

LEARNING STANDARDS

There are two separate sets of standards. The Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) focus on children birth to age 5. The K-12 Standards focus on school-age children, kindergarten through fifth grade. All standards are used as a visual guide of the concepts, skills, and expectations that children develop at various ages.

Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)

- Approaches Towards Learning
- Cognitive
- Language and Literacy
- Physical Well Being
- Social Emotional

Ohio's K-12 Standards

- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology

Why Should You Use the Standards?

The standards help promote high quality care for children of all backgrounds and demographics and are geared towards creating a strong foundation for lifelong learners. They focus on the development of the whole child and foster learning through play. By using the standards when planning, professionals are better able to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Each set of standards (ELDS and/or K-12) include domains or subject areas. The format of the standards was designed to work as a continuum to help you individualize for children. As you know, not all children develop the same skills at the exact same time. This continuum allows you to meet individual children where they are developmentally and plan accordingly to help strengthen certain areas/skills.

How to Use the Standards?

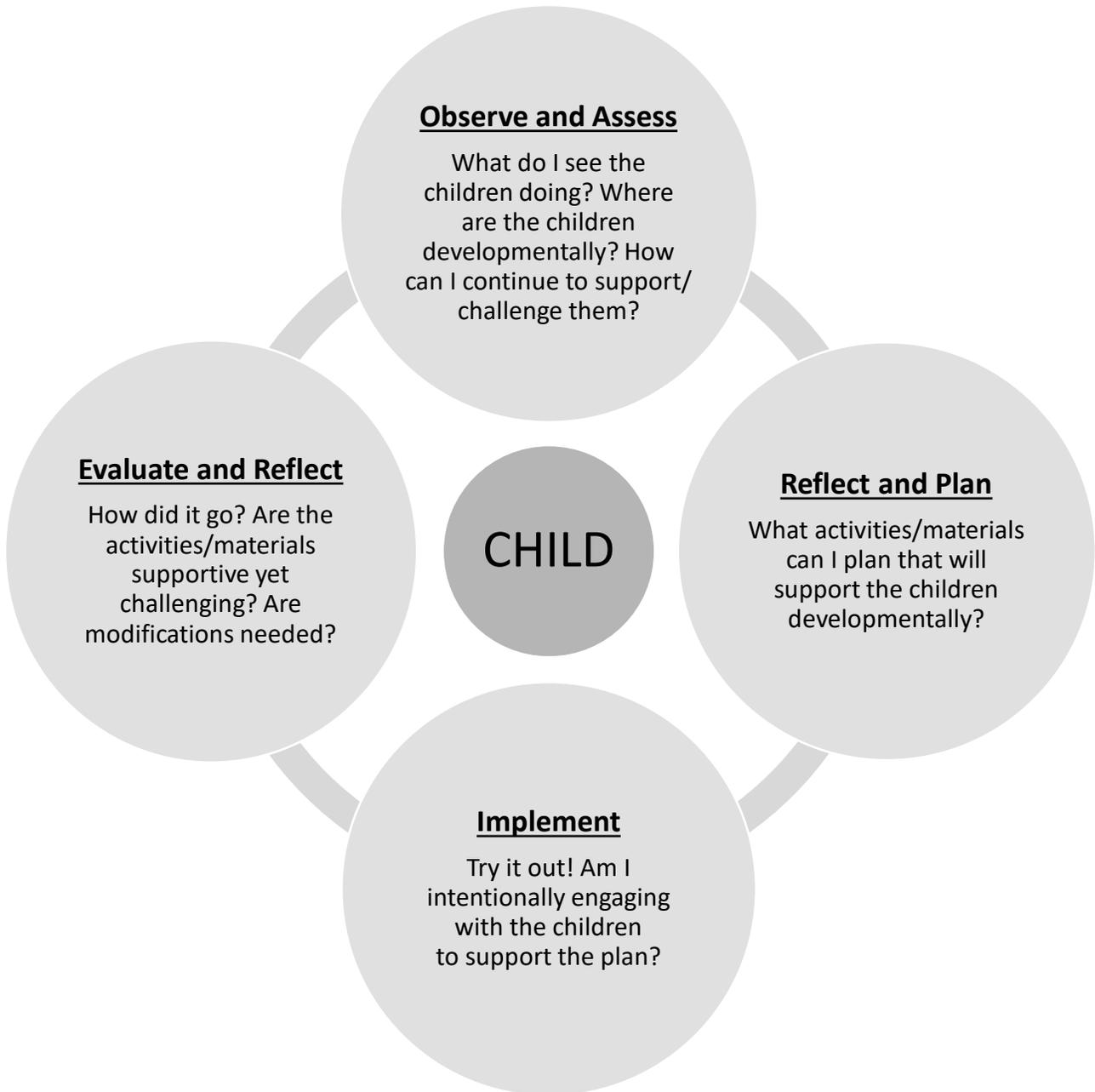
You may develop your own methods for using the standards, however you should use the standards as a guide to help you assess where each child currently is developmentally. Then create goals that challenge children to increase their skills and knowledge in each area. If you find that a child has mastered specific skills and knowledge, you can create more challenging goals for them by using the standards.

Things to consider when using the standards:

- Organizing your classroom ELDS and/or K-12 documents by each domain or subject will help you find what you need in a more efficient way. You may want to print a copy and keep them in a three-ring binder.
- Keep the ELDS Implementation Guide with the ELDS documents

Putting the Planning Cycle and Learning Standards Together

Using the learning standards when planning will help you be more accurate and intentional when focusing on the whole child. The Planning Cycle consists of four parts – Observe & Assess, Plan, Implement, and Evaluate and Reflect. In the graphic below, we have included questions to help guide you through the cycle and determine the appropriate standards for individual children.



EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) were created to help guide you in knowing what typically developing children are learning during each phase of childhood. The format of the standards was designed to work as a continuum to help you individualize for children from birth through age 5. The standards focus on five areas of development or domains. See below for more details.

As you know, not all children develop the same skills at the exact same time. In each domain you may find blank spaces or columns in some age groups. This means (according to research) that it is not something children are typically expected to develop at that particular time and you may see some skills developing earlier or later in some children. This continuum allows you to meet individual children where they are developmentally and plan accordingly to help strengthen certain areas/skills.

Five Domains

Think of these five domains as individual trees, each centered around different areas of development. Each tree has branches or strands and topics that explore that domain on a deeper level. You may want to use a three-ring binder to organize your ELDS. Separating by each domain will help you find the topic/strand in a more efficient way.



Social/Emotional Domain: This domain looks at skills related to self-comforting, interactions with adults and peers, handling/expressing/identifying emotions, etc.



Physical Health Well Being and Motor Development Domain: This domain helps you support children with health, safety and nutrition issues as well as focuses on large and small motor skills.



Language/Literacy Domain: This domain looks at letters and reading elements, but it goes much deeper than the ABC's! This domain also focuses on listening and speaking skills, as well as language comprehension.



Cognition and General Knowledge Domain: This domain includes three subdomains: Math, science and social studies. Think about those problem-solving and memory/recall skills – things children typically memorize (shape, names, identifying colors, number order, etc.).



Approaches Towards Learning Domain: This domain looks at a child's ability to be curious, persistent and creative.

For more information on each domain, topics and strands please see the ELDS found on the Bold Beginning! website: <https://boldbeginning.ohio.gov>. As you explore the ELDS, you'll find helpful examples for each developmental stage or age group.

TRAINING TIP: Taking the ELDS overview training is another great way to increase your understanding of the standards. You can find our training schedule at www.4cforchildren.org/providers/training.

K-12 STANDARDS RESOURCE GUIDE

The K-12 Standards Resource Guide was created to help educators support school-age children in a child care setting. These standards can be used to enhance children’s understanding of age-appropriate information and strengthen the foundational knowledge children are building during the school year. Educators can use the standards to weave together learning and everyday activities and interests in a more relaxed (non-school) environment. Often the activities are implemented in a fun and meaningful way to extend learning opportunities before or after school hours and throughout the summer.

As you know, not all children develop the same skills at the exact same time. Throughout the K-12 Standards Resource Guide document you will find mixed-age groups to help you determine what skills and concepts are appropriate for each child. This allows you to meet individual children where they are developmentally and plan accordingly to help strengthen and/or challenge certain areas/skills within a subject.

K-12 Standards Subject Areas

Think of these four subject areas as individual trees, each centered around different areas of development. Each tree has branches, strands or standards that explore that domain on a deeper level. You may want to use a three-ring binder to organize your classroom K-12 standards. Separating by each subject area will help you find the standards in a more efficient way. In addition to the academic subject areas, educators should also work to enhance children’s development in the areas of Social Emotional, Health & Wellness and the Arts.



ELA: This domain looks at skills related to reading, exposing children to different types of literature, writing abilities, speaking and listening and overall language skills.



Math: This domain helps support children with age-appropriate math concepts and development. Strands range from counting skills, numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, fractions and equations.



Science: This domain strengthens children’s understanding of topics related to earth and space, life and physical sciences.



Social Studies: This domain includes topics surrounding history, geography, government and economics.

For more information on each subject area see the K-12 Standards found on the Bold Beginning! website: <https://boldbeginning.ohio.gov>. As you explore the K-12 Standards, you’ll find helpful examples for each developmental stage or age group.

TRAINING TIP: Taking the K-12 Standards Resource Guide training offered by 4C for Children will provide you with additional opportunities to increase your understanding and knowledge of the standards. You can find our training schedule at www.4cforchildren.org/providers/training.