Preschool - Standards & Benchmarks

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

*Healthy and Safe Living*

- Children understand healthy and safe living practices
  - Begins to recognize and select healthy foods
  - Follows healthy self-care routines (brushing teeth and washing hands)
  - Demonstrates safe behaviors regarding environment (stranger, tornado, fire, traffic), substances (drugs, poisons), and objects (guns, knives, scissors)

*Play and Senses*

- Children engage in play to learn.
  - Participates in a variety of indoor and outdoor play activities that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility
  - Uses sights, smells, sounds, textures, and tastes to discriminate between, explore, and experience activities and materials

*Large Motor Development*

- Children develop large motor skills.
  - Shows control and balance in locomotor skills, such as walking, running, jumping, hopping, marching, galloping, and skipping
  - Shows abilities to coordinate movements with balls, such as throwing, kicking, catching, and bouncing

*Fine Motor Development*

- Children develop fine motor skills.
  - Uses hand-eye coordination to perform self-help and fine-motor tasks with a variety of manipulative materials
  - Shows increased skills in using scissors and writing tools for various learning activities

Approaches to Learning

*Curiosity and Initiative*

- Children express curiosity, interest, and initiative in exploring the environment, engaging in experiences, and learning new skills.
  - Explores and experiences activities and ideas with eagerness, flexibility, imagination, independence, and inventiveness
  - Chooses to explore a variety of activities and experiences with a willingness to try new challenges

*Engagement and Persistence*

- Children purposefully choose and persist in experiences and activities.
  - Persists in and completes a variety of both caregiver-directed and self-initiative tasks, activities, projects, and experiences
  - Maintains concentration on a task

*Problem Solving*

- Children demonstrate strategies for reasoning and problem solving
  - Shows interest in and finds a variety of solutions to questions, tasks, or problems
- Recognizes and solves problems through active exploration, including trial and error, and through interactions and discussions with peers and caregivers

**Social and Emotional Development**

**Self**
Children express a positive awareness of self in terms of specific abilities, characteristics, and preferences
- Expresses sense of self in terms of specific abilities
- Expresses needs, wants, and feelings in socially appropriate ways
- Shows increasing confidence and independence in a variety of tasks and routines, expresses pride in accomplishments

**Self-Regulation**
Children show increasing ability to regulate their behavior and express their emotions in appropriate ways.
- Shows increasing capacity to monitor own behavior, following and contributing to classroom procedures
- Uses materials purposefully, safely, and respectfully
- Begins to accept consequences of won actions
- Manages transitions and changes to routines
- State feelings, needs, and opinions in difficult situations without harming self, others, or property

**Relationships with Caregivers**
Children relate positively to caregivers who work with them
- Interacts comfortably with a range of familiar caregivers
- Accepts guidance, comfort, and directions from a range of familiar caregivers
- Seeks help as needed from familiar caregivers

**Peer Interactions**
Children develop the ability to interact with peers respectfully and to form positive peer relationships
- Sustains interactions with peers
- Develops friendships with other peers
- Negotiates with others to resolve disagreements
- Takes turns with others

**Awareness of Community**
Children have an increasing awareness of belonging to a family, community, culture, and program
- Shows that he/she values others within the classroom/program, family, and community
- Shows early understanding of the concepts of justice, fairness, individual rights, and the welfare of the community and its members
- Shows responsibility as a member of a community
- Shows acceptance of persons from different cultures and ethnic groups
Communication, Language, and Literacy

Language Understanding and Use
Children understand and use communication and language for a variety of purposes
- Shows a steady increase in listening and speaking vocabulary
- Initiates, listens, and responds appropriately in conversations with peers and caregivers
- Speaks in sentences of increasing length and grammatical complexity
- Follows simple oral directions that involve several actions
- Asks and answers a variety of question types

Early Literacy
Children engage in early reading experiences
- Shows an interest and enjoyment in listening to books and attempts to read familiar books
- Displays book handling knowledge (turning the book right side up, using left to right sweep, turning one page at a time, recognizing familiar books by cover)
- Shows an awareness of environmental print
- Identifies some alphabet letters by their shapes, especially those in his./own name
- Recognizes the printed form of his/her name in a variety of contexts
- Demonstrates comprehension of a book
- Demonstrates awareness that language is made up of words, parts of words, and sounds in words

Early Writing
Children engage in early writing experiences
- Attempts to communicate with others using scribbles, shapes, pictures, and/or letters to write
- Experiems with a variety of writing tools (pencils, crayons, brushes, chalk) and materials
- Tells others about intended meaning of drawings and writing

Mathematics and Science
Comparison and Number
Children understand amount including use of numbers and counting
- Shows recognition and naming of numerals (1, 2, 3)
- Counts objects, matching numbers one-to-one with objects
- Uses language such as *more* or *less* to compare quantities

Patterns
Children understand patterns
- Shows skills in recognizing and creating some patterns
- Predicts what comes next in a pattern

Shapes and Spatial Relationships
Children understand shapes and spatial relationships
- Demonstrates understanding of spatial words such as up, down, over, under, top, bottom, inside, outside, in front, and behind
- Shows more recognition for some simple shapes
- Notices similarities and differences among shapes
- Notices how shapes fit together to form other shapes

**Scientific Reasoning**
Children describe, and predict the world around them
- Shows curiosity about living and non-living things
- Notices, describes, and predicts changes in the environment
- Shows respect for living things

**Scientific Problem Solving**
Children apply and adapt strategies to solve problems
- Uses his/her senses and variety of strategies to solve problems
- Invents strategies to figure out answers to problems
- When unsuccessful at solving problems, experiments and adapts strategies

**Measurement**
Children understand comparisons and measurement
- Sorts, classifies, and puts objects in series, using a variety of properties
- Makes comparisons among several objects based on one or more attributes (length, size, weight) and using words such as shorter, taller, bigger, smaller, heavier, lighter.

**Creative Arts**

**Art**
Children explore art through a variety of media
- Uses a variety of two- and three-dimensional media (drawing materials, paint, clay, wood, markers) to create original works form, and meaning
- Expresses ideas about own artwork and artwork of others, relating artwork to what is happening in the environment, life, classroom, etc.

**Music, Rhythm, and Movement**
Children participate in a variety of music and movement experiences
- Participates in a variety of musical and rhythmic experiences, including, singing, listening, and finger-plays
- Notices differences in pitch, tempo, dynamics, and timbre

**Dramatic Play**
Children engage in dramatic play experiences
- Shows creativity and imagination to use materials and assume different roles in dramatic play situations
- Interacts with peers in dramatic play activities that become more extended and complex