

CONNECT: STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Course Description:

This training will guide participants through an overview of the connection between what children are expected to know and do and ways to measure their progress. The course contains a summary of recommended practices on implementing the *Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards*. It presents background information on the development of the *Standards*, how they are organized, and how to interpret or de-code them. Through individual or group activities, participants will delve into the *Standards* document and test their skill at recognizing those standards during play activities and interactions.

The training will also outline the importance of documenting children's progress through appropriate assessment. Descriptions of methods of assessment will be provided as well as opportunities to practice using various information-gathering strategies. Participants will be provided with information on how to use assessment results in their planning for children's learning. Recommendations on how to share assessment information with families are included.

Outcome: Early childhood educators will use the *Standards* to plan and guide instruction, activities and interactions. They will systematically collect and reflect on assessment information in order to support children's growth and development.

Objectives: As a result of participating in this training, early childhood teachers/administrators will:

- Be familiar with the *Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards* and understand their role in planning, instruction, activities, interactions, and assessment:
 - Why the *Standards* are important
 - How the *Standards* are organized and how they can be used to support children's development
 - How to use the *Standards* for planning, instruction, activities and interactions
 - Where to access the *Standards*
- Be familiar with assessment of young children:
 - The importance of assessment, including screening
 - The processes/methods of documenting or recording children's learning and development
 - How to use assessment information to support children's learning
 - How to share screening and assessment information with families and others

Materials/Preparation:

- Copy of the *Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards*
- Computer or other device with internet access

Time Frame:

- Programs can determine whether or not to conduct all sections on the same day or over a period of days
- 4.0 hours

Follow-up upon completion of this course:

- Teachers provide documentation of course completion to supervisor(s)
- Early childhood educators in child care centers or Head Start/Early Head Start programs will receive credit for training approved through the LDE Licensing Division
- Use the "Guiding Questions" to extend learning and application of the information gained

CONNECT: STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

Reflective thinking about this course will help early childhood educators as they work with children and families. When teachers reflect on what they have learned, it allows them to consider what they are doing in their classroom, why they are doing it, how effective they are, whether children are responding and learning, and what they could do better.

- What steps will you take to become more familiar with the *Early Learning and Development Standards* for the age group you work with?
- How will you use the standards as you plan activities and interactions?
- How well does the curriculum your program uses line up with the *Standards*?
- What steps do you need to take to make certain **all** of the standards are being addressed?
- In order to help children meet the standards, are there any changes to your classroom that need to be made with respect to room arrangement, materials, the schedule, activities/interactions, etc.?
- What strategies will you use to implement the standards for children with disabilities or who are learning English?
- What additional resources, materials, or assistance will you need to provide children with activities and experiences to help them meet the standards?
- How will you document children's learning (e.g. work samples, anecdotal notes, photographs, checklists, etc.)? Which will be the easiest for you to use, and which will be the hardest?
- What strategies will you use if you find that a child is not developing in a typical manner? Who will you need to work with, and what resources will you need to help you ensure that children's development is supported?
- How will you use assessment information (data) to plan collaboratively with your coworkers?
- How will you share information on children's progress with families and others?