

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines

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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LEAD BY GAYE GRONLUND

**“JOYFUL ENGAGEMENT:
LEARNING TOGETHER WITH
FAMILIES”**

COMMITTEE PRESENTERS:

**KATHY COOMBS, JANET GAGLIANO, CAROLYN NEWMAN,
BAJI RANKIN, AND KATHLEEN REAGAN**

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines

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- Purposes for the NM ELGs that reference families include:

They are meant to encourage early childhood professionals to recognize, understand and respect the impact of diversity in family culture, language, learning styles, abilities, and rates of development as they make decisions regarding individual learning and progress. (p. 5)

Support parent engagement, professional development, training and technical assistance regarding the learning and development of children from birth through kindergarten age. (p. 6)

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines

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- Some recommended uses of the NMELGs:

To help understand the complexities, progression and inter-relatedness of learning and development for young children over time. (p. 7)

To communicate effectively with parents and family members about their child's development. (p.10)

Knowing individual children and their families is essential.

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines

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- The NM ELGs were designed to be used for the benefit of children and families. 7 of 11 Guiding Principles that focus on family include:
 - All children are respected as competent and unique individuals
 - Development occurs in the context of relationships
 - Learning experiences begin with family
 - The context of family and community culture influences every aspect of development
 - Valuing children's home language is vital to their development
 - Young children learn by doing. Play and active learning are the best strategies to enhance young children's development
 - The information gained through authentic observational assessment related to the guidelines is used to inform parents and plan individualized curriculum activities and strategies to help each child grow and develop. (pp. 11-16)

NMELG Family Engagement Committee

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- Committee members
 - Represent all areas of the state
 - Represent higher education, childcare program directors and educators, NMAEYC, statewide Training and Technical Assistance Programs, and FOCUS Programs.
 - Incorporated feedback from “Parent” colleagues

NMELG Family Engagement Committee

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- Committee tasks:
 - Develop materials to inform family members about the NMELGs
 - Develop materials that can be used by family members to support the growth and development of their children
 - Develop a “Family Engagement Packet” with additional information and resources. The packet will support efforts by early care educators to partner with family members and work toward Joyful Family Engagement.

*All documents are paired with
“Guidelines for Using...”*

What are *The New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines*? A Brief Introduction for Parents & Family Members



Learning through play as young children do.

The New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines describe what young children know and can do at different ages - from birth to the end of the kindergarten year. They show how children develop in all areas including:

- their ability to communicate with others in their home language
- their ability to move around and also to use the small muscles of their hands
- how they get along with other people (both adults and children)
- and their growing understanding of the world around them

The New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines were developed to help early childhood educators communicate better with you, parents and family members, about how your child is growing and learning. Your child's teachers will use the *Early Learning Guidelines* to work together with you to ensure that your child has opportunities to grow and develop, becoming a successful student and a contributing citizen of our great state.



The Leaders of Tomorrow!

How New Mexico Teachers Will Use *the Early Learning Guidelines*

Whether your child is in a child care program, an Early Head Start or home visiting program, a PreK or Head Start classroom, or in a special education program, his teachers will use *the Early Learning Guidelines* in order to determine where he is strong and in what areas they need to give him more support.



Babies learn by watching and exploring.

Teachers will share with you their observations of your child in action so that you can see what your child does in their program. And, you will be asked to share your perspective from home: What do you see as your child's strengths? What concerns do you have as you watch him every day at home?

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The Early Learning Guidelines will be used to provide the best possible early care and education for your child. You and your child's teachers will be working in partnership so that your child can develop to his or her full potential.

On the following pages you will see a more detailed way of looking at the domains (or areas of development) that are included in *the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines*. There are five domains for infants and toddlers (children from birth to thirty-six months) and seven domains for preschoolers and kindergartners.



Development in one domain influences development in other domains. It is not uncommon for children at the same age to have strengths in one domain and be a little less advanced in another. The expectations in the *Guidelines* are labeled with age-appropriate times for accomplishment, but not every child is expected to be developing right at their age level. Instead, your child's teachers will ask you to tell them more about your child. They'll ask: "How is your child demonstrating what she knows and can do?" "How do you help her to be successful?" Together you can marvel at your child's growth and rejoice in her accomplishments.

The Importance of Parents & Family Members

You as parents and family members are so important in helping your children grow and develop! Your children need you to keep them safe, to love them unconditionally and to help them learn to do things that are just beyond their reach. Because you help them feel safe and secure, they are more confident and will try new things, take risks, and gain new skills. They are becoming the students, workers, and productive adults that they will be! **You are important! Thanks for all you do to support your children.**



Guidelines for Using Materials

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- Purpose of materials
 - Partner with families
- What Teachers Can Do with These Materials
 - Recommendations on distribution
 - Integration into program orientations
 - Post on program website
 - Integration into family conferences
- Recommendations for printing
- References www.newmexicokids.org for additional information

Parents & Family Members are a Child's First Teachers



You as parents and family members are so important in helping your children learn and develop!

They need you to keep them safe, to love them unconditionally and to help them learn to do things that are just beyond their reach. Because you help them feel safe and secure, they are more confident and will try new things, take risks and gain new skills.

From the moment your child is born, he or she is learning.



A newborn watches and listens as parents figure out his needs and establish care and feeding routines. As he grows, he begins to explore the world around him with great curiosity and delight. He learns from you more about how people live and love.

The universe is a young child's curriculum! And, your home, your family life, and your life in your neighborhood and community are your



child's universe. Your family's cultural heritage, values, and home language will influence who your child will become. A series of activities will be provided as you and your child participate in our program. These activities show how you can teach your child many concepts, ideas and words as you go about your everyday lives.

You will not need to buy any special toys or games, or have any specific training. You will be able to teach your child as you prepare a meal in the kitchen, as you do household chores like sorting laundry, as you drive in the car and as you walk through the grocery store together.



We hope that the ideas we share will help you enjoy your child's curiosity and enthusiasm as he or she develops skills and knowledge.

*You are important!
Thanks for all you do to support your children.*

Parents & Family Members are a Child's First Teachers

When Giving Your Child a Bath

Routines like bath time can be wonderful times to talk with your child and build an even stronger relationship with him or her.



Bath time can be a relaxing time that helps your child settle down before bedtime.

Family members know that bath time is an important and necessary part of raising children. You can make bath time for babies and toddlers a time to talk in the language of your family about things you did that day. You can point to eyes, ears, nose and toes, laugh and giggle together, and relax and unwind as the day is ending. Talking with your baby in everyday routines like bath time increases the words that he understands and will be able to speak. A child who knows more words will learn to read more easily. So, talk and sing away as you get your baby clean!



Preschoolers are more independent but still need you to be near as they take a bath. Talk about your day together in the language of your family. Make plans for tomorrow. Play with

the water noticing how many small cups fill up a larger one. You'll be helping your child learn more words and scientific concepts. And keep the tone calm and relaxing so your child can wind down his own energy level as he prepares to head to bed. Children who enter kindergarten with the ability to calm themselves do much better at school.

Family Engagement Packet

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Joyful Engagement: Learning Together with Families

Two goals at the center of all family engagement activities:

1. To support each family's efforts to raise a happy, healthy child
2. To invite them into meaningful participation in the early childhood program in which their child is enrolled

Joyful Engagement: Learning Together with Families

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- Family Member Voice and Educator's Voice
 - Both perspectives are important and valued
- General Information and Communication Tips
- Tips, Strategies, Ideas and Tools for Building Partnerships with Families

Joyful Engagement: Learning Together with Families

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- Spending Time with Families
 - Welcoming Families to Your Program
 - Family Participation in the Program Day
 - Family Participation at Home
- Sharing Information with Families
 - Daily Reports
 - On-going Communication Strategies
 - Sharing the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines with Families
 - Family Events
 - Home Visiting Considerations
 - Family/Teacher Conferencing Strategies

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- Materials have been well received at trainings
- Next steps
 - Post documents on NewMexicoKids website
 - Finalize Joyful Engagement document and post