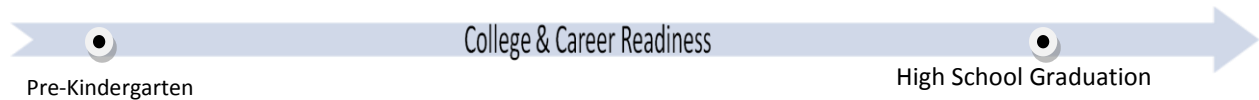


A Parent's Guide to Understanding The New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core

Helping Your Child Succeed in School and Prepare for College and Career



This guide will help you better understand what children learn in pre-k so that you can more effectively **support your child's learning at home.**

What is the Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core?

Pre-kindergarten is a time of growth and exploration for you and your child. Your child's development throughout the year can happen at different stages and times, but there are some milestones based on research, theory, and practice that we expect children will achieve by the end of the prekindergarten year. These milestones are captured in the NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.

The New York State Pre-kindergarten Foundation for the Common Core is organized into five domains of development, each of which is defined below.

5 Domains of Development	
Approaches to Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How children become involved in learning and acquiring knowledge
Physical Development and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's physical health and ability to engage in daily activities
Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emotional competence and ability to form positive relationships that give meaning to children's experiences in the home, school and larger community
Communication, Language and Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's understanding, creating, and communicating meaning
Cognition and Knowledge of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What children need to know and understand about their world and how they apply what they know.

You will find suggestions on the next page to support your child's learning at home and on the go in each domain. Working together, we can give your child the best start for school.

Definitions from: *New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core*
(http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/pdfdocs/nyslsprek.pdf)

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Domain 1: Approaches to Learning

How children become involved in learning and acquiring knowledge

Supporting at home and on the go activities.

- Take your child to places that encourage active exploration, such as children's museums. Allow plenty of time for exploring and solving problems.
- Talk to your child throughout the day about her experiences and allow her to share her reflections with you. Help your child make connections between experiences.

Domain 2: Physical Development and Health

Children's physical health and ability to engage in daily activities

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Help your child strengthen large muscles by walking up stairs, climbing a ladder at the playground, running, jumping and dancing.
- Help your child strengthen small muscles by squeezing and twisting play dough, cutting with child safety scissors, coloring and painting.

Domain 3: Social and Emotional Development

The emotional competence and ability to form positive relationships that give meaning to children's experiences in the home, school and larger community

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Set up daily routines for waking, cleaning, eating, playing, reading, working, napping and bed time.
- Teach your child coping skills and strategies to calm down by breathing, thinking, singing, and relaxing or walking away.

Domain 4: Communication, Language, and Literacy

Children's understanding, creating and communicating meaning

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

Communication and Language

- Talk to your child about the things you do when you are cooking, driving, shopping or doing chores.
- Help your child learn new vocabulary by identifying new words they see and what they mean.

Literacy

- Read different types of books to your child and ask him to tell you what happens next or how he might react in the same situation.
- Keep different writing tools like crayons, pencils, markers, chalk and writing pads, paper or tablets around and allow your child to write, draw, or dictate stories, lists, directions, etc.
- Use information from books to get information and answer questions they may have.

Domain 5: Cognition & Knowledge of the World

What children need to know and understand about their world and how they apply what they know

Math

How children learn about math through real life experiences

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Count objects with your child. Touch each object as you count it and say the number.
- Help your child find patterns in everyday life (e.g., stripes on a shirt, colors on the rug, and stripes on a cat).

Science

How children learn about the world around them

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Let your child collect different things such as shells, rocks, leaves and sort the objects. Talk about how objects are the same and different.
- Talk about what things may be living and which are non-living. Keep a journal where you write down some of the things you observe.

Social Studies

How children learn about themselves, their families, their communities, roles people play, culture, past and current events

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Help your child develop a basic awareness of himself as an individual, as a member of a family and as a member of the community. Share stories with your child about when he was a baby and how he has grown.
- Talk about community workers and describe what they do.

The Arts

How children learn different kinds of music and ways to use different kinds of tools to create art

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Let your child create art with a variety of tools such as crayons, brushes, paint, sticks, Q-tips, etc.
- Let your child listen to music, sing songs, perform finger plays, and play various musical instruments.

Technology

How children learn about tools we use to do different work

Supporting at home and on the go activities:

- Help your child to identify examples of technology used in daily life.
- Allow your child to experiment with glue, tape, paper, cardboard, foam, plastic, wood, straws, or spoons.