sometimes, I don't want any help from anyone else. I want to do it myself. I'm so lucky that my teacher at my child care center is a calm influence and an understanding guide so I can get through some difficult moments. She talks quietly and kindly to me and describes what I'm feeling. She makes suggestions and helps me in just the right ways so I can be independent, express my emotions more appropriately, and learn to settle myself down. I like my friends and want to play with them."

The developmentally appropriate expectations of children described in the Social and Emotional domain are firmly based on a foundation of trust and attachment and are essential to a good experience in school and throughout life. As infants establish strong relationships with their primary caregivers, their skills grow and expand to include others in the world around them. When the care and routines of babies are consistent and predictable, they begin to express their needs and wants and learn to comfort themselves. Toddlers are ready to move away from caregivers and explore their world but also check in with caring adults to ensure that they have their support. As verbal skills develop, toddlers express needs, wants, and emotions. Preschoolers show greater independence, self-awareness, and interest in the feelings of others. They are learning ways to engage successfully and positively with their friends.

The expectations that are set out in the Minnesota Early Indicators of Child Progress (EICPs) recognize that in the early years, children are developing social and emotional skills that will guide their behavior, affect their overall mental health, and impact their ability to succeed academically as they move on to later schooling. The indicators in this domain are not aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards for Kindergarten. Instead, early childhood professionals can turn to other resources for kindergarten expectations. The EICPs provide guidance so that teachers and providers can know appropriate expectations for young learners and understand how best to support children in social and emotional development.

The Social and Emotional Development Domain includes three components:

- Component SE 1-3: Self and Emotional Awareness
- Component SE 4-5: Self-Management
- Component SE 6-8: Social Understanding and Relationships



The sub-components and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on the ways that children indicate their needs to their caregivers, respond to stimuli, learn to self-comfort, attend to the emotions of others and copy their actions, and show likes and dislikes.
- The indicators for toddlers include how they are beginning to attempt new challenges, use words to express needs and emotions, to follow simple routines, and to engage in parallel play with other children.
- The indicators for preschoolers focus on how children show confidence and self-direction, identify gender and self as part of a family, community, and culture, ability to make choices, verbal expression of needs and emotions, responses to changing behavioral expectations, and beginning to manage conflicts in social interactions

Social and emotional skills are highly interrelated with children's development in other domains. In fact, all learning is based on the foundation of children's healthy social and emotional development. Perhaps one of the most important subcomponents in the early years is that of Self-Management, the regulation of both thoughts and feelings. Such management includes the ability to postpone acting on one's first impulse, which might be anger or aggression or not following the teacher's directions. For children to become successful learners in a classroom, they must begin to self-regulate.

"Children who cannot effectively regulate anxiety or discouragement tend to move away from, rather than engage in, challenging learning activities. Conversely, when children regulate uncomfortable emotions, they can relax and focus on learning cognitive skills. Similarly, children experience better emotional regulation when they replace thoughts like "I'm not good at this" with thoughts like "This is difficult, but I can do it if I keep trying." Regulating anxiety and thinking helps children persist in challenging activities, which increases their opportunities to practice the skills required for an activity." (Florez 2011, 47)

The indicators in the ECIPs help teachers and providers, along with children's family members, understand the expectations that are appropriate for the youngest learners. Since social and emotional development is so influential in a child's development in all areas, adults play an important role in shaping a child's future when they support the development of skills in this domain.

"When teachers deliberately teach self-regulation [and other social and emotional skills] as part of everyday experiences, they help children become actively engaged learners, laying the foundation for years of future success in school and life." (Florez 2011, 51)

Resource:

Florez, Ida Rose. 2011. "Developing Young Children's Self-Regulation through Everyday Experiences." Young Children: 66 (4). 47-51.

Domain: Social and Emotional Development

Components S1-3: Self and Emotional Awareness

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>S1 Confidence: Child demonstrates confidence “I am capable, I can experiment, I can make mistakes, and I can move on”</p>	<p>S1.1 Independently prompts caregiver to meet basic needs</p> <p>S1.2 Uses voice or body to show likes and dislikes</p>	<p>S1.3 Independently attempts new challenges or activities that may or may not be successful</p> <p>S1.4 Checks with and accepts support from adult or caregiver when necessary</p>	<p>S1.5 Demonstrates or describes personal skills, likes, or dislikes</p> <p>S1.6 Seeks help from adult to meet needs or solve problems</p> <p>S1.7 Seeks out available social-emotional resources such as adults, peers or things for support</p>	<p>S1.8 Demonstrates confidence in a range of abilities and expresses pride in accomplishments</p> <p>S1.9 Consistently and effectively uses social/emotional resources such as adults, peers or things for support</p>	<p>S1.10 Demonstrates increasing confidence and inclination to express opinions and ideas</p> <p>S1.11 Engages in increasingly independent and self-directed activities</p> <p>S1.12 Tolerates constructive criticism and manages setbacks, seeking adult support when needed</p>
<p>S2 Self Awareness: Child demonstrates understanding and appreciation of uniqueness in own family, community, culture, and the world</p>	<p>S2.1 Explores the world and environment around self and how things work</p>	<p>S2.2 Demonstrates awareness of self as separate from others</p>	<p>S2.3 Identifies self as part of the family, culture, community, or group</p> <p>S2.4 Describes or labels self as a boy or girl</p>	<p>S2.5 Demonstrates knowledge of family celebrations, traditions, and expectation</p>	<p>S2.6 Shows increasingly accurate understanding of own strengths, preferences, limitations, and personal qualities</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
S3 Emotions: Child demonstrates understanding of own emotions, others' emotions, and awareness of emotions becoming reactions and behaviors	S3.1 Expresses emotions through facial expressions, sounds, and gestures S3.2 Notices and responds to emotions displayed by others	S3.3 Expresses feelings, needs, and wants with nonverbal communication, vocalizations, and a few words S3.4 Associates emotions with words and expressions	S3.5 Recognizes and describes own emotion S3.6 Shows some understanding of others' emotional expressions	S3.7 Uses words to express emotion S3.8 Recognizes and responds to others' emotional expression	S3.9 Demonstrates or describes increasing understanding of cause and effect around own emotional reaction S3.10 Exhibits growing ability to understand and anticipate others' emotional reactions to situations or behaviors

Components S4-5: Self-Management

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
S4 Managing thinking: Child manages attention and thoughts	S4.1 Briefly pays attention to environmental stimuli S4.2 Indicates a choice with physical or vocal response	S4.3 Focuses attention on preferred items and experiences S4.4 Expresses thoughts by responding to simple choices and limits verbally or nonverbally S4.5 Anticipates and follows simple routine	S4.6 Frequently pays attention to both familiar and new objects and experiences S4.7 Chooses from a variety of options within the environment S4.8 Responds to soothing or redirection when playing or learning does not go as expected	S4.9 Attends for longer periods and persists through a broad range of adult-directed and child-initiated activities S4.10 Makes self-directed choices from a greater variety of options S4.11 Increasing ability to remember and follow simple two-step directions	S4.12 Sustains attention and persistence with a task of interest for at least 5 minutes S4.13 Talks through simple tasks and conflicts, seeking adult support as needed

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>S5 Managing emotions and behaviors: Child manages emotions, impulses, and behaviors with assistance from others and independently</p>	<p>S5.1 Uses simple behaviors, objects, or movements to comfort and calm self with caregiver assistance</p> <p>S5.2 Communicates needs or wants to adults using simple gestures, sign language, or sounds</p> <p>S5.3 Uses sounds, sign language, or gestures to gain adult help to alleviate discomfort or distress</p> <p>S5.4 Responds to adult efforts to calm or soothe</p> <p>S5.5 Uses behaviors, objects, or movements to comfort self</p>	<p>S5.6 Expands use of sign language, gestures, and a few words or phrases to communicate needs, wants, preferences, and discomforts to adults</p> <p>S5.7 Actively seeks adult help using sounds, gestures, or some words when feeling strong emotions, either positive or negative</p> <p>S5.8 Anticipates and actively avoids or ignores situations that cause discomfort</p> <p>S5.9 Follows simple routines, expectations, and boundaries to help manage own emotions and behavior</p> <p>S5.10 Tolerates brief delays in getting needs met</p>	<p>S5.11 Uses a wide variety of self-comforting behaviors</p> <p>S5.12 Communicates specific needs, wants, and discomfort to adults</p> <p>S5.13 Anticipates the need for comfort and tries to prepare self for changes in routine</p> <p>S5.14 Follows simple expectations to manage emotions and behaviors, but may require reminders or assistance, particularly during more intense feelings or circumstances</p> <p>S5.15 Waits briefly to obtain something desired</p>	<p>S5.16 Consistently calms self when feeling strong emotions or discomfort with only occasional adult guidance and assistance</p> <p>S5.17 Independently expresses feelings, needs, opinions, and desires in appropriate ways</p> <p>S5.18 Follows expectations established to manage feelings and behaviors with necessary reminders or assistance</p> <p>S5.19 Demonstrates the ability to delay gratification for longer periods of time</p> <p>S5.20 Demonstrates understanding of rules, roles, jobs, and relationships in families and the community</p>	<p>5.21 Increasingly expresses feelings, needs, opinions and desires verbally</p> <p>5.22 Shows increasing understanding of changing expectations for behavior and emotional expression in different settings (e.g., home, school, grocery store)</p> <p>5.23 Shows increasing ability to manage challenging feelings and behaviors, with necessary reminders or assistance</p> <p>5.24 Shows increasing ability to stop and think before acting</p>

Components S6-8: Social Understanding and Relationships

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>S6 Social responsiveness: Child notices and responds to others and their emotions</p>	<p>S6.1 Shows interest or reacts to others' emotion</p> <p>S6.2 Responds to others' emotional tone and action</p>	<p>S6.3 Imitates others' emotions and expressions</p> <p>S6.4 Shows some individual response to others' emotional tone</p>	<p>S6.5 Identifies others' basic emotional cues</p> <p>S6.6 Shows concern for others through efforts to help or comfort</p>	<p>S6.7 Shows understanding, empathy, and compassion for others through words or gestures</p> <p>S6.8 Labels others' emotion</p>	<p>S6.9 Appropriately labels increasingly complex emotions in others (e.g., pride, embarrassment, jealousy)</p> <p>S6.10 Responds appropriately to others' emotions</p> <p>S6.11 Shows increasing understanding and appreciation of the perspectives of peers</p>
<p>S7 Building relationships: Child establishes and sustains relationships with others</p>	<p>S7.1 Shows a preference for a trusted adult</p> <p>S7.2 Notices or responds to others</p>	<p>S7.3 Shows preferences for one or more adults or children</p> <p>S7.4 Shows some awareness or caution with unfamiliar adults</p> <p>S7.5 Uses trusted adult(s) as a base from which to explore</p>	<p>S7.6 Seeks out familiar adults and children for conversation and play</p> <p>S7.7 Manages routine separations with decreasing amount of distress</p>	<p>S7.8 Shares information and participates in activities with adults and peers</p>	<p>S7.9 Builds friendships through play, learning activities and conversation with peers</p> <p>S7.10 Uses trusted adults for support in diverse settings (e.g., classroom, outside) when in need of assistance</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness
<p>S8 Social skills: Child responds to and interact with others in a meaningful way</p>	<p>S8.1 Notices others and chooses similar materials or copies action</p>	<p>S8.2 Play with others in a parallel manner</p> <p>S8.3 Recognizes similarities and differences between self and others</p>	<p>S8.4 Enters play groups using various strategies</p> <p>S8.5 Seeks a preferred playmate</p> <p>S8.6 Shows flexibility in roles during play</p>	<p>S8.7 Initiates, joins, and sustains cooperative play and conversations with others</p> <p>S8.8 Shows concern, respect, care, and appreciation for others and the environment</p> <p>S8.9 Actively helps solve problems with others</p> <p>S8.10 Takes turns</p>	<p>S8.11 Shows increasing ability to initiate and engage in positive interactions with peers and adults</p> <p>S8.12 Solves problems with others most of the time, appropriately using support of adults and peers as needed</p>

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards

Introduction to Social Systems - Cognitive Domain



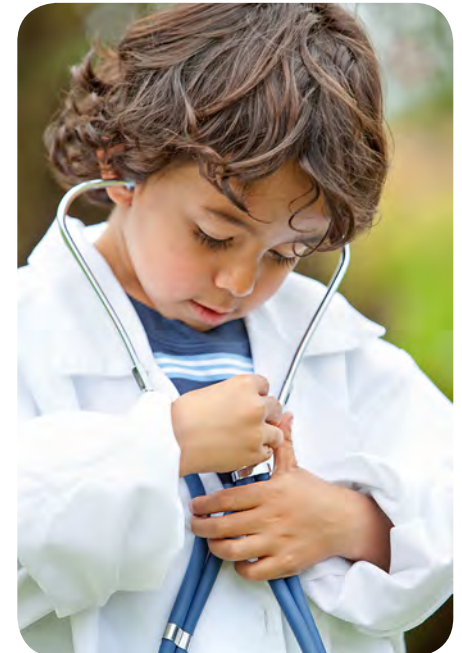
"I'm four years old and my friends and I love to play in the dramatic play area at our preschool program. This is where we try out various adult roles that we have observed people take on in our families, schools, and communities. We pretend to care for babies and raise children. We incorporate the cultural traditions and values of our own families as we pretend to interact with loved ones engaged in daily life. We also try out different jobs and careers in our pretend play. We may act as the cashier in the grocery store, the doctor or nurse in the hospital, the police officer or firefighter in the neighborhood or the server in the restaurant. This kind of play is lots of fun. And, as we play we're learning about our own identities, our families, our communities and our society. We're using different languages and ways of doing things that we see in our families' lives. We're learning more about economics and the environment and how people are similar and different. Sometimes, we take field trips and attend special events. Family members share information so we learn about different cultures and family experiences. We also work hard to learn to get along, solve problems, and celebrate our differences and commonalities. From all of these opportunities, we learn new vocabulary and form ideas about how we live and work together."

Children are surrounded and deeply influenced by the values of their family and first caregivers. From the very beginning of their lives, children are learning about themselves and how to relate to others. Their family members also live and work in a neighborhood, a broader community, and a national society. As children establish their identity, the choices they make and how they function in society are shaped. As they learn to share and take turns and care for each other and the environment, they participate in the foundational concepts of a democratic society. The expectations that are set out in the Social Systems domain of the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs) are the building blocks for creating future neighbors, volunteers, workers, taxpayers, voters, and responsible citizens.

The indicators in this domain are written so that teachers can know appropriate expectations for young learners in their development related to Social Systems. They are aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards in Social Science for Kindergarten.

The Social Systems Domain includes five components:

- Components SS1-2: Community, People and Relationships
- Components SS3-4: Change over Time
- Components SS 5-6: Environment
- Components SS6-7: Economics
- Component SS8: Technology



The sub-components and indicators identified for the ages of birth through kindergarten entry address the specific expectations across the developmental spectrum.

- For infants, indicators focus on the ways that children make their needs and wants known, relate to others, begin to notice the sequence of routines, and recognize familiar people, toys, and objects.
- The indicators for toddlers include how they are beginning to notice similarities and differences in people and themselves, show understanding of expectations and routines, participate in self care, engage in pretend play, and help put away toys.
- The indicators for preschoolers focus on their developing understanding of their identity and of belonging in different groups, are learning to follow rules and routines, to show interest in family culture and participate in turn-taking and negotiation

The skills and concepts in the Social Systems domain are interrelated with children's development in other domains and many overlap with those in social and emotional development. The understanding of past and future, of economic concepts, and of caring for the environment relate specifically to the cognitive domains in the ECIPs.

While young children are not suited to memorizing historical facts and learning about the ins and outs of governmental agencies, there are important ways develop understanding of social systems. The ECIPs guide teachers and providers in supporting this important domain in ways that are just right for young children and just right for the greater society.

"Social studies as content and process is a vibrant and vital part of early childhood curricula. Social studies at the center of early childhood curricula offers the hope that the focus of education will be on the development of effective, efficient, ethical children who will approach their world nonsimplistically and thoughtfully. (Mindes 2005, 7)

Resource:

Mindes, Gayle. 2005. "Social Studies in Today's Early Childhood Curricula." *Beyond the Journal. Young Children on the Web. Washington, D.C.:* NAEYC. <http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/200509/MindesBTJ905.pdf>

Domain: Social Systems: Cognitive

Components SS1-2: Community, People and Relationships

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS1 Self-identity in the community: Understands the different ways people form their identity</p>	<p>SS1.1 Shows a preference for familiar adults</p> <p>SS1.2 Expresses feeling and emotions through gestures, facial expressions and sounds</p>	<p>SS1.3 Demonstrates preference for favorite toys, clothing and activities</p>	<p>SS1.4 Begins to explore the physical characteristics that make an individual unique</p> <p>SS1.5 Asks questions about similarities and differences in other people in the community</p>	<p>SS1.6 Describes their role(s) within the family and familiar environment</p> <p>SS1.7 Identifies similarities and differences in people</p>	<p>SS1.8 Identifies self as a part of the family, spiritual group, culture, community, and/or other group to which the family belongs.</p> <p>SS1.9 Demonstrates an understanding that families vary</p> <p>SS1.10 Identifies some family traditions and customs</p>	

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS2 Civics: Child understands what it means to be a member of a community</p>	<p>SS2.1 Makes wants and needs known</p> <p>SS2.2 Shows interest in stories and songs</p>	<p>SS2.3 Develops an expectation and understanding of routines within a familiar environment</p> <p>SS2.4 Shows interest in other children and objects</p>	<p>SS2.5 Demonstrates an understanding of the expectations in a familiar environment</p>	<p>SS2.6 Describes different roles of people in the community</p> <p>SS2.7 With modeling and support, follows classroom rules and routine</p>	<p>SS2.8 Practices the ways groups make choices and decisions with support</p> <p>SS2.9 Demonstrates an understanding of rules and why they are important</p> <p>SS2.10 Participates in a variety of roles in the early childhood environment</p> <p>SS2.11 Demonstrates awareness of familiar jobs and what's needed to perform them</p>	<p>K1.1.1 Demonstrate civic skills in a classroom that reflect an understanding of civic values</p> <p>K1.4.7.1 Identify examples of rules in the school community and explain why they exist; describe incentives for following rules and consequences for breaking rules</p>

Components SS3-4: Change over Time

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS3 Personal history: Child explores the concepts of past, present and future in relation to personally significant events</p>	<p>S3.1 Participates in physical care routine</p>	<p>S3.2 Notices sequence of a daily routine</p>	<p>S3.3 Begins to use language about time</p> <p>S3.4 Notices age and size differences between self and others</p> <p>S3.5 Notices change in a daily routine</p>	<p>S3.6 Uses language to recall events in time (“yesterday,” “today,” “tomorrow” “when I was a baby,” “last time”</p> <p>S3.7 Begins to see self placed in time between older and younger family members and friends</p> <p>S3.8 Demonstrates an understanding of chronological order concepts in reference to a specific event</p> <p>S3.9 Talks about recent family or friend events and their impact on self</p>	<p>S3.10 Uses language to recall and anticipate events in time with increasing understanding and accuracy</p> <p>S3.11 Compares self to older and younger family members and friends with specific examples</p> <p>S3.12 Describes a chronological order in a series of familiar events</p> <p>S3.13 Reflects on the impact of past, present and some future events on self and family</p>	<p>K4.1.1.1 Use a variety of words to reference time in the past, present and the future; identify beginning, middle and end of historical stories</p>

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS4 Family narratives and traditions: Child has an awareness and appreciation of family and cultural stories and tradition</p>	<p>SS4.1 Recognizes familiar people and toys or objects</p>			<p>SS4.2 Demonstrates curiosity about family and culture</p> <p>SS4.3 Shares stories about family, culture and tradition</p>	<p>SS4.4 Asks more questions about families and culture to build deeper understanding</p> <p>SS4.5 Compares own cultural traditions with others to understand similarities and differences</p>	<p>K4.2.4.1 Compare and contrast traditions in a family with those of other families, including those from diverse backgrounds</p>

Components SS5-6: Environment

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS5 Conservation: Understands that some environmental resources are limited</p>		<p>SS5.1 Helps to put away toys or throw out trash</p> <p>SS5.2 Participates in self-care routine</p>	<p>SS5.3 With modeling and support begins to explore conservation concepts such as reducing, reusing, and recycling</p>	<p>SS5.4 Begins to practice responsible consumption and conservation of natural and physical resources</p>	<p>SS5.5 With support, participates in community conservation activities (playground clean up, etc.)</p>	<p>K1.1.1 Demonstrate civic skills in a classroom that reflect an understanding of civic values</p>
<p>SS6 Physical characteristics of community: Child can identify important physical features in their environment</p>		<p>SS6.1 Begins pretend play with blocks, dolls and other toys</p>	<p>SS6.2 Explores physical environments where people live, work and play</p>	<p>SS6.3 Identifies and describes significant objects and places in familiar environments</p>	<p>SS6.4 Begins to use geographical language to identify features of familiar environments (hills, rivers, etc.)</p> <p>SS6.5 Uses tools to represent immediate environment</p>	<p>K3.1.1.1 Describe spatial information depicted in simple drawings and pictures</p>

Components SS7: Economics

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS7 Economic reasoning: Child begins to understand basic economic principles</p>			<p>SS7.1 Participates in turn taking activities with support</p> <p>SS7.2 Asks for needs to be met</p> <p>SS7.3 Explores the exchange of goods</p>	<p>SS7.4 Participates in turn taking with increasing independence</p> <p>SS7.5 Describes basic needs for living things</p> <p>SS7.6 Begins to understand the use of trade or money to obtain goods and services</p>	<p>SS7.7 Negotiates and shares with other children during play</p> <p>SS7.8 Begins to label individual needs and wants with support</p> <p>SS7.9 Identifies goods and services that could meet a specific need or want</p>	<p>K1.1 Demonstrates civic skills in a classroom that reflect an understanding of civic values</p> <p>K2.1.1.1 Distinguishes between individual needs (conditions necessary to survive) and individual wants (conditions necessary to be happy)</p> <p>K2.1.1.2 Identify goods or services that could satisfy a specific need or want</p>

Components SS8: Technology

Subcomponent	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years, K Readiness	K Alignment
<p>SS8 Digital citizenship: The ability to choose and use some digital technology appropriately*</p> <p>*Follow all best practices and safety protocol for children using digital technology</p>				<p>SS8.1 With support, explores all tools, including digital tools, to enhance learning</p>	<p>SS8.2 Knows when, how and why to use a variety of tools to for learning, including digital technology</p> <p>SS8.3 With support, engages in responsible use of all tools including digital technology</p>	

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