Dear Early Childhood Professionals,

It is with pleasure that we announce the release of the newly revised New Hampshire Early Learning Standards. We know the early years are the most profound time of growth and development for young children. These Standards reflect our collective goal to provide early childhood professionals with a statewide resource grounded in evidence based research and practice. The Standards promote a whole-child approach that affirms learning and development are interrelated and build upon previous knowledge. As New Hampshire’s population continues to become increasingly diverse, it is essential that our Standards acknowledge, honor, and embrace the tremendous diversity and variation that exists for children and families in our state.

These Standards are the result of a highly collaborative process. Early childhood leaders with broad geographic and professional representation came together to revise the former NH Early Learning Guidelines. The revised Standards were comprehensively reviewed in three stages by renowned national child development experts Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, Dr. Catherine Scott-Little, and Dr. Jeanne L. Reid. These reviews covered content alignment, cultural parameters, and depth and appropriateness of developmental indicators.

The Standards are an integral part of NH’s Quality Rating and Improvement System as they serve as a foundation for how children learn, grow, and develop. It is our intent for professionals working in early learning and family support settings to utilize the Standards in their practice as they work with children from birth to age five and their families.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner
NH Department of Health & Human Services

Virginia M. Barry
Commissioner
NH Department of Education

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Mission is to join communities and families in providing opportunities for citizens to achieve health and independence.