



Core Knowledge & COMPETENCIES

for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals



1 | CHILD/YOUTH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Knows the typical benchmarks of growth and development and uses this knowledge to provide a program that meets the multiple needs of children and youth.



2 | LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS & CURRICULUM

Creates a high-quality learning environment and implements age-appropriate curricula and program activities.



3 | CHILD/YOUTH OBSERVATION & ASSESSMENT

Understands and applies observation and assessment techniques and tools to meet individual needs.



4 | INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Recognizes the importance of relationships and communication in quality practice. Implements guidance techniques and strategies to support children and youth in their development.



5 | YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Acts in partnership with children and youth to foster appropriate child and youth leadership and voice.



6 | CULTURAL COMPETENCY & RESPONSIVENESS

Actively promotes respect for cultural diversity and creates an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment that embraces diversity.



7 | FAMILY, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Builds on respectful, reciprocal relationships across settings to promote optimal development for kids and families and to and enhance quality.



8 | SAFETY & WELLNESS

Ensures the safety and wellness of children and youth by implementing prevention, preparedness, and health and safety practices.



9 | PROGRAM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Supports staff in their development. Models healthy relationships, developmentally appropriate practice, and resource acquisition and use.



10 | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP

Acts ethically, is committed to continuous learning, and advocates for best practices and policies for children and youth.