

Scaffolding



Scaffolding is a way of supporting children as they learn. The key is to offer children just enough help and support to move forward in their learning, and then to gradually withdraw your help as it is no longer needed. Opportunities to do this are featured throughout Fireflies®. Use these as a starting point to help you scaffold instruction to help each child. Throughout the day, support children's interests by asking open-ended questions and offering new materials to explore that encourage them to think more deeply. Help children build upon prior knowledge as they explore new concepts and ideas. Offer intriguing materials, experiences, and centers to help the children extend their knowledge through play-based learning.

Monitoring Development



Early Learning and Development Continuum

A comprehensive continuum of indicators (skills) for ages birth through five is included in your first kit and can be found on our website. Learning domains (developmental areas) for young children are divided into categories and objectives that you can use to monitor a child's growth throughout the year. Each indicator has a code. The codes are listed with activities in the guide to let you know which indicators are likely to be addressed.

Documenting Progress

Visit www.funshineextras.com/fireflies-supplements/ to download our Authentic Assessment documentation. Our assessment process easily pairs with Fireflies® curriculum with pre-identified activities aligned to indicators in our Early Learning and Development Continuum. Learn about authentic assessment via one of our live trainings and use the assessment materials to document progress, lesson plan, and to keep parents informed about their child.

Standards for Preschoolers



Many standards have been developed to describe the most effective and appropriate ways to address the needs of infants and toddlers. Becoming familiar with these standards will help you show your professionalism. When parents have questions about your program, you will gain their trust and confidence when you are able to refer to accepted standards. Here are a few sources to become familiar with.

1. Your State's Early Learning Guidelines

Most states have developed guidelines or standards for those who work with children from ages three to five. Visit ceelo.org/state-information/state-map to find out if your state is among them. This online document has links to the Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) in different states. FunShine Express® is in the process of creating charts that align our Early Learning and Development Continuum with each state's guidelines. Visit www.funshineexpress.com to see if a chart is available for your state.

2. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NAEYC offers many publications that provide guidance. You may find it particularly helpful to read *Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Focus on Preschoolers* edited by Carol Copple, Sue Bredekamp, Derry Korakek, and Kathy Charner. Find out more at www.naeyc.org.

3. National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

NAFCC has developed a set of Quality Standards you can find online at www.nafcc.org/media/pdf/accreditation/NAFCCQualityStandardswith2013Updates.pdf.

4. Environmental Rating Scales

Environmental Rating Scales are widely used to determine if child care settings are safe and appropriate. Depending on your setting, you can refer to the latest revisions of the *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R)* or the *Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-R)*. Both are published by Teachers College Press.