

Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards

Learning Standards with Preschool Benchmark Examples



LANGUAGE ARTS

LEARNING STANDARD 1.A

Demonstrate understanding through age-appropriate responses.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Follow simple one-, two- and three-step directions.
- Respond appropriately to questions from others.

LEARNING STANDARD 1.B

Communicate effectively using language appropriate to the situation and audience.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Use language for a variety of purposes.
- Continue a conversation through two or more exchanges.

LEARNING STANDARD 1.C

Use language to convey information and ideas.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with teacher assistance, provide additional detail.

LEARNING STANDARD 1.D

Speak using conventions of Standard English.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, use complete sentences in speaking with peers and adults in individual and group situations.
- Speak using age-appropriate conventions of Standard English grammar and usage.

LEARNING STANDARD 1.E

Use increasingly complex phrases, sentences, and vocabulary.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, begin to use increasingly complex sentences.
- Exhibit curiosity and interest in learning new words heard in conversations and books.

- Identify the front and back covers of books and display the correct orientation of books and page-turning skills.

LEARNING STANDARD 2.D

Establish personal connections with books.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, discuss illustrations in books and make personal connections to the pictures and story.
- With teacher assistance, compare and contrast two stories related to the same topic.

LEARNING STANDARD 3.A

Recognize key ideas and details in nonfiction text.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, ask and answer questions about details in a nonfiction book.
- With teacher assistance, retell detail(s) about main topic in a nonfiction book.

LEARNING STANDARD 3.B

Recognize features of nonfiction books.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, identify basic similarities and differences in pictures and information found in two texts on the same topic.

LEARNING STANDARD 3.C

Recognize concepts of books.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Interact with a variety of types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems, rhymes, songs).

LEARNING STANDARD 4.A

Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize the differences between print and pictures.
- Begin to follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page.

LEARNING STANDARD 4.B

Demonstrate an emerging knowledge and understanding of the alphabet.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, recite the alphabet.
- Recognize and name some upper/lowercase letters of the alphabet, especially those in own name.

LEARNING STANDARD 4.C

Demonstrate an emerging understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize that sentences are made up of separate words.
- With teacher assistance, recognize and match words that rhyme.

LEARNING STANDARD 4.D

Demonstrate emergent phonics and word-analysis skills.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize own name and common signs and labels in the environment.

- With teacher assistance, demonstrate understanding of the one-to-one correspondence of letters and sounds.

LEARNING STANDARD 5.A

Demonstrate growing interest and abilities in writing.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Experiment with writing tools and materials.
- Use scribbles, letterlike forms, or letters/words to represent written language.

LEARNING STANDARD 5.B

Use writing to represent ideas and information.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, use a combination of drawing, dictating, or writing to express an opinion about a book or topic.
- With teacher assistance, use a combination of drawing, dictating, or writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

LEARNING STANDARD 5.C

Use writing to research and share knowledge.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Participate in group projects or units of study designed to learn about a topic of interest.
- With teacher assistance, recall factual information and share that information through drawing, dictation, or writing.



MATHEMATICS

LEARNING STANDARD 6.A

Demonstrate beginning understanding of numbers, number names, and numerals.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Count with understanding and recognize "how many" in small sets up to 5.
- Use subitizing (the rapid and accurate judgment of how many items there are without counting) to identify the number of objects in sets of 4 or less.

LEARNING STANDARD 6.B

Add and subtract to create new numbers and begin to construct sets.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize that numbers (or sets of objects) can be combined or separated to make another number.
- Show understanding of how to count out and construct sets of objects of a given number up to 5.

LEARNING STANDARD 6.C

Begin to make reasonable estimates of numbers.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Estimate number of objects in a small set.

LEARNING STANDARD 6.D

Compare quantities using appropriate vocabulary terms.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Compare two collections to see if they are equal or determine which is more, using a procedure of the child's choice.
- Describe comparisons with appropriate vocabulary, such as "more", "less", "greater than", "fewer", "equal to", or "same as".

LEARNING STANDARD 7.A

Measure objects and quantities using direct comparison methods and nonstandard units.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Compare, order, and describe objects according to a single attribute.
- Use nonstandard units to measure attributes such as length and capacity.

LEARNING STANDARD 7.B

Begin to make estimates of measurements.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Practice estimating in everyday play and everyday measurement problems.

LEARNING STANDARD 7.C

Explore tools used for measurement.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, explore use of measuring tools that use standard units to measure objects and quantities that are meaningful to the child.
- Know that different attributes, such as length, weight, and time, are measured using different kinds of units, such as feet, pounds, and seconds.

LEARNING STANDARD 8.A

Explore objects and patterns.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Sort, order, compare, and describe objects according to characteristics or attribute(s).
- Recognize, duplicate, extend, and create simple patterns in various formats.

LEARNING STANDARD 8.B

Describe and document patterns using symbols.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With adult assistance, represent a simple repeating pattern by verbally describing it or by modeling it with objects or actions.

LEARNING STANDARD 9.A

Recognize, name, and match common shapes.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize and name common two- and three-dimensional shapes and describe some of their attributes (e.g., number of sides, straight or curved lines).
- Sort collections of two- and three-dimensional shapes by type (e.g., triangles, rectangles, circles, cubes, spheres, pyramids).

LEARNING STANDARD 9.B

Demonstrate an understanding of location and ordinal position, using appropriate vocabulary.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Show understanding of location and ordinal position.
- Use appropriate vocabulary for identifying location and ordinal position.

LEARNING STANDARD 10.A

Generate questions and processes for answering them.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- With teacher assistance, come up with meaningful questions that can be answered through gathering information.
- Gather data about themselves and their surroundings to answer meaningful questions.

LEARNING STANDARD 10.B

Organize and describe data and information.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Organize, represent, and analyze information using concrete objects, pictures, and graphs, with teacher support.
- Make predictions about the outcome prior to collecting information, with teacher support and multiple experiences over time.

LEARNING STANDARD 10.C

Determine, describe, and apply the probabilities of events.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Describe likelihood of events with appropriate vocabulary, such as "possible", "impossible", "always", and "never".



SCIENCE

LEARNING STANDARD 11.A

Develop beginning skills in the use of science and engineering practices, such as observing, asking questions, solving problems, and drawing conclusions.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Express wonder and curiosity about their world by asking questions, solving problems, and designing things.
- Develop and use models to represent their ideas, observations, and explanations through approaches such as drawing, building, or modeling with clay.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.A

Understand that living things grow and change.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Observe, investigate, describe, and categorize living things.
- Show an awareness of changes that occur in oneself and the environment.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.B

Understand that living things rely on the environment and/or others to live and grow.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Describe and compare basic needs of living things.
- Show respect for living things.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.C

Explore the physical properties of objects.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Identify, describe, and compare the physical properties of objects.
- Experiment with changes in matter when combined with other substances.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.D

Explore concepts of force and motion.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Describe the effects of forces in nature.
- Explore the effect of force on objects in and outside the early childhood environment.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.E

Explore concepts and information related to the Earth, including ways to take care of our planet.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Observe and describe characteristics of earth, water, and air.
- Participate in discussions about simple ways to take care of the environment.

LEARNING STANDARD 12.F

Explore changes related to the weather and seasons.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Observe and discuss changes in weather and seasons using common vocabulary.

LEARNING STANDARD 13.A

Understand rules to follow when investigating and exploring.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Begin to understand basic safety practices one must follow when exploring and engaging in science and engineering investigations.

LEARNING STANDARD 13.B

Use tools and technology to assist with science and engineering investigations.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Use nonstandard and standard scientific tools for investigation.
- Become familiar with technological tools that can aid in scientific inquiry.



SOCIAL STUDIES

LEARNING STANDARD 14.A

Understand what it means to be a member of a group and community.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize the reasons for rules in the home and early childhood environment and for laws in the community.
- Contribute to the well-being of one's early childhood environment, school, and community.

LEARNING STANDARD 14.B

Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States, and other nations.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 14.C

Understand ways groups make choices and decisions.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Participate in voting as a way of making choices.

LEARNING STANDARD 14.D

Understand the role that individuals play in a group or community.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Develop an awareness of what it means to be a leader.

- Participate in a variety of roles in the early childhood environment.

LEARNING STANDARD 14.E

Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 14.F

Understand the development of United States' political ideas and traditions.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 15.A

Explore roles in economic system and workforce.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Describe some common jobs and what is needed to perform those jobs.
- Discuss why people work.

LEARNING STANDARD 15.B

Explore issues of limited resources in the early childhood environment and world.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Understand that some resources and money are limited.

LEARNING STANDARD 15.C

Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by producers.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 15.D

Explore concepts about trade as an exchange of goods or services.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Begin to understand the use of trade or money to obtain goods and services.

LEARNING STANDARD 15.E

Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 16.A

Explore his or her self and personal history.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recall information about the immediate past.
- Develop a basic awareness of self as an individual.

LEARNING STANDARD 16.B

Understand the development of significant political events.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 16.C

Understand the development of economic systems.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 16.D

Understand Illinois, United States, and world social history.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 16.E

Understand Illinois, United States, and world environmental history.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 17.A

Explore environments and where people live.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Locate objects and places in familiar environments.
- Express beginning geographic thinking.

LEARNING STANDARD 17.B

Analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of the Earth's physical systems.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 17.C

Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 17.D

Understand the historical significance of geography.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable

LEARNING STANDARD 18.A

Explore people, their similarities, and their differences.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Recognize similarities and differences in people.

LEARNING STANDARD 18.B

Develop an awareness of self within the context of family.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Understand that each of us belongs to a family and recognize that families vary.

LEARNING STANDARD 18.C

Understand how social systems form and develop over time.

Preschool Benchmark Examples – Not Applicable



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

LEARNING STANDARD 19.A

Demonstrate physical competency and control of large and small muscles.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Engage in active play using gross- and fine-motor skills.
- Move with balance and control in a range of physical activities.

LEARNING STANDARD 19.B

Demonstrate awareness and coordination of body movements.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Coordinate movements to perform complex tasks.
- Demonstrate body awareness when moving in different spaces.

LEARNING STANDARD 19.C

Demonstrate knowledge of rules and safety during activity.

Preschool Benchmark Examples

- Follow simple safety rules while participating in activities.

LEARNING STANDARD 20.A