

It All Starts with Early Childhood Education

What is Early Childhood Education?

Enrollment in:

School district's preschool program
Head Start program
Licensed child care home, center, or preschool

Child care provided by:

Family, friend, or neighbor

Caring for young children:

Every experience from birth onward can be considered early childhood education, especially communication exchanges and other interactions with children. Parents are children's first teachers.



Standards for Family-School Partnerships in Early Childhood

as adapted by the Family Engagement Action Team of the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership



- Standard 1: Welcoming Families - Families are active participants in their child's development and care, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected with caregivers, teachers, home visitors, and other service providers, and to what children are learning and how they are developing and cared for.
- Standard 2: Communicating Effectively - Families are given the opportunity to engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about the development and care of their child with caregivers, teachers, home visitors, and other service providers.
- Standard 3: Supporting Children's Success - Families continuously collaborate with caregivers, teachers, home visitors, and other service providers to support children's learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have opportunities to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and confidence to do so effectively.
- Standard 4: Speaking Up for Each Child – Families are empowered and respected as advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that children are treated equitably and have access to opportunities that will support their optimal development.
- Standard 5: Sharing Responsibility - Families are equal partners with caregivers, teachers, home visitors, and other service providers in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
- Standard 6: Collaborating with Community - Families along with caregivers, teachers, home visitors, and other service providers collaborate with community members to expand opportunities, community services, and civic participation that result in all children being valued, healthy and thriving.