



Child Care Resources Tidbit

Getting to Know the Early Learning Developmental Guidelines

The “Early Learning Developmental Guidelines” (ELDG) are a resource for those that work with Children, and their purpose is to “acknowledge, honor and embrace the tremendous diversity and variation that exists for children and families.”



The ELDG are divided into **6 developmental domains** focusing on children ages birth through third grade, in four learning domains.

ABOUT ME AND MY CULTURE (Social Emotional Domain)

- Families & Culture:** Children learn about the world from the people who are closest to them.
- Self-Concept:** Develop an understanding of who they are in relationship to others.
- Self-Management:** Self-regulation, self-soothing, emotional literacy, and the ability to express needs to caregivers.
- Learning about Learning:** Learning about self and others, how to relate to their Environment.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS (Social Emotional Domain)

- Interacting with adults:** Children learn best through responsive care
- Interactions with Children:** Children learn from each other, it starts with them noticing other children.
- Social Behavior:** Gaining an awareness of those around them, cooperation in daily activities.
- Problem solving and conflict resolution:** Children learn this skill through co-regulation and adult support before they do it on their own.

GROWING UP HEALTHY

(Physical Well-Being, Health and Motor Development)

- Daily living skills:** Personal health and hygiene (dressing self), being aware of their own needs.
- Nutrition and health:** Feeding skills like sucking, chewing and swallowing, and later on self-feeding.
- Safety:** Awareness of strangers, understands ‘no’ or ‘stop’, checks in with adult before engaging in “risky” behavior.

LEARNING ABOUT MY WORLD

(Cognition and General Knowledge)

- Knowledge** (Cognition)
- Math**
- Science**

TOUCHING, SEEING, HEARING, AND MOVING AROUND

(Physical Well-Being, Health and Motor Development)

- Gross Motor:** Outdoor play-running, kicking, jumping, catching a ball, throwing a ball, pulling toys, pushing toys. Infants-floor time, rolling over, lifting head, sitting with support, not be restricted in a container.
- Fine Motor:** Think about the materials you have in your environment that help children with fine motor development: art supplies, manipulatives, books.

Examples to Support Fine Motor are:

- Stringing beads, puzzles, buttoning clothing, tracing shapes (older kids), putting objects in a buckets (infants), eating with utensils
- Senses:** Smells, texture toys, sensory tables, letting children explore outside with nature and objects.

COMMUNICATING (Language, Communication and Literacy)

- Speaking and listening:** Receptive and expressive language development.
- Reading:** Awareness and enjoyment of books (points out pictures, focuses on book for a short amount of time), print awareness.



Access the Early Learning Developmental Guidelines (ELDG) here:

[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library?](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library?combine_1=EL_0015&combine=&field_program_topic_value=All&field_languages_available_value=All)

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