


It's For the Kids: Iowa Early Learning Standards 3rd edition



tool to share information between families, child care providers, schools, family support professionals, health professionals, and others

resource to support every child's learning and development

guide for everyone who cares for, educates, or works with young children

support to create activities and lessons, to build healthy relationships, and to provide experiences to nurture the best development of a young child

Child development is critical to the success of every child...

- ★ *...because 90% of brain development occurs in the first five years of life*
- ★ *...because relationships with caring adults are critical for future success*

The Iowa Early Learning Standards eight areas of development connect with each other to integrate the development of each child. Each area provides the developmental foundation to address the needs and capabilities of infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children:



Within each area, the standard, rationale why the standard is important, benchmarks for the standard, examples of benchmarks, and adult supports for the child are identified for infants and toddlers (infants 0 -18 months and toddlers 18 months-3 years) and for preschool-age (3 -5 years) children.

- standard tells what an infant/toddler or preschool child should show
- rationale includes a description of the standard and the research for it
- each benchmark defines the skills infants, toddlers, or preschool-age children develop and suggest how children can practice and demonstrate the benchmark
- adult support section provides recommendations for the care, learning, and development of children, which can incorporate English and each child's home language
- reference section provides details to access research used to develop each standard

As we use the Iowa Early Learning Standards, every adult in Iowa intentionally supports the lifetime success of each child.



Access the Iowa Early Learning Standards 3rd edition in [English](#) or [Español](#).



The vision of **Early Childhood Iowa** is *“Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.”* Working together at the state and local levels, we improve the quality of life for young children and their families to achieve desired results. These results include healthy children, children ready to succeed in school, safe and supportive communities, secure and nurturing families, and secure and nurturing early learning environments. When we all use the Iowa Early Learning Standards 3rd edition, we intentionally advance the well-being of every child from birth to five years of age.

For additional information contact the Early Childhood Iowa [State Office](#)

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