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

Updated September 2018. Please visit northernlightsccv.org to ensure you are using the most up-to-date resources.

If you need help understanding the Core Knowledge Areas and how they should be used, please visit northernlightsccv.org or contact Northern Lights at 802-540-8168 or northernlights@ccv.edu.
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

PROFESSIONALISM: Growing as a Professional
A. Professionalism
B. Ethics and Professional Development
C. Leadership
D. Colleagueship

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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