

Standards in Early Childhood



There are three key types of standards that matter for early childhood professionals regardless of setting: program standards, professional standards, and learning standards. These three sets of standards have different roles and functions within our practice as early educators and when combined together help us become more effective in our work with children and families.



Program Standards

Program Standards are requirements early childhood programs must meet that help create environments where children are more likely to learn. They include standards like group size, staff-child ratios, and educator qualifications.



Professional Standards

Professional Standards are the essential knowledge, skills, dispositions, and practices required of professionals working with children birth through age 8 in early learning settings.



Learning Standards

Learning Standards are the knowledge, skills, and dispositions children gain through quality early childhood experiences, across all early learning settings.

What does this mean in Vermont?

PROGRAM STANDARDS

- Afterschool Child Care Programs Regulations
- Child Care Licensing Regulations
- Education Quality Standards
- Head Start Program Performance Standards
- Prekindergarten Education Rules
- Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) Standards

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Core Competencies for Afterschool Professionals
- Core Teaching and Leadership Standards for Vermont Educators
- Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education Personnel Preparation Standards
- NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators
- Vermont Early Childhood Core Knowledge and Competencies

LEARNING STANDARDS

- Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework
- Vermont Early Learning Standards

For support finding and using these standards, contact your Northern Lights Resource Advisor