

Preschool Developmental Continuum of Skills

Individual children develop at a unique pace.

Toddler

Preschool

Pre-Primary

Skill / Skill Code

Skill Definition

Benchmark 3

Benchmark 4

Benchmark 5


Skill / Skill Code	Skill Definition	Benchmark 3	Benchmark 4	Benchmark 5
SED 1 Self-Awareness	SED 1a Knows self and increases confidence	Expresses ideas about self in relation to others. Expresses interests in trying tasks with help.	Expresses interest in doing familiar tasks by self and expresses confidence in own abilities.	Takes risks and pushes self to accomplish new tasks independently.
	SED 1b Expresses curiosity, preference and initiative	Expresses likes and dislikes.	When given two to three options, chooses his/her most desired option.	Takes initiative to pursue interests. Describes and compares preferences of self and others.
	SED 2a Identifies emotions	Experiments and role-plays with a range of emotions.	Recognizes and names a few personal feelings.	Identifies and describes personal feelings.
SED 2 Self-Regulation	SED 2b Manages feelings and behavior	Mimics breathing and calming strategies. Practices waiting for a turn.	Controls impulses with reminders.	Uses strategies to manage behavior. Anticipates a change in routine and begins to prepare self by finding a desired thing or person.
	SED 2c Follows routines and transitions	Recognizes a familiar activity or routine. Redirects to a new activity with help.	Anticipates what comes next within a daily routine. Recognizes when the typical routine is not followed and identifies the change.	Follows daily routines on own. With support, negotiates ways to handle nonroutine transitions.
SED 3 Attention & Persistence	SED 3a Attends and engages	Focuses on an engaging activity for a short period of time independently or with an adult.	Practices or repeats an activity many times until successful. Expresses delight over a successful project.	Sustains focus for at least five minutes, persisting even if there are problems or distractions.
	SED 3b Shows flexibility and inventiveness	Asserts a desire to start or end an activity. Asks for help as needed.	Initiates an activity and seeks help to complete it.	Demonstrates flexibility and imagination while working on a task.
SED 4 Social Relationships	SED 4a Develops relationships with adults and peers	Identifies and plays side by side with a new or familiar person.	Joins a group and participates in group play.	Initiates play, conversations and interactions with one or more persons.
	SED 4b Participates cooperatively in groups	Helps or participates in an activity when asked.	Plays cooperatively with others and begins to share. Asks adult to help solve social problems.	Identifies roles of self and others during tasks or pretend play. Offers to help others.
SED 4c Identifies and respects differences in others	Identifies emotions of others. Demonstrates concern for others.	Explains how and why someone may be feeling a certain emotion. Participates in group play with those different than self.	Shows interest in learning about and interacting with peers who look, learn, believe or move differently.	


Physical Development


PD 1 Gross Motor	PD 1 Builds strength, coordination and balance of large muscles	Runs and balances on a wide beam. Throws objects in an intended direction. Catches objects against body.	Balances and hops on one foot. Throws both overhead and underhand. Catches or kicks moving objects.	Hops from one foot to the other. Begins to skip. Coordinates multiple movements in simple sequences.
PD 2 Fine Motor	PD 2 Builds strength and coordination of small movements	Opens, closes, twists and pulls objects with one or both hands.	Manipulates objects with hands doing different things. Snips with scissors. Begins to string large beads.	Follows a straight line when cutting and drawing. Buttons, zips, buckles and laces.
PD 3 Safety	PD 3 Demonstrates safe practices	Follows simple safety rules and avoids danger.	Follows safety rules and help others follow rules. Identifies dangerous situations and seeks help.	Describes reasons for safety rules and reminds others to follow them.
PD 4 Personal Care	PD 4 Implements self-help routines for hygiene and dressing	With help, participates in healthcare routines. Identifies body parts. Describes basic personal needs.	Describes the function of basic body parts. Can locate body pain. Regulates toileting and handwashing needs. Follows a routine of rest and active play. Meets most personal needs.	Explains how germs spread and describes simple strategies for preventing the spread. Distinguishes between basic needs and wants for living creatures.
PD 5 Nutrition	PD 5 Follows healthy nutrition routines	Anticipates the need to eat, rest and drink. Feeds self with spoon or other utensil.	Identifies food and serves a portion into bowl or plate. Feeds self.	Identifies food groups and sorts food. Chooses between two appropriate foods.


Language & Literacy Development

LLD 1 Listening	LLD 1a Understands and interprets language (both words and gestures)	Shows understanding of a wide variety of phrases and sentences. Responds to simple statements and questions.	Listens then responds appropriately. Shows understanding of some complex vocabulary. Asks for clarification when doesn't understand.	Listens and understands inferred requests.
	LLD 1b Follows directions	Follows related two-step directions given verbally.	Follows unrelated two-step directions given verbally.	With prompting, follows multi-step directions given verbally.
LLD 2 Communication	LLD 2a Uses language to express ideas	Communicates needs, desires and ideas. Asks and responds to questions.	Asks simple questions and stays on topic for two to three exchanges.	Tells stories and engages in conversations through multiple exchanges.
	LLD 2b Uses conversational skills	Says two- to four-word sentences and repeats short phrases by using either signs, braille or verbalized words.	Speaks in sentences (with words, sign language) but does not always follow grammatical rules.	Speaks in simple complete sentences using sign language, braille, a second language or technology. Uses question words in speech.
	LLD 2c Uses and expands vocabulary	Identifies familiar people, places and objects. Asks what a specific person or object is called.	Identifies familiar people, places and objects. Seeks additional words for new ways to describe.	Includes new and technical words in everyday conversations. Asks what unfamiliar words mean.
LLD 3 Phonological Awareness	LLD 3 Hears small units of sound	Shows awareness of separate words in spoken language. Suggests a missing rhyming word within a poem or song.	Identifies words that have a similar beginning sound. Identifies when two words rhyme. Shows awareness of separate syllables in a word.	Identifies the beginning and ending sounds of words. Suggests a series of rhyming words when given a word.
LLD 4 Alphabetic Knowledge	LLD 4a Identifies letters and words	Recognizes the difference between pictures, letters and numbers in print.	Recognizes some common words in print, such as his/her name, mom, dad.	Names upper- and lowercase letters when presented in random order. When shown a two- or three-letter word, can find it in print.
	LLD 4b Makes letter-sound connections and decodes words	Recognizes the sound of the first letter in his/her name.	Identifies six to seven letters and their sounds.	Identifies 12 to 15 letters and their sounds. Recognizes that letters make up words.
LLD 5 Concepts of Print	LLD 5 Uses print concepts and explores books and other text	Identifies the front/back and top/bottom of a book. Indicates where to start reading on each page.	Identifies letters, words, spaces and some punctuation. Follows the direction of text.	Touches a written word on the page for each spoken word (but not necessarily the correct word). Tracks print from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.
	LLD 6a Responds to text	Talks about pictures and ideas in familiar stories.	Anticipates what comes next in familiar stories. Expresses likes or dislikes within the story.	Relates to the characters or events of the story and shares a similar experience or object from own life.
LLD 6 Reading Comprehension	LLD 6b Retells, asks and answers questions about a text or story	Answers "what" questions about stories and books. Recalls the name of the main character.	Asks and answers questions about text or new vocabulary and retells a story by pointing at pictures or role-playing with props.	Retells portions of a story. Asks and answers simple questions about characters, setting, events and complex vocabulary.
	LLD 7 Uses writing to represent meaning	Writes letter-like forms and creates his/her own symbols. Scribbles or draws marks as a representation of an object or person.	Attempts to print or copy familiar symbols and letters, especially those that are in own name. Draws and explains who or what it represents.	Prints first name. Copies print. Uses inventive spelling. Uses a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to express and record an event or idea.

 Mathematics & Reasoning	MR 1 Number Sense MR 2 Spatial Awareness MR 3 Shapes MR 4 Measurement MR 5 Patterns MR 6 Classification MR 7 Logic & Reasoning	MR 1a Identifies numerals	Recognizes numerals to three. Points to one object at a time while counting (not always in correct order). Creates groups of objects. Adds to and removes from group as prompted.	Identifies numerals to five. Counts up to ten objects. Creates and counts groups of up to five objects. Removes objects from the group as prompted and recounts.	Identifies numerals to 10. Counts up to 20 objects. Solves addition and subtraction problems within ten.
		MR 2a Understands how objects move in space MR 2b Determines object location	Recognizes objects that are upside-down and turns them right-side up. Puts together three pieces to create a whole object. Finds or places objects next to, between, in front of or behind self. Identifies a few basic shapes.	Matches two objects even if turned different ways. Uses a guide to assemble 12 puzzle pieces. When prompted, places objects next to, between, in front of or behind objects not related to self.	Explains the location of an object in relation to another object. Describes basic and complex two- and three-dimensional shapes using own words.
		MR 3 Identifies shapes and their characteristics MR 4a Estimates and measures MR 4b Compares and seriates MR 5 Identifies, reproduces and creates patterns MR 6 Matches and sorts	Determines which object is bigger (heavier, longer) when given two objects. Compares and orders two to three objects according to size, length, hue or weight. Copies patterns with two steps, such as red-blue, red-blue. Sorts objects by one feature, such as size or color. Groups objects by common characteristics.	Identifies four to six basic geometric shapes. Uses nonstandard measurement tools to estimate approximate size or volume. Verifies estimation with help. Orders multiple objects by one feature using process of elimination. Describes order using words like first, then and last. Creates and extends two-step patterns.	Estimates (not always logically) size and volume. Measures and describes findings. Arranges and orders multiple objects by size, length, hue or weight. Creates and extends three- and four-step patterns and plays complex memory games.
		MR 7 Recalls info, builds memory, reasoning and problem-solving	Asks why. Begins to understand how things are connected. Recognizes a problem and asks for help.	After sorting objects by one feature, sorts again by a different feature. Plans steps to accomplish task and explores many possible solutions to a problem.	Sorts objects by more than one feature and explains why. Uses previous knowledge to determine which solution to try first when solving a problem or planning how to accomplish a task.

 Science	SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science SCI 3 Physical Science SCI 4 Technology	SCI 1 Observes, inquires and investigates	Identifies personal interests and seeks more information. Investigates an object or group of objects in multiple ways. Shares discoveries with others.	Observes and describes changes that occur to familiar objects and people. When given a question, guesses a possible answer or outcome. Uses past knowledge to explain observed changes.	Asks questions, seeks information and shows curiosity about scientific phenomenon. Predicts a few outcomes. Explores and records observations by drawing. Describes and compares observations.
		SCI 2a Understands living and nonliving things SCI 2b Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment	Identifies familiar animals, plants or rocks in immediate environment. Groups living things by common characteristics. Notices changes in temperature or weather.	Demonstrates an understanding that all people have needs. Identifies if an object can grow, eat or move.	Recognizes that all living things have similar basic needs. Sorts organisms as living or nonliving and explains why.
		SCI 3 Explores forces, motion and physical properties of materials SCI 4 Uses tools and technology to performs tasks	Explores motion by moving, rolling, blowing on or dropping a toy. Begins to name colors. Explores movable parts on toys and tools. Uses on and off switches.	Explains how common vehicles, animals and people move. Sorts objects by type of movement. Describes basic physical properties of objects including textures and colors.	Identifies current season and explains how weather affects personal life.
		SS 1a Identifies community and family roles SS 1b Explores cultures and traditions SS 1c Respects diversity SS 2a Follows rules, limits and expectations SS 2b Understands concepts of money and economics SS 3 Identifies types of places and interacts with maps SS 4 Develops sense of time	Identifies familiar people and pets. Recognizes familiar symbols or artifacts of family traditions or customs. Identifies physical similarities and differences between self and others. Recognizes and attends to authority figures. Expresses choice or want and realizes s/he has interests and desires different from others. Recognizes ownership of familiar objects. Explores the concept of trade. Identifies a variety of familiar places such as home, church, stores. Follows a path. Describes events as they happen. Uses words such as first, then.	Explores simple machines and interacts with simple electronic and screen toys. Describes family members and their relationship to self. Identifies and role-plays familiar community helpers. Describes the routines, familiar stories, traditions, foods and celebrations of own family and community. Interacts respectfully with people who look, learn, believe or move differently than self. Follows familiar rules, routines and helps make group decisions. Expresses feelings about fairness. Asks before taking an object that does not belong to self. Offers an object to another person to get what they want. Explores concept of money. Identifies different types of water bodies, streets, buildings and landmarks in own community. Recognizes symbols and landmarks. Recalls information and events from the past. Recognizes sequence of events to establish a sense of order and time.	Identifies roles of self and others and describes the job each may do. Explains the meaning and importance of their own traditions and customs. Begins to learn about other cultures. Asks questions about how others live, eat, play and believe. Applies familiar rules and suggests new rules in a variety of situations. Explores the use of trade of both goods and money to receive/buy objects or services. Explains the purpose for different types of structures, such as bridges and buildings. Asks questions about landmarks. Identifies what is represented on a map. Draws pictures of current location. Uses language of time to describe familiar sequences of events.

 Social Studies	SS 1 Culture & Community SS 2 Civics & Economics SS 3 Geography SS 4 History & Time	CA 1a Expresses through music CA 1b Develops rhythm and tone CA 2a Expresses through dance CA 2b Develops movement techniques CA 3a Expresses through 2D and 3D visual art CA 3b Develops visual art techniques CA 4a Participates in dramatic and symbolic play CA 4b Uses and creates props to represent other objects or ideas	Expresses likes and dislikes of familiar songs. Explores shaking, pounding and tapping various instruments. Claps to beat (not always consistently). Understands difference between singing and speaking voices. Moves in own way to music and rhythm. Follows the movements of others. Explores personal space and direction. Explores a variety of artistic tools and media. Uses materials to create shapes and symbols. Uses words, actions and props to pretend. Uses realistic toys as replacements for real objects. Distinguishes between real and pretend.	Uses voice or instruments to express feelings or to mimic sound effects. Repeats simple rhythm patterns. Hears the change of musical phrases in a song. Sings along to familiar songs. Demonstrates the difference between spontaneous and planned movement. Creates movements based on own ideas. Follows a leader to perform a simple movement pattern. Plans, designs and seeks materials to make a creation. Uses artistic tools and media to create intentional designs or images. Assigns roles and plays out unscripted scenes in dramatic play.
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 Creative Arts	CA 1 Music CA 2 Dance & Movement CA 3 Visual Arts CA 4 Drama	CA 1a Expresses through music CA 1b Develops rhythm and tone CA 2a Expresses through dance CA 2b Develops movement techniques CA 3a Expresses through 2D and 3D visual art CA 3b Develops visual art techniques CA 4a Participates in dramatic and symbolic play CA 4b Uses and creates props to represent other objects or ideas	Expresses self as a musician. Claps along to simple rhythm patterns. Controls voice to mimic the melodic direction. Demonstrates different levels of energy in dance, e.g. gentle versus explosive or small versus large movements. Describes and demonstrates multiple ways to move body parts. Moves to the beat. Makes choices throughout the artistic process. Chooses an object or tool to use with a given medium for a desired effect. Plays a role in group dramatic play.	Uses voice or instruments to express feelings or to mimic sound effects. Repeats simple rhythm patterns. Hears the change of musical phrases in a song. Sings along to familiar songs. Demonstrates the difference between spontaneous and planned movement. Creates movements based on own ideas. Follows a leader to perform a simple movement pattern. Plans, designs and seeks materials to make a creation. Uses artistic tools and media to create intentional designs or images. Assigns roles and plays out unscripted scenes in dramatic play.
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