

What are quality preschool learning standards?

New York State's Prekindergarten (Pre-K) Learning Standards are organized into five specific developmental domains:

- 1 Approaches to Learning:**
How children become involved in learning and acquiring knowledge.
- 2 Physical Development and Health:**
Children's physical health and their ability to engage in daily physical activities.
- 3 Social and Emotional Development:**
Children's competence and ability to regulate their emotions, behavior and attention, and to form positive relationships with peers and adults.
- 4 Communication, Language and Literacy:**
Children's ability to understand, create and communicate meaning.
- 5 Cognition and Knowledge of the World:**
What children need to know and understand about their world and how they apply what they know.

Excerpted from: www.p12.nysed.gov

Resources

Crisis in the Kindergarten — Why Children Need to Play in School

www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

www.naeyc.org

The Albert Shanker Institute Preschool Curriculum *What's In It for Children and Teachers*

www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/preschool-curriculum

The U.S. Department of Education

Building Strong Foundation for Early Learning:
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/resources.html>

New York State Education Department
Office of Early Learning

www.p12.nysed.gov/earlylearning/

This document was developed by members of the NYSUT Statewide Early Childhood Committee.



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[WWW.NYSUT.ORG](http://www.nysut.org)

Smart Start

A quality preschool education is important!



A resource to inform parents and teachers about the qualities of a strong early childhood educational program



Get a smart start with Pre-K

Research shows that children who attend high quality preschool programs perform better in school.

Children:

- Have stronger ELA and math skills
- Enter Kindergarten with an understanding of the classroom environment
- Have more developed social skills
- Benefit from increased access to Early Intervention Services

Children who attend high quality programs perform better in life and are:

- More likely to graduate from high school
- More likely to be gainfully employed
- Less likely to be incarcerated



High quality preschool programs can include...

- Universal Pre-K
- Targeted Pre-K
- Day Care Centers
- Family Day Care Centers
- Group Family Day Care Homes
- Head Start Centers
- Nursery Schools
- Small Day Care Centers

Federal, state and local agencies are working to ensure quality education in all of these programs.



A quality preschool program includes...

- research-based developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ongoing assessments of a child's learning
- active, engaged, meaningful learning
- a balance of child-directed play and structured activities
- opportunities to build healthy relationships and classroom community
- organized child-friendly environment
- safe and healthy physical environment
- consistent daily routines
- celebration of diversity
- health screenings — vision and hearing
- educational screenings for early intervention

Brain research affirms that quality preschool experiences directly impact the success of children throughout their school years and beyond.

These are some other features of a quality preschool program.

- ✓ attention to nutritional needs
- ✓ family involvement and collaboration
- ✓ parent education
- ✓ communication of child's progress to the family
- ✓ teaching staff with educational qualifications
- ✓ ongoing professional staff development
- ✓ low teacher to student ratio

Adapted from: www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content3/identify.preschool.5.html

