



## Alabama's Standards *for* Early Learning and Development

# SUMMARY



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
Early Childhood  
Education

In partnership with



*Publications or audiovisual media must include the following disclaimer: "The Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development was made possible by grant number 90TP0065-01-00. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families." [HHS Grants Policy Statement, page II-31].*

[children.alabama.gov](http://children.alabama.gov)

# Relationships and Connections

## **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (FCE)** *Relationships to Help Me Succeed*

Describes a unique set of standards and practices that highlight the importance of families', communities' and professionals' partnership in supporting children's learning.

FCE 1a	Child development and Parenting	Early learning programs support families' understanding of child development and parenting techniques.
FCE 1b	Communication	Early learning programs promote respectful and reciprocal communication strategies with families.
FCE 1c	Home-School Connection	Early learning programs connect in-home and out-of-home experiences to optimize children's learning.
FCE 1d	Family Participation	Early learning programs promote families' participation in their children's program experiences.
FCE 1e	Decision-Making and Leadership	Early learning programs provide families with opportunities to contribute to their children's program operation.
FCE 2	Program Climate and Environment	Early learning programs are welcoming to all children and families.
FCE 3	Community Partnerships	Early learning programs collaborate with community agencies to support children's and families.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SED)** *Myself, My Feelings, My Relationships*

Describes those skills needed to understand, express and manage feelings as well as the ability to establish positive relationships with others.

### SED 1: Myself

SED 1a	Self-Awareness	Children will demonstrate an emerging personal identity through awareness of one's own personal characteristics, skills and abilities.
SED 1b	Self esteem	Children will demonstrate emerging confidence in their own abilities.

### SED 2: My Feelings

SED 1a	Self-Awareness	Children will demonstrate an emerging personal identity through awareness of one's own personal characteristics, skills and abilities.
SED 2b	Self Regulation	Children will begin to self-regulate.

### SED 3: My Relationships

SED 1a	Self-Awareness	Children will demonstrate an emerging personal identity through awareness of one's own personal characteristics, skills and abilities.
SED 3b	Relationships with Peers	Children will develop ways to interact and build relationships with peers.

**SOCIAL STUDIES (SST)** *Learning about Myself, My Family, and My Community*

Labels the knowledge children acquire about their family, their community and their place within the world.

**SST 1: Social Systems**

<b>SST 1a</b>	Family Structure	Children will develop a sense of belonging to a family group and articulate the roles of its members and how families are the same and different.
<b>SST 1b</b>	Community Belonging	Children will build a sense of belonging to a group and follow its rules.
<b>SST 1c</b>	Diversity and Culture	Children will show understanding of how people and their customs are alike and different.

**SST 2: Social Studies Concepts**

<b>SST 2a</b>	Economics	Children will understand about supply and demand, why people work, money, and community helpers.
<b>SST 2b</b>	Geography	Children will identify basic concepts of location and features in the community.
<b>SST 2c</b>	History	Children will demonstrate understanding of events and people from the past and present.

## SECTION

## 2

**Exploration and Critical Thinking: Developing STEM Skills****APPROACHES TO PLAY AND LEARNING (APL)** *Developing Skills and Attitudes for Success*

Identifies the skills and behaviors that children use for learning. Play skills, along with children's persistence, flexibility, creativity promote successful learning and interactions with others.

**APL 1: Play**

<b>APL 1a</b>	Imaginative Play	Children will use their imaginations to learn about the world around them.
<b>APL 1b</b>	Collaborative Play	Children will learn to work and play together to achieve a common goal.

**APL 2: Constructing and Gathering Knowledge**

<b>APL 2a</b>	Persistence, Engagement and Attention	Children will develop the ability to focus their attention and concentrate to complete tasks.
<b>APL 2b</b>	Task Analysis	Children will identify the steps needed to achieve a goal.
<b>APL 2c</b>	Reasoning and Problem Solving	Children will identify and develop strategies for solving simple problems.

**APL 3: Wonderment and Curiosity**

<b>APL 3a</b>	Curiosity, Invention and Initiative	Children will show eagerness, imagination and creativity as they try new tasks.
<b>APL 3b</b>	Risk-Taking and Flexibility:	Children will demonstrate a willingness to take risks and try new things.

## SCIENCE EXPLORATION AND KNOWLEDGE (SEK) *Exploring the World Around Me*

Provides foundational information about science, engineering and technology concepts as well as the critical thinking skills that children use to learn and understand new ideas.

### SEK 1: Science Concepts

SEK 1a	Scientific Inquiry	Children will gain knowledge through exploration and discovery.
SEK 1b	Biological Science	Children will differentiate between living and non-living things and their characteristics.
SEK 1c	Physical Science	Children will demonstrate emerging understanding of matter and energy.
SEK 1d	Earth and Space Science	Children will demonstrate emerging understanding of the earth and atmosphere.
SEK 1e	Environment and Ecology	Children will demonstrate understanding of their impact on taking care of the world.

### SEK 2: Technology

SEK 2a	Use of Tools	Children will use simple and more complex tools to accomplish a task.
SEK 2b	Media Literacy	Children will demonstrate understanding of the types of information they are receiving through media.
SEK 2c	Digital Citizenship	Children will demonstrate safe use of technology.
SEK 2d	Computational Thinking	Children will use technological skills, concepts and behaviors to solve problems or complete projects.
SEK 3	Engineering Processes	Children will use beginning design processes for problem solving.

## MATHEMATICAL THINKING (MAT) *Exploring, Processing, and Logical Reasoning*

Introduces basic mathematics skills and language that help children learn about numbers, shapes, patterns, measurement and data analysis.

### MAT 1: Numbers and Quantity

MAT 1a	Number Relationships	Children will understand the concept of number and the relationships between numbers and quantities.
MAT 1b	Counting and Number Sense	Children will connect number names to quantities.

### MAT 2: Algebraic Thinking

MAT 2a	Operations	Children will develop understanding of putting together or adding to and taking apart and taking from.
MAT 2b	Sets	Children will classify and organize objects according to properties and attributes.
MAT 2c	Patterns	Children will recognize simple patterns in daily life and play experiences.

### MAT 3: Spatial Reasoning and Geometry

MAT 3a	Spatial Reasoning	Children will explore and describe the spatial relationships between objects, their environment, and themselves.
MAT 3b	Shapes	Children will explore, visualize and analyze shapes and shape attributes.

### MAT 4: Measurement and Data Analysis

MAT 4a	Measurement and Time	Children will explore and communicate about distance, weight, length, height and time.
MAT 4b	Logical Thinking, Reasoning, and Data Analysis	Children will use logical thinking and reasoning to solve meaningful problems and inform decisions.

## Communication

### LANGUAGE AND LITERACY (LLT)

*Understanding and Expressing by Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing*

Shows children's emergent skills in the areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Children use language skills to communicate with others while they develop literacy skills to read and write.

#### LLT 1: Oral Language

LLT 1a	Receptive Language	Children will gain information by understanding the meaning of words and gestures.
LLT 1b	Expressive Language	Children will use words and gestures to express their thoughts, feelings and needs to others.
LLT 1c	Social Rules of Language	Children will use, adapt and follow the rules of language.

#### LLT 2: Emergent Reading

LLT 2a	Comprehension	Children will demonstrate understanding of both the written and spoken word.
LLT 2b	Phonological Awareness	Children will begin to recognize and associate word with sounds in spoken language.
LLT 2c	Alphabet Knowledge	Children will demonstrate an emerging understanding that letters and letter sounds represent the sounds of spoken language.
LLT 2d	Print Awareness and Book Handling	Children will construct meaning and appreciation of print.
LLT 3	Emergent Writing	Children will demonstrate beginning understanding of the idea that marks on paper convey a message.

### CREATIVE ARTS (CRA) *Expressing Feelings and Ideas through Art, Music, Movement and Drama*

Offers the ways in which children use creative arts to express themselves. Moving beyond talking and listening, children may use different media such as drawing or acting to express their feelings and thoughts.

CRA 1	Visual Arts	Children will demonstrate an increasing understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts through exploration.
CRA 2	Music	Children will demonstrate an increasing understanding and appreciation of music as a form of self-expression.
CRA 3	Movement and Dance	Children will demonstrate growing interest and control in rhythmic movements.
CRA 4	Drama & Acting	Children will demonstrate an increasing understanding of drama through the exploration of actions and language.

## Physical Development and Health

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH (PDH) *Growing Strong, Healthy and Resilient*

Describes the way in which children develop coordination, strength, and control of their bodies and develop the knowledge about how to stay healthy.

#### PDH 1: Motor Development

<b>PDH 1a</b>	Gross Motor Development	Children will demonstrate increasing body awareness and control, strength and coordination of large muscles.
---------------	-------------------------	--

<b>PDH 1b</b>	Fine Motor Development	Children will demonstrate increasing strength, control and coordination of their small muscles.
---------------	------------------------	---

#### PDH 2: Healthy Living

<b>PDH 2a</b>	Healthy Habits	Children will show increasing independence in performing self care tasks.
---------------	----------------	---

<b>PDH 2b</b>	Safety	Children will demonstrate increasing awareness of safe habits, safety rules and personal safety.
---------------	--------	--