

Early Learning Parents' Pages

June 2018



Happy Father's Day

- Early Learning and Developmental Standards
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- Stay safe and have fun this summer

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards

Revised standards help track healthy child development.

The state of Florida has standards for children birth to kindergarten that are indicators of your child's growth and development. As a parent, you may use these standards to learn about the skills and concepts your child will be expected to learn as he grows.



In 2017, the Office of Early Learning enlisted a group of national and state early learning content experts to review current standards and recommend revisions to ensure that standards are rich, interactive and lead to better preparation for children based on current research to support high-quality standards. The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards – Birth to Kindergarten (2017) were adopted by the State Board of Education in December, 2017.

The revised standards address eight early learning and developmental domains grouped by age levels that indicate age-appropriate progress. The domains are physical development, approaches to

learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, mathematical thinking, scientific inquiry, social studies and creative expression through the arts. You may be thinking, "I have a 6-month-old infant. How can he learn math, science and language skills when he can't talk?" By looking at the standards in the Mathematical Thinking, Scientific Inquiry and Language and Literacy domains, you will find that all of these skills and concepts begin in infancy and build as your child grows.

The [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#) are available on the Office of Early Learning's website. You can find your child's age and click on it to see all of the standards for his age, or you can look at each domain and find the standards for his age.



Additional resources will be added to this site over the next few months.

Check the website weekly to find new resources as they're added.



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Stay safe and have fun this summer

The month of June is Great Outdoors Month and there are plenty of ways for you to spend time outdoors with your child. [Get Outdoors Florida!](#) offers tips for you to enjoy outdoor experiences and spend time outside together as a family. They recommend starting off with activities such as fishing or gardening with your children. You and your child can visit the site to learn more about [When School's Out: Get Outdoors!](#) or [Cool Water Summer Fun](#) or Florida's animals through [Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventure cards](#).



Since a big part of our state – and most of our world consists of water – it's helpful to be familiar with water safety! The Pool Safety Campaign has resources to help families and children learn about water safety. Make sure your child is safe while having fun in the pool by listening to the [Pool Safety Song!](#) The Pool Safety Campaign offers tips to children and families to ensure that children learn how to swim, follow safety precautions (gates), stay away from drains and are supervised by a grown-up. You can visit the [Pool Safely website](#) for more information, view their Kids' Corner and take the [Pool Safely Pledge](#) with thousands of others who have committed to pool safely!

A father's role in the lives of children

In the past, mothers were in charge of the children in most families, but that has changed over time. Today many fathers spend lots of time with their children and in some cases are the primary care givers. A research study from the Pew Research Center reveals that fathers spent two-and-a-half hours per week on child care and four hours a week on housework in 1965. In 2015, fathers reported spending seven hours a week on child care and 9 hours a week on housework. In 2017, 63% of fathers say they spend too little time with their children and 27% live apart from their children.

Having fathers who are actively involved in their children's lives has shown to be beneficial to children. Some of these benefits are that children have higher achievement in school and higher IQs, are less likely to drop out of school and less likely to be victims of sexual assault or abuse. Fathers tend to discipline children differently than mothers.

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They are more likely to set rules and enforce those rules more strictly than mothers while mothers allow for more negotiations and bending the rules. Having both types of discipline is an advantage for children.

Fathers play with their children differently than mothers. Fathers engage in more physical play with their children and "roughhouse" with the children more than mothers. This style of play helps children to control their bodies and emotions. It also encourages more risk taking on the playground and in life. Fathers who talk with their daughters about gender equity have daughters with higher career ambitions. It has been shown that fathers' gender beliefs have more influence over daughters than mothers' gender beliefs.

Many studies suggest that fathers who listen to their children, have a close relationship, set appropriate rules and allow appropriate freedoms may have a more lasting influence on their children than mothers. Most important is the quality of the time fathers spend with their children. Being focused on the children and their needs, spending undistracted time with their children and listening to their children is the way that fathers can make a real difference in the lives of their children.

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Celebrate Father's Day

June 17 is Father's Day, a day for letting dad know how special he is to your family. Some families do not have a dad who lives with them or they may have two moms. If your child's dad is stationed away from home or lives in another town, state or country, arrange a video-chat so your child can talk with their dad on Father's Day. If there is a male (a family member, friend, coach, teacher or spiritual advisor) in your child's life who is involved in encouraging and supporting their development, thank this special person on Father's Day.



If possible, arrange for the whole family to spend time with dad doing something he enjoys. There are many things to do in Florida. Visit a [park](#), go to a [beach](#) or lake, or take him [fishing](#). Take a walk in your neighborhood to enjoy nature.

Let your child help you make dad his favorite breakfast, lunch or dinner. If your child is old enough, let them assist you with the cooking. Setting the table or making a table decoration for dad is a great way to involve younger children.

You can help your young child make a [card](#) or [gift](#) to give dad. There are some ideas on the Office of Early Learning's Pinterest board, [June Upcoming Events](#).

Reading books together that celebrate dads is a relaxing way for your child to spend time with their dad. Choose titles from the [10 Books that celebrate dads list](#) or the [fabulous fathers books list](#) and check out these books from the library. Your child can draw a picture about the book he enjoys reading the most with his dad. Make a video of dad reading a story to his children for a great memory of Father's Day to keep and watch in the future.

Summer at the Library

Summer is here, school is out and it is hot! Head to your local public library for a cool and fun learning environment.



Throughout the summer, public libraries offer many free programs, activities and materials that are fun, safe and educational, and encourage a love of reading for all ages! Benefits of going to the library:

- Children who have been exposed to library preschool programs show greater emergent literacy behaviors and pre-reading skills.
- Public Library programs encourage parents to become involved in children's reading, fostering better communication between parent and child.
- Some locations offer free resources and assistance for the whole family.



While experiences vary from library to library, you may find:

- Story times for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged youth.
- Specialty programs for all ages like contests, puppet shows, guest performers, craft and maker space activities, movies and book clubs.
- Classes that encourage computer literacy for youth and adults.
- Children are able to physically explore the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) through craft activities or maker spaces.

Jana Fine, State Youth Consultant Florida Division of Library and Information Services

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...A Father's Role

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The Importance of FATHER INVOLVEMENT

Children who grow up with involved fathers:

- are
- 39%** more likely to earn mostly A's in school
- 45%** less likely to repeat a grade
- 60%** less likely to be suspended or expelled from school
- 2x** as likely to go to college and find stable employment after high school
- 75%** less likely to have a teen birth
- 80%** less likely to spend time in jail

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Free meals at Summer BreakSpots



During the summer many children who eat breakfast and lunch at school each day may not have a nutritious breakfast, lunch or dinner at home. Summer BreakSpot provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to children and teens under the age of eighteen all summer. Summer BreakSpot is sponsored by The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Many Summer BreakSpots are located in neighborhoods, churches and schools convenient for children to walk to the site. To find a location, visit our [site finder map](#), text "FoodFL" to 877-877 or dial 2-1-1 when schools begin releasing for the summer break. Watch a short video about the program: <https://youtu.be/DZQINW9n9Xc>, Spanish: https://youtu.be/qp_ubphE7A0.

Special dates in July

July 1 Build A Scarecrow Day ♦ July 3 Stay out of the Sun Day ♦ July 4 Independence Day ♦ July 5 National Apple Turnover Day ♦ July 7 Chocolate Day ♦ July 8 Body Painting Day ♦ July 9 National Sugar Cookie Day ♦ July 10 Pick Blueberries Day ♦ July 11 Cheer Up the Lonely Day ♦ July 12 Pecan Pie Day ♦ July 13 National French Fries Day ♦ July 14 Shark Awareness Day ♦ July 15 Cow Appreciation Day ♦ July 16 Global Hug Your Kids Day ♦ July 17 World Emoji Day ♦ July 18 National Hot Dog Day ♦ July 19 National Raspberry Cake Day ♦ July 20 Moon Day ♦ July 22 Parent's Day & Hammock Day ♦ July 23 Vanilla Ice Cream Day ♦ July 24 Amelia Earhart Day & Cousins Day ♦ July 26 Aunt and Uncle Day ♦ July 29 International Tiger Day ♦ July 30 Father-in-Law Day & International Day of Friendship



Rodney J. MacKinnon
Executive Director



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Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

250 Marriott Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Toll-free 866-357-3239
www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com