

# Montana Early Learning Developmental Domains and Content Standards

Early Learning Developmental Domains and Content Standards

Adopted April 2024

## EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS AND CONTENT STANDARDS

### 10.63.102 DEFINITIONS

“Developmental domain” means the broad, interrelated categories or dimensions of early childhood development reflective of early childhood education children's learning and growth. The four core domains include social and emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.

“Early childhood curriculum” means an articulated educational plan for young children, which is grounded in research-based understandings of child development and developmentally appropriate practices. Curriculum guides the teaching process from identifying what to teach, including early content standards in each of the four developmental domains and how to teach, including developing learning experiences based upon individual and group outcomes, and assessing what was learned then using this data to inform future planning and teaching. For early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for 4- year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten, the curriculum must embrace the four developmental domains while focusing on the subject of literacy with a goal of establishing a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of third grade.



## EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS AND CONTENT STANDARDS

(1) The following early learning developmental domains represent the foundational skills all students need to be successful learners. The development of communication, language, and literacy skills supports the growth in all other domains of development. All developmental domains are applicable for public preschool programs and early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for 4-year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten.

Early Learning Overview



# Montana Early Learning Developmental Domains & Content Standards

(Adopted April 2024)



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Domains	Oral Language	Written Language
Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receptive language, students use listening and observation skills to make sense of and respond to spoken language and other forms of communication</li> <li>• Expressive language, students develop skills in using sounds, facial expressions, gestures, and words, such as to help others understand their needs, ask questions, express feelings and ideas, and solve problems</li> <li>• Social language, students develop skills to interact and communicate with others in effective ways.</li> <li>• Speech development, wherein students develop an awareness of the sounds of letters and the combination of letters that make up words and use this awareness to manipulate syllables and sounds of speech.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students build an understanding and interest in the symbols, sounds, and rhythms of written language and develop awareness that the printed word can be used for various purposes.</li> <li>• Students develop interest and skill in using symbols as a meaningful form of communication.</li> <li>• Print awareness , students build an understanding that print carries a message through symbols and words and that there is a connection between sounds and letters (the alphabetic principle)</li> </ul>



Domains	Social Emotional (culture, family, community as well as social and emotional development)	Physical ( development of motor skills and instruction in health, safety, and personal care)	Cognitive
Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An awareness of and appreciation for similarities and differences between themselves and others;</li> <li>• An awareness of the functions and diverse characteristics of families; and</li> <li>• An understanding of the basic principles of how communities function, including work roles and commerce.</li> <li>• Social Development skills instruction helps students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop trust, emotional bonds, and interact comfortably with adults;</li> <li>• interact and build relationships with peers;</li> <li>• develop skills in cooperation, negotiation, and empathy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Emotional development skills instruction includes opportunities for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop an awareness and appreciation of self as a unique, competent, and capable individual;</li> <li>• demonstrate a belief in their abilities;</li> <li>• manage internal states, feelings, and behavior, and develop the ability to adapt to diverse situations and environments; and</li> <li>• express a wide and varied range of feelings through facial expressions, gestures, behaviors, and words.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small muscle strength, coordination, and skills;</li> <li>• large muscle strength, coordination, and skills; and</li> <li>• use of their senses to explore the environment and develop skills through sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound.</li> <li>• Health, safety, and personal care skills instruction includes opportunities for students to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal health and hygiene skills as they develop and practice self-care routines;</li> <li>• healthy eating practices by eating a variety of nutritional foods;</li> <li>• healthy behaviors through physical activity; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>• an awareness and understanding of safety rules as they learn to make safe and appropriate choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• curiosity through imagination, inventiveness, originality, and interest as they explore and experience new things;</li> <li>• initiative and self-direction through engagement in new tasks and to take risks in learning new skills or information;</li> <li>• persistence and attentiveness with the ability to focus their attention and concentration to complete tasks and increase their learning;</li> <li>• reflection and interpretation skills in thinking about their learning in order to inform their future decisions; and</li> <li>• reasoning skills in causation, critical and analytical thinking, problem solving, and representational thought.</li> </ul>

## Montana Early Learning Content Standards

The following early childhood education standards are aligned to the Montana K-12 Content Standards and highlight what students should know, understand, and be able to do upon entering kindergarten. All early childhood education content standards are applicable for public preschool programs while only the English Language Arts and Literacy Content Standards apply to early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for 4-year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten.

### English Language Arts and Literacy Standards

- Early reading, wherein students develop an understanding, skill, and interest in alphabet knowledge using the symbols, sounds, and rhythms of written language.
- Print development and writing, wherein students demonstrate interest and skill in using symbols as a meaningful form of communication.
- Speaking and listening, wherein students use phonemic and phonological awareness to identify and play with individual sounds in spoken words.
- Language, wherein students develop the ability to communicate with others to build relationships, share meaning, and express needs.

### Creative Arts Standards

- Creative movement wherein students produce rhythmic movements spontaneously and in imitation with growing technical and artistic abilities.
- Drama, wherein students show appreciation and awareness of drama through observation, imitation, and participation in simple dramatic plots.
- Music, wherein students engage in a variety of musical or rhythmic activities.
- Visual arts, wherein students demonstrate a growing understanding and appreciation for the creative process and visual arts.



# Montana Early Learning Content Standards

## Mathematics and Numeracy

- Number sense and operations, wherein students develop the ability to think and work with numbers, to understand their uses, and describe their relationships through structured and everyday experiences.
- Measurement concepts, wherein students use measurement instruments to explore and discover measurement relationships and characteristics, such as length, quantity, volume, distance, weight, area, and time.
- Mathematical skills in data analysis, wherein students count, sort, and compare objects.
- Initial algebraic thinking and operations, wherein students identify, describe, produce, and create patterns using mathematical language and materials.
- Geometric and spatial reasoning, wherein students build the foundation for recognizing, creating, and manipulating shapes, and learning spatial reasoning and directional words as they become aware of their bodies and personal space in their physical environment.

## Science

- Scientific thinking and the use of the scientific methods through investigation using their senses to observe, manipulate objects, ask questions, make predictions, and develop conclusions and generalizations.
- An understanding of and compassion for living things.
- An understanding of the physical world, the nature and properties of energy, and nonliving matter.
- An understanding of the earth and planets.
- An understanding of engineering as the process that assists people in designing and building.





# Montana Early Learning Content Standards

## Social Studies

- An understanding of the concept of historical time, including past, present, and future.
- Knowledge of geographical places and regions by understanding that each place has its own unique characteristics and the reciprocal effect individuals have with the world around them.
- An awareness of their natural world, including the environment and our interdependence on the natural world.

## Technology

- An understanding of technology with awareness of technological tools and developmentally appropriate exploration of the ways to use these resources.

