

## What are quality preschool learning standards?

New York State's Prekindergarten (PreK) 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/.../common\\_core\\_standards/pdfdocs/prekindergarten\\_learning\\_standards\\_jan\\_10\\_2011.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/.../common_core_standards/pdfdocs/prekindergarten_learning_standards_jan_10_2011.pdf) - 2011-01-10



## Resources

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

[http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten\\_report.pdf](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

*Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs*

<http://www.naeyc.org/store/files/store/TOC/375.pdf>

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

<http://www.shankerinstitute.org/downloads/early%20childhood%2012-11-08.pdf>

The State Education Department *Preschool Planning Guide: Building A Foundation for Development of Language and Literacy in the Early Years.*

<http://emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/presch1.pdf>

The US Department of Education *Building Strong Foundation for Early Learning: Guide to High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs.*

[http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/PES/early\\_learning/Foundations.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/PES/early_learning/Foundations.pdf)

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



Representing more than 600,000 professionals  
in education and health care.

[WWW.NYSUT.ORG](http://WWW.NYSUT.ORG)



# MIND YOUR P's and Q's

A quality preschool education is important!



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



## Why mind your P's and Q's?

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

Children:

- Have stronger ELA and math skills
- Enter Kindergarten with a 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 PreK
- Targeted PreK
- 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
- on-going 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
- ✓ on-going professional staff development
- ✓ low teacher to student ratio

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

