

8 Core Knowledge Areas for Early Childhood Professionals

Core Knowledge refers to the knowledge needed by professionals to effectively work with young children and their families. These eight core knowledge areas, revised and updated in 2017, align with both the Vermont Agency of Education teacher licensure standards with early childhood endorsement, and the NAEYC professional standards. The *Subheadings* break the core knowledge areas into smaller chunks. They describe the component parts that make up the core knowledge area. *Core Competencies* are the smallest pieces; they detail the observable skills needed by professionals to provide high quality services.

1

CHILD DEVELOPMENT: *Promoting Child Development and Learning*

- A. How Children Develop
- B. Influences on Child Development
- C. Individual Variance

2

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES: *Building Family and Community Relationships*

- A. Relationships
- B. Communication with Families
- C. Community Involvement and Resources
- D. Welcoming All Families

3

OBSERVING AND ASSESSING: *Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families*

- A. Objective Observation and Documentation
- B. Assessment
- C. Including All Children and Families in the Assessment Process

4

HOW WE TEACH: *Using Developmentally Effective Approaches*

- A. Interactions
- B. Learning Environment
- C. Developmentally Appropriate Teaching

5

WHAT WE TEACH: *Using Content Knowledge to Build Meaningful Curriculum*

- A. Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) Area: Developing Self
- B. VELS Area: Communication and Expression
- C. VELS Area: Learning About the World

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6

HEALTHY SAFE ENVIRONMENTS AND NUTRITION: *Ensuring Healthy Safe Environments and Good Nutrition*

- A. Healthy Environments and Health Needs
- B. Safe Environments
- C. Nutrition
- D. Physical Activity
- E. Accessible to All Children

7

PROFESSIONALISM: *Growing as a Professional*

- A. Professionalism
- B. Ethics and Professional Development
- C. Leadership
- D. Collegueship

8

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION: *Managing and Administering Programs*

- A. All Staff, Including Directors:
 - Program Organization and Regulations
 - Staff Contributions
- B. Directors, Administrators and/or Owners:
 - Administration
 - Management of Personnel and Hiring
 - Legal and Fiscal Management

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