



Course Syllabus: **Early Childhood Curriculum**

West College of Education
ECED 4133 X10, DX1
Fall 2023, Online, Part of Term A

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email daily between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM Mon – Fri. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours; however, this does not apply to weekends or holidays. You are welcome to visit my office during office hours (Monday 11-2PM, Tuesday 930-11am, Thursday 930-11am) or we can set up a time to talk virtually, on the phone or in person outside of those hours. I am typically pretty flexible!

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Links to research-based educational information embedded in the course modules.

Course Description

Early Childhood Curriculum- Planning the learning environment, developing learning activities, organizing the school day, and interpreting children's growth to parents. Emphasis on developmentally appropriate practices.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

WCoE Conceptual Framework

The outcomes for graduates of professional programs are based upon knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the following elements:

- Learner Development - understand how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical

areas, and design and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

- Learning Differences - understand individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.
- Learning Environment - work with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self motivation.
- Content Knowledge - understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.
- Application of Content - understand how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.
- Assessment - understand and use multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.
- Planning for Instruction - plan instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.
- Instructional Strategies - understand and use a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.
- Professional Learning and Ethical Practice - engage in ongoing professional learning and use evidence to continually evaluate his or her practice, particularly the effects of his or her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.
- Leadership and Collaboration - seek appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

Objectives

During the scope of this course, students will have the opportunity to:

1. identify and create a developmentally appropriate learning environment that meets the needs of all young children (PPRCS e; PPRDC 2; EC3CS b; EC3DC 1,2, 3)
2. plan engaging lesson activity plans for young children that are developmentally appropriate (PPRCS b,c,d; PPRDC 1; EC3CS c-I; EC3DC 1,2,3,5, TEKS, PreK Guidelines)
3. develop guidance principles for children and teachers to act and interact in positive, productive, and acceptable ways (PPRCS e)

4. identify the key elements of developmentally appropriate practice and explain the value and benefits of play for young children (PPRCS c; PPRDC 2)
5. identify and create experiences for partnering with families of young children (PPRCS g; EC3DC 1)
6. analyze student data for the purpose of planning and supporting student growth (PPRCS f; PPRDC 3,4; EC3DC 4)

Focus of the Course

- Good Environments for Young Children, Teachers, and Families
- Guidance Techniques and School/Home Interaction
- The Value of Play
- Curriculum Development
- Language Arts
- Creative, Artistic, and Sensory Expression
- Music and Movement Education
- Science and Technology
- Mathematics
- Social Studies, Anti-Bias Curriculum, and Field Trips
- Nutrition and Health
- Transition Activities

Dispositions

The early childhood faculty expects students to demonstrate the performances essential for meeting the early childhood instructional needs of all students.

Early childhood education professionals are committed to using research-based instruction.

Early childhood education professionals assess learner needs to plan appropriate instruction.

Early childhood education professionals are aware that best assessments are conducted over time and compare the child's past and present abilities.

Early childhood education professionals display positive dispositions related to early childhood.

Early childhood education professionals value students' interests, reading abilities, and backgrounds as foundations for the early childhood program.

Early childhood education professionals model related early childhood experiences enthusiastically as valued lifelong activities.

Early childhood education professionals help families find enjoyable ways to support learning begun at school.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Instructor is available to meet by appointment. Please email Mrs Beth with any questions you have. Responses/answers will be provided via email or a time can be set up for a phone call or appointment.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2022-23](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Key Assessment

All course assessments/activities must be passed with an 80% or above in order to complete each competency module. Candidates will have a maximum of three (3) attempts to pass each assessment/activity. Final grades in all CBE courses will be based on the following scale:

| Grade | Points |
|--------------|--------------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| F | 79 or below |

Learning Activities/Assignments

Module 1 – Foundations of the Early Childhood Education

1. Read Aloud
2. Module 1 Activity

Module 2 – Developmentally Appropriate Practice and Learning through Play

1. Developmental Stages of Play
2. Module 2 Activity

Module 3 – Early Childhood Developmental Domains

1. Data Analysis Mini Module
2. Module 3 Activity

Module 4 – Planning and Instruction

1. Thematic Lesson Plans

2. Module 4 Activity

Module 5 – Classroom Management and Assessment

1. Family Engagement Plan
2. Module 6 Activity

Exams

There will be a pre and post test for this course. The Pre test will not count towards your grade.

Submitted Work

Correct spelling and use of appropriate grammatical skills are expected on each written assignment or project. Most of the assignments/projects will be typed and utilize an appropriate style (*Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced*). Assignments that are handwritten need to be eligible, neat and clean. **Unacceptable work will be returned, un-graded, or lead to reduction in grade.** In addition, plagiarized or copied word will receive a grade of ZERO with no make-up allowed.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted

Late Work

Work must be turned in when it is due for full credit. Late work will only be accepted in emergency situations that have been cleared with Mrs. Beth. This means only illness or family emergency.

Late work is discouraged as a rule. In the event that an assignment is submitted late, here is the grading scale for such:

10 point reduction for every day the assignment is late

This reduction does not begin at 100 points. It begins with the grade accessed for the quality of work submitted, then points removed for each day the submission is late.

Incomplete assignments are not accepted. I do not give partial credit.

An assignment is considered incomplete if it has multiple parts as expressed in the instructions and is submitted with even one part missing/incomplete. It will be returned with a zero and must be resubmitted with all components before a grade will be assessed. At that time, it is considered late and will fall under that policy as well and suffer grade reduction.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: **August 28-31**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: **September 25th** Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **October 30th**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers

due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees

are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

This course is self-paced, but a pacing guide with suggested dates is in D2L to help you with planning the course responsibility.

Appendix A: Standards/Competencies

| Assignment/Module/ Course Activities | Course Objectives or Student Learning Outcomes | Standard or Competency |
|---|--|---|
| Module Activities | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | PPRCS b,c,d,e,f,g; PPRDC 1,2,3,4; EC3CS b-I; EC3DC 1,2,3,4,5, TEKS, PreK Guidelines |
| Exams | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | PPRCS b,c,d,e,f,g; PPRDC 1,2,3,4; EC3CS b-I; EC3DC 1,2,3,4,5, TEKS, PreK Guidelines |

| Assignment/Module/ Course Activities | Course Objectives or Student Learning Outcomes | Standard or Competency |
|---|--|--|
| Read Aloud | 2 | PPRCS b,c,d; PPRDC 1; EC3CS c-I; EC3DC 1,2,3,5, TEKS, PreK Guidelines |
| Developmental Stages of Play | 4 | PPRCS c; PPRDC 2 |
| Data Analysis Mini Module | 6 | PPRCS f; PPRDC 3,4; EC3DC 4 |
| Thematic Lesson Plans | 2,4 | PPRCS b,c,d; PPRDC 1,2; EC3CS c- I; EC3DC 1,2,3,5, TEKS, PreK Guidelines |
| Organizing the Classroom | 1 | PPRCS e; PPRDC 2; EC3CS b; EC3DC 1,2, 3 |
| Family Engagement Plan | 5 | PPRCS g; EC3DC 1 |

Appendix B: Texas Standards for Educator Prep Programs and Course Alignment

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Commissioners Standards for EC-3 (b) Instructional Planning and Delivery. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students and makes learning relevant for today's learners. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

- (1) develop lessons that build coherently toward objectives based on course content, curriculum scope and sequence, and expected student outcomes;
- (2) effectively communicate goals, expectations, and objectives to help all students reach high levels of achievement;
- (3) connect students' prior understanding and real-world experiences to new content and contexts, maximizing learning opportunities;
- (4) plan instruction that is developmentally appropriate, is standards driven, and motivates students to learn;
- (5) differentiate instruction, aligning methods and techniques to diverse student needs, including acceleration, remediation, and implementation of individual education plans;
- (6) plan student groupings, including pairings and individualized and small-group instruction, to facilitate student learning;

(7) integrate the use of oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and/or tactile methods to teach key concepts;

(8) ensure that the learning environment features a high degree of student engagement by facilitating discussion and student-centered activities as well as leading direct instruction;

(9) encourage all students to overcome obstacles and remain persistent in the face of challenges, providing them with support in achieving their goals;

(10) set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students, encouraging them to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems;

(11) provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving;

(12) monitor and assess students' progress to ensure that their lessons meet students' needs;

(13) provide immediate feedback to students in order to reinforce their learning and ensure that they understand key concepts; and

(14) adjust content delivery in response to student progress through the use of developmentally appropriate strategies that maximize student engagement.

(c) Knowledge of Student and Student Learning. Early Childhood:

Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student's educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student's needs. Early Childhood:

Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) create a community of learners in an inclusive environment that views differences in learning and background as educational assets;

(2) connect learning, content, and expectations to students' prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests in meaningful contexts;

(3) understand the unique qualities of students with exceptional needs, including disabilities and giftedness, and know how to effectively address these needs through instructional strategies and resources;

(4) understand the role of language and culture in learning and know how to modify their practice to support language acquisition so that language is comprehensible and instruction is fully accessible;

(5) understand how learning occurs and how learners develop, construct meaning, and acquire knowledge and skills; and

(6) identify readiness for learning and understand how development in one area may affect students' performance in other areas.

(d) Content Knowledge and Expertise. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers exhibit an understanding of content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lessons and the ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) have expertise in how their content vertically and horizontally aligns with the grade-level/subject area continuum, leading to an integrated curriculum across grade levels and content areas;

(2) identify gaps in students' knowledge of subject matter and communicate with their leaders and colleagues to ensure that these gaps are adequately addressed across grade levels and subject areas;

(3) keep current with developments, new content, new approaches, and changing methods of instructional delivery within their discipline;

(4) organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter;

(5) understand, actively anticipate, and adapt instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions;

(6) promote literacy and the academic language within the discipline and make discipline-specific language accessible to all learners;

(7) teach both the key content knowledge and the key skills of the discipline; and

(8) make appropriate and authentic connections across disciplines, subjects, and students' real world experiences.

(e) Learning Environment. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) embrace students' backgrounds and experiences as an asset in their learning;

(2) maintain and facilitate respectful, supportive, positive, and productive interactions with and among students;

(3) establish and sustain learning environments that are developmentally appropriate and respond to students' needs, strengths, and personal experiences;

(4) create a physical classroom set-up that is flexible and accommodates the different learning needs of students;

(5) implement behavior management systems to maintain an environment where all students can learn effectively;

(6) maintain a culture that is based on high expectations for student performance and encourages students to be self-motivated, taking responsibility for their own learning;

(7) maximize instructional time, including managing transitions;

(8) manage and facilitate groupings in order to maximize student collaboration, participation, and achievement; and

(9) communicate regularly, clearly, and appropriately with parents and families about student progress, providing detailed and constructive feedback and partnering with families in furthering their students' achievement goals.

(f) Data-Driven Practices. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional

strategies and content delivery as needed. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) gauge student progress and ensure mastery of content knowledge and skills by providing assessments aligned to instructional objectives and outcomes that are accurate measures of student learning;

(2) analyze and review data in a timely, thorough, accurate, and appropriate manner, both individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning; and

(3) design instruction, change strategies, and differentiate their teaching practices to improve student learning based on assessment outcomes.

(g) Professional Practices and Responsibilities. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, collaborate with other educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) reflect on their own strengths and professional learning needs, using this information to develop action plans for improvement;

(2) seek out feedback from supervisor, coaches, and peers and take advantage of opportunities for job-embedded professional development;

(3) adhere to the educators' code of ethics in §247.2 of this title (relating to Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators), including following policies and procedures at their specific school placement(s);

(4) communicate consistently, clearly, and respectfully with all members of the campus community, administrators, and staff; and

(5) serve as advocates for their students, focusing attention on students' needs and concerns and maintaining thorough and accurate student records.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Domains and Competencies
Domain I—Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning
Competency 001—The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Knows the typical stages of cognitive, social, physical and emotional development of students in early childhood through grade 12.
- B. Recognizes the wide range of individual developmental differences that characterizes students in early childhood through grade 12 and the implications of this developmental variation for instructional planning.
- C. Analyzes ways in which developmental characteristics of students in early childhood through grade 12 impact learning and performance and applies knowledge of students' developmental characteristics and needs to plan effective learning experiences and assessments.
- D. Demonstrates an understanding of physical changes that occur in early childhood through adolescence, factors that affect students' physical growth and health (e.g., nutrition, sleep, prenatal exposure to drugs, abuse) and ways in which physical development impacts development in other domains (i.e., cognitive, social, emotional).
- E. Recognizes factors affecting the social and emotional development of students in early childhood through adolescence (e.g., lack of affection and attention, parental divorce, homelessness) and knows

that students' social and emotional development impacts their development in other domains (i.e., cognitive, physical).

- F. Uses knowledge of cognitive changes in students in early childhood through adolescence (e.g., from an emphasis on concrete thinking to the emergence and refinement of abstract thinking and reasoning, increased ability to engage in reflective thinking, increased focus on the world beyond the school setting) to plan developmentally appropriate instruction and assessment that promote learning and development.
- G. Understands that development in any one domain (i.e., cognitive, social, physical, emotional) impacts development in other domains.
- H. Recognizes signs of developmental delays or impairments in students in early childhood through grade 4.
- I. Knows the stages of play development (i.e., from solitary to cooperative) and the important role of play in young children's learning and development.
- J. Uses knowledge of the developmental characteristics and needs of students in early childhood through grade 4 to plan meaningful, integrated and active learning and play experiences that promote the development of the whole child.
- K. Recognizes that positive and productive learning environments involve creating a culture of high academic expectations, equity throughout the learning community and developmental responsiveness.
- L. Recognizes the importance of helping students in early childhood through grade 12 learn and apply life skills (e.g., decision-making skills, organizational skills, goal-setting skills, self-direction, workplace skills).
- M. Knows the rationale for appropriate middle-level education and how middle-level schools are structured to address the characteristics and needs of young adolescents.
- N. Recognizes typical challenges for students during later childhood, adolescence and young adulthood (e.g., self-image, physical appearance, eating disorders, feelings of rebelliousness, identity formation, educational and career decisions) and effective ways to help students address these challenges.
- O. Understands ways in which student involvement in risky behaviors (e.g., drug and alcohol use, gang involvement) impacts development and learning.
- P. Demonstrates knowledge of the importance of peers, peer acceptance and conformity to peer group norms and expectations for adolescents and understands the significance of peer-related issues for teaching and learning.

Competency 002—The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of students with diverse personal and social characteristics (e.g., those related to ethnicity, gender, language background, exceptionality) and the significance of student diversity for teaching, learning and assessment.
- B. Accepts and respects students with diverse backgrounds and needs.
- C. Knows how to use diversity in the classroom and the community to enrich all students' learning experiences.
- D. Knows strategies for enhancing one's own understanding of students' diverse backgrounds and needs.
- E. Knows how to plan and adapt lessons to address students' varied backgrounds, skills, interests and learning needs, including the needs of English-language learners and students with disabilities.

- F. Understands cultural and socioeconomic differences (including differential access to technology) and knows how to plan instruction that is responsive to cultural and socioeconomic differences among students.
- G. Understands the instructional significance of varied student learning needs and preferences.
- H. Knows the ELPS in the domains of listening and speaking in accordance with the proficiency-level descriptors for the beginning, intermediate, advanced and advanced-high levels.
- I. Knows the ELPS in the domains of reading and writing in accordance with the proficiency-level descriptors for beginning, intermediate, advanced and advanced-high levels.

Competency 003—The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Understands the significance of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and of prerequisite knowledge and skills in determining instructional goals and objectives.
- B. Uses appropriate criteria to evaluate the appropriateness of learning goals and objectives (e.g., clarity; relevance; significance; age-appropriateness; ability to be assessed; responsiveness to students' current skills and knowledge, background, needs and interests; alignment with campus and district goals).
- C. Uses assessment to analyze students' strengths and needs, evaluate teacher effectiveness and guide instructional planning for individuals and groups.
- D. Understands the connection between various components of the Texas statewide assessment program, the TEKS and instruction and analyzes data from state and other assessments using common statistical measures to help identify students' strengths and needs.
- E. Demonstrates knowledge of various types of materials and resources (including technological resources and resources outside the school) that may be used to enhance student learning and engagement and evaluates the appropriateness of specific materials and resources for use in particular situations, to address specific purposes and to meet varied student needs.
- F. Plans lessons and structures units so that activities progress in a logical sequence and support stated instructional goals.
- G. Plans learning experiences that provide students with developmentally appropriate opportunities to explore content from integrated and varied perspectives (e.g., by presenting thematic units that incorporate different disciplines, providing intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary instruction, designing instruction that enables students to work cooperatively, providing multicultural learning experiences, prompting students to consider ideas from multiple viewpoints, encouraging students' application of knowledge and skills to the world beyond the school).
- H. Allocates time appropriately within lessons and units, including providing adequate opportunities for students to engage in reflection, self-assessment and closure.

Competency 004—The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.

The beginning teacher:

- A. Understands the role of learning theory in the instructional process and uses instructional strategies and appropriate technologies to facilitate student learning (e.g., connecting new information and ideas to prior knowledge, making learning meaningful and relevant to students).
- B. Understands that young children think concretely and rely primarily on motor and sensory input and direct experience for development of skills and knowledge and uses this understanding to plan effective, developmentally appropriate learning experiences and assessments.

- C. Understands that the middle-level years are a transitional stage in which students may exhibit characteristics of both older and younger children and that these are critical years for developing important skills and attitudes (e.g., working and getting along with others, appreciating diversity, making a commitment to continued schooling).
- D. Recognizes how characteristics of students at different developmental levels (e.g., limited attention span and need for physical activity and movement for younger children; importance of peers, search for identity, questioning of values and exploration of long-term career and life goals for older students) impact teaching and learning.
- E. Stimulates reflection, critical thinking and inquiry among students (e.g., supports the concept of play as a valid vehicle for young children's learning; provides opportunities for young children to manipulate materials and to test ideas and hypotheses; engages students in structured, hands-on problem-solving activities that are challenging; encourages exploration and risk-taking; creates a learning community that promotes positive contributions, effective communication and the respectful exchange of ideas).
- F. Enhances learning for students by providing age-appropriate instruction that encourages the use and refinement of higher-order thinking skills (e.g., prompting students to explore ideas from diverse perspectives; structuring active learning experiences involving cooperative learning, problem solving, open-ended questioning and inquiry; promoting students' development of research skills).
- G. Teaches, models and monitors organizational and time-management skills at an age-appropriate level (e.g., establishing regular places for classroom toys and materials for young children, keeping related materials together, using organizational tools, using effective strategies for locating information and organizing information systematically).
- H. Teaches, models and monitors age-appropriate study skills (e.g., using graphic organizers, outlining, note-taking, summarizing, test-taking) and structures research projects appropriately (e.g., teaches students the steps in research, establishes checkpoints during research projects, helps students use time-management tools).
- I. Analyzes ways in which teacher behaviors (e.g., teacher expectations, student grouping practices, teacher-student interactions) impact student learning and plans instruction and assessment that minimize the effects of negative factors and enhance all students' learning.
- J. Analyzes ways in which factors in the home and community (e.g., parent expectations, availability of community resources, community problems) impact student learning and plans instruction and assessment with awareness of social and cultural factors to enhance all students' learning.
- K. Understands the importance of self-directed learning and plans instruction and assessment that promote students' motivation and their sense of ownership of and responsibility for their own learning.
- L. Analyzes ways in which various teacher roles (e.g., facilitator, lecturer) and student roles (e.g., active learner, observer, group participant) impact student learning.
- M. Incorporates students' different approaches to learning (e.g., auditory, visual, tactile, kinesthetic) into instructional practices.
- N. Provides instruction to ensure that students can apply various learning strategies (e.g., using prior knowledge, metacognition, graphic organizers) across content areas, in accordance with the ELPS.
- O. Provides instruction in a manner that is linguistically accommodated (communicated, sequenced and scaffolded) to the student's level of English-language proficiency to ensure that the student learns the knowledge and skills across content areas, in accordance with the ELPS.
- P. Applies knowledge of the implications for learning and instruction of the range of thinking abilities found among students in any one grade level and students' increasing ability over time to engage in abstract thinking and reasoning.

EC-3 Core Subjects Commissioners standards

(b) Child Development. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers use their understanding of young children's characteristics and needs, and of multiple interacting influences on children's development and learning, to create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for each child. Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers must:

(1) know and understand young children's characteristics and needs, from birth through age 8;

(2) know and understand the multiple influences on early development and learning; and

(3) use developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments for young children.

(c) English Language Arts and Reading. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 English Language Arts and Reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Emergent Early Literacy *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(d) Mathematics. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Mathematics TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Mathematics *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(e) Science. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Science TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Science *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(f) Social Studies. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Social Studies TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Social Studies *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(g) Fine Arts, including Theatre, Art, and Music. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Theatre, Art, and Music TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Fine Arts *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(h) Health Education. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Health Education

TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Physical Development *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills.

(i) Physical Education. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Physical Education TEKS, with an emphasis on Kindergarten-Grade 3, and Physical Development *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade-level skills

EC3 Domains and Competencies

Domain I—Child Development

Competency 001—(Foundations of Child Development): Understand foundational concepts of early childhood development from birth to age 8 and factors that influence student development.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of key theoretical foundations, curriculum and program models, and scientifically based research regarding the development and learning of students from birth to age 8 (e.g., Bruner, Piaget, and Vygotsky; Montessori, Reggio Emilia, constructivist, social-learning, and environmental theories) upon which developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education are based.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of characteristics, progressions, and variations of development in the physical, cognitive, social, language, sensory, aesthetic, and emotional domains and of the interrelationships between these domains and student learning.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of exceptionalities, including common health conditions, and factors related to over- and underrepresentation of specific student populations in special education and gifted and talented programs and use this knowledge to promote child development, learning, social skills, and emotional resilience skills for all students.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the specific needs of English learners (ELs) and of practices that build on home language systems to develop academic and social skills.

Competency 002—(The Early Learning Process): Understand the developmental processes and characteristics of learning of young children from birth to age 8.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the learning processes of young children, including the multiple functions, value, and role of play in constructing knowledge, building social skills and relationships, and developing problem-solving skills.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of teaching strategies for promoting learning—from child-initiated activities to adult-guided instruction; methods to capitalize on incidental and spontaneous opportunities for teaching; and ways to use the environment, daily routines, and interactions to support learning and development (e.g., developmentally appropriate homework practices).
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of stress and trauma, protective factors, resilience, and supportive relationships on the cognitive and emotional development of young children.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of risk factors impacting mental health in young children, including identifying behaviors that signify the need to intervene and/or engage in collaboration with others in order to provide responsive and developmentally appropriate intervention and support.

- E. Demonstrate knowledge of methods for identifying students' readiness for learning and understand how development in one area may affect students' learning and performance in other areas.
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of the roles of parents/guardians as primary caregivers and informal teachers of children, including factors in the home and community that may affect children's development and learning.

Competency 003—(Family Engagement): Understand the role and importance of the family in supporting the learning and development of young children from prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of how to create meaningful, respectful, and reciprocal relationships for families and how to use family-centered strategies to promote effective, ongoing communication and involvement with families to support young children's learning and social skills and emotional development.
- B. Apply knowledge of skills and strategies for working collaboratively and effectively with families, including families with linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds, and of how to build positive relationships by advocating for families and by respecting and valuing families' preferences and goals.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks and provide families with tools to enhance and extend children's learning at home (e.g., home visits by teachers and school staff, consistent in-person and written communication on student progress).

Domain II—The Instructional Setting

Competency 004—(Social Skills, Emotional Development, and Behavior Support): Understand how to create positive environments and relationships that help develop interpersonal skills, autonomy, and initiative to explore and learn in young children from prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of factors related to the development of executive function and self-regulation skills in young children, including motivation, autonomy, and decision-making and self-help skills.
- B. Apply knowledge of strategies and principles for teaching and using problem-solving and conflict resolution skills and for providing individual and schoolwide positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), including monitoring the effectiveness of PBIS, as well as making modifications and adaptations to interventions as needed.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate and effective individual and group management strategies, including best practices for teaching and supporting young children with additional behavioral needs and factors contributing to equitable and inequitable responses to behavior.

- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of positive relationships and supportive interactions as a crucial foundation for teaching, and in developing social skills and emotional resilience, with a focus on children's individual strengths, needs, and interests.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of the relationships between communication, behavior, and learning, as well as the ability to use developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive positive behavior strategies, conflict resolution skills, and instructional methods to manage classroom behavior.

Competency 005—(The Instructional Setting): Understand how to create positive learning environments that promote the development and learning of young children in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Apply knowledge of strategies for structuring the physical environment and selecting appropriate learning curricula, materials, and technologies to promote active participation and independence in young children.
- B. Apply knowledge of practices for creating and adapting safe indoor and outdoor learning environments that encourage active involvement, initiative, responsibility, and a growing sense of autonomy in young children.
- C. Apply knowledge of the use of schedules, routines, and effective transitions to support children's emotional development, effectively manage instructional activities, and promote children's sense of security and independence.
- D. Apply knowledge of methods for creating a physical environment and instructional procedures that are linguistically and culturally responsive and meet the needs of all young children, including those with exceptionalities (e.g., disabilities, gifts, talents) and English learners (ELs).
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of practices and procedures for effectively planning and managing flexible student groupings, including pairings, individualized, and small-group instruction, to facilitate learning.
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of activities, practices, materials, and technology to support the integration of oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and tactile methods into the teaching of key concepts and vocabulary and to assess student learning.

Domain III—Educating All Learners

Competency 006—(Differentiation Strategies in Planning and Practice): Understand how to identify and implement developmentally appropriate strategies and practices to effectively teach and engage young children from prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and how to apply UDL guidelines to incorporate the flexibility necessary to maximize learning opportunities for all students.

- B. Apply knowledge of effective methods for fostering students' active participation and individual academic success in one-to-one, small-group, and large-group settings and for facilitating students' inclusion in various settings (e.g., academic, social).
- C. Apply knowledge of activities and instruction that build on students' individual interests, primary language, experiences, and prior knowledge; respond to students' strengths and needs; and promote the development of prerequisite skills and positive dispositions toward learning in the content areas.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of how and when to adjust and scaffold instruction, instructional activities, and assessment in response to various types of feedback from young children.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of how to identify, select, and implement appropriate and effective accommodations for students with 504 plans or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), including collaborating with other professionals to meet the needs of all students.
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of the various categories of disabilities as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including Child Find obligations and educational implications specific to young children with unique learning differences (e.g., developmental delays, autism spectrum disorder, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities).

Competency 007—(Culturally Responsive Practices): Understand how to identify and implement culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate practices to effectively teach and engage young children from prekindergarten to grade 3 across all content areas.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of strategies and practices that acknowledge and respect diversity (e.g., cultural, economic, linguistic) and support inclusion in order to promote students' overall development and learning, including understanding of the benefits of primary and secondary languages and bilingualism to learning.
- B. Recognize the role personal bias plays in potential learning expectations for students in order to promote safe, positive, and supportive interactions and learning environments for all students.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of activities, approaches, and resources that encourage and support exploration and engagement and promote a positive disposition toward learning for all students.
- D. Demonstrate understanding of the role of language and culture in learning, as well as how to modify instruction to support language acquisition to ensure that both language and instruction are accessible across the content areas.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of ways to work collaboratively with parents/guardians, teachers, school and community service providers, and students to support all students, including but not limited to English learners (ELs), and programs such as ESL, bilingual, and dual language.
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of ways to work collaboratively with teachers, related service providers, parents/guardians, and students to effectively support the implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and instructional accommodations and strategies.

Domain IV—Data-Driven Practice and Formal/Informal Assessment

Competency 008—(Developmentally Appropriate Assessment and Practice):

Understand the types, selection, and uses of developmentally appropriate assessments and assessment practices to effectively support young children's learning in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the various purposes of the use of developmentally appropriate assessment for evaluating young students across domains.
- B. Apply knowledge of basic assessment terminology and of types, characteristics, uses, and limitations of formal, informal, and alternative assessments (e.g., developmental screenings, formative and summative assessments, observations, portfolios, state-mandated assessments, types of assessment accommodations, curriculum-based measures).
- C. Apply knowledge of ways to develop and select developmentally appropriate assessments and assessment strategies (e.g., use of TEA resources such as formative assessment banks), ensure that assessments are aligned to instructional objectives and outcomes, and use assessment results to inform instruction and measure student progress throughout the content areas.
- D. Apply knowledge of considerations and strategies for effectively administering assessments and documenting assessment outcomes.
- E. Recognize legal and ethical issues related to assessment, responsible assessment practices, and confidentiality.

Competency 009—(Progress Monitoring and Data-Driven Instructional Practice):

Understand how to design, implement, and evaluate learning experiences and instruction in order to promote development and learning of all students in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the foundational elements of Response to Intervention (RtI) and the ability to apply this knowledge to differentiate tiered instruction for all students based on data.
- B. Interpret and use information from formal and informal assessments, including the use of multiple measures of assessment, to inform decisions and plan and evaluate student learning.
- C. Interpret assessment results to enhance knowledge of students; evaluate and monitor development, learning, and progress; establish goals; and plan, differentiate, and continuously adjust learning activities and environments for individuals and groups.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of types of systematic observation and documentation (e.g., anecdotal notes, checklists, data collection) and the ability to use these processes and procedures to gain insight into students' development, strengths, needs, and learning.

Domain V—Learning Across the Curriculum

Competency 010—(English Language Arts and Social Studies): Understand the foundational principles, concepts, and methods in English language arts and social studies to provide developmentally appropriate instruction for students in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Emergent Literacy – Writing domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) (Kindergarten through Grade 5), including the development of the writing process (i.e., §110.2:10 and §110.3–7:11), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach writing to young children.
- B. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies for fostering students' ability to listen and speak for various purposes (e.g., expressing needs, interacting with others, responding to experiences, developing concepts).
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of strategies and technology for developing and reinforcing young children's language acquisition (e.g., oral language, listening comprehension, expressive and receptive vocabulary, pragmatic language skills).
- D. Apply knowledge of strategies and activities for infusing opportunities for purposeful, child-oriented, meaningful language and communication into all areas of the curriculum (e.g., purposeful conversations, dramatic play, word games, storytelling, songs, poetry, questioning).
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of the developmental stages in children's acquisition of writing skills (e.g., scribbling, mock letters, letter formation, invented spelling) and of different ways that individual students may vary in their rates of acquiring these stages.
- F. Apply knowledge of effective instructional strategies, materials, and activities for supporting explicit spelling instruction at various stages of a student's development and within the context of meaningful written expression.
- G. Apply knowledge of instructional strategies, materials, and developmentally appropriate activities for teaching students English writing conventions (e.g., grammar, capitalization, punctuation).
- H. Apply knowledge of how to teach and develop students' writing through planning, drafting, revision, editing, rewriting, and publishing.
- I. Demonstrate knowledge of the Social Studies domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Social Studies (Kindergarten through Grade 5), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach social studies to young children.
- J. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and activities for teaching major concepts and processes of geography, including features

of students' immediate environment, characteristics of major human and physical features of Texas, and how people adapt and live in the physical environment.

- K. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and activities for developing students' understanding of the purpose of government and the key concepts of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the beliefs and ideals of a democratic republican form of government (e.g., the rule of law, equality, human dignity).
- L. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and activities for teaching basic concepts of economics, including scarcity, opportunity costs, markets, factors of production, and trade, as well as how these concepts relate to everyday life.

Competency 011—(Mathematics): Understand foundational principles, concepts, and methods in mathematics to provide developmentally appropriate instruction for students in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Mathematics domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Mathematics (Kindergarten through Grade 5), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach mathematics to young children.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of foundational characteristics and processes in children's mathematical development, including elements of mathematical understanding (e.g., conservation, one-to-one correspondence, counting, cardinality), and indicators that a student may be experiencing difficulties or demonstrating advanced abilities in mathematics.
- C. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and activities, including the progression of conceptual to procedural understanding specific to areas of mathematical content (e.g., number sense, numeracy, whole-number operations, geometry, spatial sense, fractions, algebraic reasoning), and mathematical language for developing children's knowledge and skills in these areas through a variety of meaningful, authentic learning experiences and real-world applications.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of instructional resources, tools, and materials, including manipulatives, children's literature, and technology for teaching mathematics.
- E. Apply knowledge of ways to build on children's interests by creating meaningful opportunities and experiences that promote the development of students' conceptual understanding and mathematical thinking, including incorporating play and manipulatives into daily activities.
- F. Apply knowledge of teaching practices that enhance children's mathematical problem solving and reasoning and promote their ability to represent, communicate, and connect mathematical ideas in their everyday lives.

- G. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies for encouraging students to view themselves as competent mathematical thinkers and activities for promoting students' ability to think and communicate mathematically.
- H. Apply knowledge of approaches for integrating mathematical content with other areas of the curriculum and with everyday activities, including written expression.
- I. Demonstrate knowledge of ways to foster collaboration with families and with other professionals to promote and encourage all students' development of mathematical thinking and numeracy.
- J. Demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate activities for teaching mathematical language, vocabulary, and key concepts specific to financial literacy.

Competency 012—(Science and Technology Applications): Understand the foundational principles, concepts, and methods of teaching science and technology applications to provide developmentally appropriate instruction to students in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Science domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science (Kindergarten through Grade 5), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach science to young children.
- B. Apply knowledge of how to plan and implement inquiry-based science lessons that are responsive to children's diverse interests, knowledge, skills, and experiences and that promote children's development of scientific knowledge, inquiry, and skills.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies for encouraging children to explore and make discoveries about their world (e.g., exploratory play, using senses, using simple tools or technology to gain information about environment, incorporating children's literature, making predictions and/or drawing conclusions on the basis of observation).
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of instructional resources, tools and materials, including technology, for teaching science and procedures for ensuring the proper use of safety equipment and safe practices during classroom science activities.
- E. Apply knowledge of key concepts of physical science, Earth and space science, and life science to select strategies and methods for developing children's knowledge and skills in these areas through a variety of developmentally appropriate, meaningful, authentic learning experiences and real-world applications.
- F. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies for encouraging students to view themselves as competent scientific explorers and activities

for promoting students' ability to think and communicate scientific knowledge through written expression (e.g., providing opportunities to observe and describe objects and phenomena; engaging in simple investigation; applying skills such as collecting, classifying, and interpreting data; recognizing patterns and drawing conclusions).

- G. Demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and procedures for implementing scientific inquiry methods in classroom laboratory and outdoor investigations, including understanding and applying terminology common to scientific investigations.
- H. Demonstrate knowledge of types of digital tools and resources and strategies for using them to enhance teaching effectiveness, create learning experiences that facilitate creativity, and promote student achievement across the content areas.
- I. Demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate digital tools and resources and strategies to help children explore real-world issues, solve authentic problems, develop global awareness, participate in local and global learning communities, and develop the ability to pursue and manage their own learning, while understanding safety and privacy risks.

Competency 013—(Fine Arts, Physical Education, and Health): Understand foundational skills, concepts, and methods to provide developmentally appropriate instruction for fine arts, physical education, and health to students in prekindergarten to grade 3.

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the Fine Arts domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Fine Arts (Art, Music, and Theatre) (Kindergarten through Grade 5), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach fine arts to young children.
- B. Apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate strategies and meaningful activities, including children's literature, for promoting children's creativity, knowledge, and skills in visual arts, music, creative movement, dance, and theatre.
- C. Apply knowledge of how to use the fine arts to help children achieve desired outcomes in various developmental domains (e.g., with regard to individual expression and motor skill development, language development, written expression, expressing feelings, awareness of the body, acknowledging one's own and others' cultures).
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of methods for selecting and using technology resources to teach students strategies for creating, selecting, viewing, and sharing visual art, music, dance, and theatre.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of the Physical Development and Health domain of the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines*, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Physical Education (Kindergarten through Grade 5), and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Health Education

(Kindergarten through Grade 5), as well as ways to scaffold and sequence skills and concepts to teach physical education and health to young children.

- F. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of physical skills (e.g., fine- and gross-motor skills, locomotor skills, nonlocomotor skills, perceptual awareness, object handling) and the instructional implications of children's varied levels of physical skills development.
- G. Apply knowledge of the components of fitness (e.g., muscular strength, flexibility) and activities for promoting children's health and fitness, physical skills development, and enjoyment of physical activity.
- H. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of nutrition and the role of nutrition in children's fitness, health, development, and readiness for learning.

Prekindergarten Guidelines

Social and Emotional Development

Self Concept Skills

- PK4.I.A.1 Child is aware of where own body is in space and respects personal boundaries.
- PK4.I.A.2 Child shows self-awareness of physical attributes, personal preferences, and own abilities.
- PK4.I.A.3 Child shows reasonable opinion of his own abilities and limitations.
- PK4.I.A.4 Child shows initiative in trying new activities and demonstrates perseverance when attempting to overcome obstacles or challenges.

Self Regulation Skills

1. Behavior Control:
 - PK4.I.B.1.a Child follows classroom rules and routines with occasional reminders from adults.
 - PK4.I.B.1.b Child takes care of and manages classroom materials.
 - PK4.I.B.1.c Child regulates own behavior with occasional reminders or assistance from adults.
2. Emotional Control:
 - PK4.I.B.2.a Child begins to understand the connection between emotions and behaviors.
 - PK4.I.B.2.b Child uses verbal and nonverbal communication to communicate basic emotions and feelings.
 - PK4.I.B.2.c Child is able to manage intensity of emotions more consistently, although adult guidance is sometimes necessary.
3. Control of Attention:
 - PK4.I.B.3.a Child sustains attention to personally chosen or routine (teacher-directed) tasks until completed.
 - PK4.I.B.3.b Child remains focused on engaging, teacher-led group activities for up to 20 minutes.

Relationships with Others

- PK4.I.C.1 Child uses effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to build relationships with adults and peers.
- PK4.I.C.2 Child assumes various roles and responsibilities as part of the classroom community.
- PK4.I.C.3 Child shows competence in initiating social interactions.

- PK4.I.C.4 Child increasingly interacts with peers during cooperative play scenarios that share a common plan and goal.
- PK4.I.C.5 Child initiates problem-solving strategies when experiencing conflicts with others and seeks adult support when necessary.
- PK4.I.C.6 Child demonstrates empathy and caring for others.
- PK4.I.C.7 Child interacts with peers and has preferred friends.

Social Awareness Skills

- PK4.I.D.1 Child demonstrates an understanding that others have perspectives and feelings that are similar and/or different from her own.

Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication

Listening Comprehension Skills

- PK4.II.A.1 Child shows understanding by responding appropriately to what has been communicated by adults and peers.
- PK4.II.A.2 Child shows understanding by following three-step verbal directions

Speaking (Conversation)

- PK4.II.B.1 Child uses language for multiple purposes.
- PK4.II.B.2 Child engages in conversations in appropriate ways, demonstrating knowledge of verbal and nonverbal conversational rules.
- PK4.II.B.3 Child provides appropriate information in various settings.
- PK4.II.B.4 Child matches language to social contexts.

Articulation

- PK4.II.C.1 Child's speech is understood by both familiar and unfamiliar adults and peers. Emergent Literacy: Language and Communication 14
- PK4.II.C.2 Child demonstrates growing understanding of the intonation of language.

Vocabulary

- PK4.II.D.1 Child understands (receptive) and uses (expressive) a wide variety of words to label, describe and make connections among objects, people, places, actions, and events.
- PK4.II.D.2 Child understands (receptive) and uses (expressive) the instructional language of the classroom.
- PK4.II.D.3 Child consistently understands (receptive) and uses (expressive) new vocabulary acquired through books, conversations, and play.

Sentences and Structure

- PK4.II.E.1 Child typically uses complete sentences of four or more words with ageappropriate grammatical complexity, usually in standard word order.

- PK4.II.E.2 Child correctly uses regular and irregular plurals, regular past tense, personal and possessive pronouns, and subject-verb agreement.
- PK4.II.E.3 Child uses sentences that combine multiple phrases or ideas.
- PK4.II.E.4 Child uses sentences that provide many details, remains on topic, and clearly communicates intended meaning.

Emergent Literacy: Reading Domain

- PK4.III.A.1 Child engages in story-related pre-reading activities.
- PK4.III.A.2 Child self-selects books and other written materials to engage in pre-reading behaviors.
- PK4.III.A.3 Child recognizes that all print carries meaning and serves as a means for communication.

Phonological Awareness Skills

- PK4.III.B.1 Child identifies the individual words in a spoken sentence.
- PK4.III.B.2 Child distinguishes differences between similar-sounding words.
- PK4.III.B.3 Child uses two familiar base words to form a compound word with pictorial or gestural supports.
- PK4.III.B.4 Child manipulates compound words with pictorial or gestural support.
- PK4.III.B.5 Child begins to blend and segment syllables in multisyllabic words.
- PK4.III.B.6 Child identifies rhyming words.
- PK4.III.B.7 Child identifies alliterative words with pictorial support.
- PK4.III.B.8 Child identifies a familiar one-syllable word that is segmented by onset and rime (in English only).
- PK4.III.B.9 Child blends and segments one-syllable words by phonemes with visual or gestural support.

Alphabet Knowledge Skills

- PK4.III.C.1 Child recognizes and names at least 20 letters (upper- or lower-case letters).
- PK4.III.C.2 Child recognizes at least 20 distinct letter-sound correspondences.
- PK4.III.C.3 Child produces at least 20 distinct letter-sound correspondences.

Comprehension of Text Read Aloud Skills

- PK4.III.D. 1 Child retells or re-enacts a story with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- PK4.III.D.2 Child uses information learned from books by describing, relating, categorizing, or comparing and contrasting.
- PK4.III.D.3 Child asks and responds to questions relevant to the text read aloud.
- PK4.III.D.4 Child makes inferences and predictions about a text.

Concepts of Print

- PK4.III.E.1 Child can distinguish between elements of print including letters, words, and pictures.
- PK4.III.E.2 Child holds books right side up and demonstrates understanding of print directionality (e.g., knows where a book starts and ends, turns pages, points to words left to right, top to bottom, with correct sweeping).

- PK4.III.E.3 Child can identify some conventional features of print that communicate meaning including end punctuation and case.

Emergent Writing Motivation to Write

- PK4.IV.A.1 Child intentionally uses marks, letters, or symbols to record language and verbally shares meaning.
- PK4.IV.A.2 Child independently draws and writes for many purposes to communicate ideas, using a variety of writing tools.

Writing as a Process

- PK4.IV.B.1 Child discusses and contributes ideas for drafts composed in whole/small group writing activities.
- PK4.IV.B.2 Child interacts and provides suggestions for revisions (add, take out, change order) and edits (conventions) in whole/small group writing activities.
- PK4.IV.B.3 Child shares and celebrates class-made and individual written products.

Writing Conventions

- PK4.IV.C.1 Child writes first name (or nickname) using legible letters in the proper sequence.
- PK4.IV.C.2 Child progresses from using scribbles and mock letters to forming letters and letter strings as a way to communicate.
- PK4.IV.C.3 Child begins to write familiar words using letter-sound correspondences, often using letters associated with beginning and/or ending sounds to write words.
- PK4.IV.C.4 Child uses appropriate directionality when writing (e.g., top to bottom, left to right).
- PK4.IV.C.5 Child begins to experiment with punctuation when writing.

Mathematics Domain

Number Sense

- PK4.V.A.1 Child rote counts from 1 to 30.
- PK4.V.A.2 Child counts up to 10 objects with one-to-one correspondence.
- PK4.V.A.3 Child counts up to 10 items and demonstrates cardinality by communicating that the last number indicates how many items are in the set.
- PK4.V.A.4 Child instantly recognizes the quantity of up to 6 objects without counting (subitizes).
- PK4.V.A.5 Child recognizes numerals 0-10.
- PK4.V.A.6 Child represents quantities up to 10.
- PK4.V.A.7 Child begins to understand that numbers 0-10 can be composed and decomposed in various ways to represent a quantity.
- PK4.V.A.8 Child compares sets of objects up to 10 using comparative language (e.g., greater/more than, less/fewer than, equal to/same number of).

Joining and Separating

- PK4.V.B.1 Child uses objects, pictorial models, and/or a verbal word problem to represent adding up to 5 objects.
- PK4.V.B.2 Child uses objects, pictorial models, and/or a verbal word problem to represent subtracting objects from a set of 5.

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- PK4.V.C.1 Child names and describes common 2D shapes and names at least 1 solid 3D shape.
- PK4.V.C.2 Child creates shapes using materials and/or manipulatives.
- PK4.V.C.3 Child demonstrates use of position words.
- PK4.V.C.4 Child recognizes common shapes, regardless of orientation and size.

Measurement Skills

- PK4.V.D.1 Child recognizes and compares heights or lengths of people or objects.
- PK4.V.D.2 Child recognizes and compares capacity based on how much space exists within an object.
- PK4.V.D.3 Child recognizes and compares weights of objects.
- PK4.V.D.4 Child uses language to describe concepts associated with the passing of time within a day.

Classification and Pattern Skills

- PK4.V.E.1 Child sorts objects that are the same and different into groups and uses language to describe how the groups are similar and different.
- PK4.V.E.2 Child collects data and organizes it in a graphic representation.
- PK4.V.E.3 Child recognizes, duplicates, extends, and creates patterns.

Science

Physical Science

- PK4.VI.A.1 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses characteristics of common objects.
- PK4.VI.A.2 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses position and motion of objects.
- PK4.VI.A.3 Child uses simple scientific tools to learn about objects. Science 28
- PK4.VI.A.4 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses sources of energy including light, heat, and electricity.

Life Science Skills

- PK4.VI.B.1 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses the characteristics of organisms.
- PK4.VI.B.2 Child observes, describes, and discusses the life cycles of organisms.
- PK4.VI.B.3 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses the relationship of organisms in their environments.

Earth and Space Science

- PK4.VI.C.1 Child observes, investigates, describes, and discusses earth materials, and their properties and uses.

- PK4.VI.C.2 Child identifies, observes, describes, and discusses objects in the sky.
- PK4.VI.C.3 Child observes and describes what happens during changes in the earth and sky.
- PK4.VI.C.4 Child demonstrates an understanding of the importance of caring for our environment and our planet.

Social Studies

People, Past and Present

- PK4.VII.A.1 Child identifies similarities and differences between himself, classmates, and other people through specific characteristics and cultural influences.
- PK4.VII.A.2 Child identifies similarities and differences in characteristics of families.
- PK4.VII.A.3 Child connects his life to events, time, and routines.

Economics

- PK4.VII.B.1 Child demonstrates an understanding that all people need food, clothing, and shelter.
- PK4.VII.B.2 Child demonstrates an understanding of what it means to be a consumer.
- PK4.VII.B.3 Child discusses the roles and responsibilities of family, school, and community helpers.

Geography

- PK4.VII.C.1 Child identifies and creates common geographic features.
- PK4.VII.C.2 Child explores geography tools and resources.

Citizenship

- PK4.VII.D.1 Child identifies the United States and Texas flag.
- PK4.VII.D.2 Child recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag and observes a moment of silence.
- PK4.VII.D.3 The child engages in voting as a method for group decision-making.

Fine Arts

Art

- PK4.VIII.A.1 Child uses a variety of art materials for sensory experiences and exploration.
- PK4.VIII.A.2 Child uses art as a form of creative self-expression and representation.
- PK4.VIII.A.3 Child demonstrates interest in and shows appreciation for the creative work of others.

Music

- PK4.VIII.B.1 Child participates in classroom music activities including singing, playing musical instruments, and moving to rhythms.
- PK4.VIII.B.2 Child responds to different musical styles through movement and play.

Dramatic Expression

- PK4.VIII.C.1 Child creates or recreates stories, moods, or experiences through dramatic representations.

Physical Development

Gross Motor Development

- PK4.IX.A.1 Child demonstrates coordination and balance in isolation.
- PK4.IX.A.2 Child coordinates sequence of movements to perform tasks.

Fine Motor Development

- PK4.IX.B.1 Child shows control of tasks that require small-muscle strength and control.
- PK4.IX.B.2 Child shows increasing control of tasks that require eye-hand coordination.

Personal Safety and Health

- PK4.IX.C.1 Child practices good habits of personal safety.
- PK4.IX.C.2 Child practices good habits of personal health and hygiene.
- PK4.IX.C.3 Child identifies good habits of nutrition and exercise.

Technology Applications

Technology and Devices

- PK4.X.A.1 Child opens and navigates through digital learning applications and programs, when appropriate.
- PK4.X.A.2 Child uses and names a variety of digital tools that support and enhance learning.
- PK4.X.A.3 Child uses digital learning applications to contribute to class-made digital products that express own ideas, as appropriate.
- PK4.X.A.4 Child uses technology to access appropriate information, with adult assistance.
- PK4.X.A.5 Child practices safe behavior while using digital tools and resources.

TEKS First Grade Science

(A) Scientific and engineering practices. Scientific inquiry is the planned and deliberate investigation of the natural world using scientific and engineering practices. Scientific methods of investigation are descriptive, correlative, comparative, or experimental. The method chosen should be appropriate to the grade level and question being asked. Student learning for different types of investigations includes descriptive investigations, which have no hypothesis that tentatively answers the research question and involve collecting data and recording observations without making comparisons; correlative and comparative investigations, which have a hypothesis that predicts a relationship and involve collecting data, measuring variables relevant to the hypothesis that are manipulated, and comparing results; and experimental investigations, which involve processes similar to comparative investigations but in which a hypothesis can be tested by comparing a treatment with a control.

(i) Scientific practices. Students ask questions, plan and conduct investigations to answer questions, and explain phenomena using appropriate tools and models.

(ii) Engineering practices. Students identify problems and design solutions using appropriate tools and models.

(iii) To support instruction in the science content standards, it is recommended that districts integrate scientific and engineering practices through classroom and outdoor investigations for at least 80% of instructional time.

(B) Matter and its properties. Students build their knowledge of the natural world using their senses. Students focus on observable properties and patterns of objects, including larger and smaller, heavier and lighter, shape, color, and texture. The students understand changes in materials caused by heating and cooling.

(C) Force, motion, and energy. Students know that force and motion are related and that energy exists in many forms as a part of everyday life. Magnetism interacts with various materials and can be used as a push and pull. The students investigate the importance of heat and focus on changes caused by heating and cooling.

(D) Earth and space. Patterns, cycles, and systems are recognizable in the natural world and among objects in the sky. Students make informed choices by understanding weather and seasonal patterns. Students understand that natural resources on Earth, including rocks, soil, and water, are used by humans and can be conserved.

(E) Organisms and environments. All living organisms interact with living and nonliving things within their environments and use structures to meet their basic needs. Students know that organisms are interdependent and part of a food chain. The students investigate the life cycle of animals and identify likenesses between parents and young.

(2) Nature of science. Science, as defined by the National Academy of Sciences, is the "use of evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena, as well as the knowledge generated through this process." This vast body of changing and increasing knowledge is described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. Students should know that some questions are outside the realm of science because they deal with phenomena that are not currently scientifically testable.

(3) Scientific observations, inferences, hypotheses, and theories. Students are expected to know that:

(A) observations are active acquisition of either qualitative or quantitative information from a primary source through the senses;

(B) inferences are conclusions reached on the basis of observations or reasoning supported by relevant evidence;

(C) hypotheses are tentative and testable statements that must be capable of being supported or not supported by observational evidence. Hypotheses of durable explanatory power that have been tested over a wide variety of conditions are incorporated into theories; and

(D) scientific theories are based on natural and physical phenomena and are capable of being tested by multiple independent researchers. Unlike hypotheses,

scientific theories are well established and highly reliable explanations, but they may be subject to change as new areas of science and new technologies are developed.

(4) Science and social ethics. Scientific decision making is a way of answering questions about the natural world involving its own set of ethical standards about how the process of science should be carried out. Students distinguish between scientific decision-making practices and ethical and social decisions that involve science.

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. Science consists of recurring themes and making connections between overarching concepts. Recurring themes include structure and function, systems, models, and patterns. All systems have basic properties that can be described in space, time, energy, and matter. Change and constancy occur in systems as patterns and can be observed, measured, and modeled. Models have limitations but provide a tool for understanding the ideas presented. Students analyze a system in terms of its components and how these components relate to each other, to the whole, and to the external environment.

(6) Statements containing the word "including" reference content that must be mastered, while those containing the phrase "such as" are intended as possible illustrative examples.

(b) Knowledge and skills.

(1) Scientific and engineering practices. The student asks questions, identifies problems, and plans and safely conducts classroom, laboratory, and field investigations to answer questions, explain phenomena, or design solutions using appropriate tools and models. The student is expected to:

(A) ask questions and define problems based on observations or information from text, phenomena, models, or investigations;

(B) use scientific practices to plan and conduct simple descriptive investigations and use engineering practices to design solutions to problems;

(C) identify, describe, and demonstrate safe practices during classroom and field investigations as outlined in Texas Education Agency-approved safety standards;

(D) use tools, including hand lenses, goggles, heat-resistant gloves, trays, cups, bowls, beakers, sieves/sifters, tweezers, primary balance, notebooks, terrariums, aquariums, stream tables, soil samples (loam, sand, gravel, rocks, and clay), seeds, plants, windsock, pinwheel, student thermometer, demonstration thermometer, rain gauge, straws, ribbons, non-standard measuring items, flashlights, sandpaper, wax paper, items that are magnetic, non-magnetic items, a variety of magnets, hot plate, aluminum foil, Sun-Moon-Earth model, and plant and animal life cycle models to observe, measure, test, and compare;

(E) collect observations and measurements as evidence;

(F) record and organize data using pictures, numbers, words, symbols, and simple graphs; and

(G) develop and use models to represent phenomena, objects, and processes or design a prototype for a solution to a problem.

(2) Scientific and engineering practices. The student analyzes and interprets data to derive meaning, identify features and patterns, and discover relationships

or correlations to develop evidence-based arguments or evaluate designs. The student is expected to:

(A) identify basic advantages and limitations of models such as their size, properties, and materials;

(B) analyze data by identifying significant features and patterns;

(C) use mathematical concepts to compare two objects with common attributes; and

(D) evaluate a design or object using criteria to determine if it works as intended.

(3) Scientific and engineering practices. The student develops evidence-based explanations and communicates findings, conclusions, and proposed solutions. The student is expected to:

(A) develop explanations and propose solutions supported by data and models;

(B) communicate explanations and solutions individually and collaboratively in a variety of settings and formats; and

(C) listen actively to others' explanations to identify important evidence and engage respectfully in scientific discussion.

(4) Scientific and engineering practices. The student knows the contributions of scientists and recognizes the importance of scientific research and innovation for society. The student is expected to:

(A) explain how science or an innovation can help others; and

(B) identify scientists and engineers such as Katherine Johnson, Sally Ride, and Ernest Just and explore what different scientists and engineers do.

(5) Recurring themes and concepts. The student uses recurring themes and concepts to make connections across disciplines. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and use patterns to describe phenomena or design solutions;

(B) investigate and predict cause-and-effect relationships in science;

(C) describe the properties of objects in terms of relative size (scale) and relative quantity;

(D) examine the parts of a whole to define or model a system;

(E) identify forms of energy and properties of matter;

(F) describe the relationship between structure and function of objects, organisms, and systems; and

(G) describe how factors or conditions can cause objects, organisms, and systems to either change or stay the same.

(6) Matter and its properties. The student knows that objects have physical properties that determine how they are described and classified. The student is expected to:

(A) classify objects by observable physical properties, including, shape, color, and texture, and attributes such as larger and smaller and heavier and lighter;

(B) explain and predict changes in materials caused by heating and cooling; and

(C) demonstrate and explain that a whole object is a system made of organized parts such as a toy that can be taken apart and put back together.

(7) Force, motion, and energy. The student knows that forces cause changes in motion and position in everyday life. The student is expected to:

(A) explain how pushes and pulls can start, stop, or change the speed or direction of an object's motion; and

(B) plan and conduct a descriptive investigation that predicts how pushes and pulls can start, stop, or change the speed or direction of an object's motion.

(8) Force, motion, and energy. The student knows that energy is everywhere and can be observed in everyday life. The student is expected to:

(A) investigate and describe applications of heat in everyday life such as cooking food or using a clothes dryer; and

(B) describe how some changes caused by heat may be reversed such as melting butter and other changes cannot be reversed such as cooking an egg or baking a cake.

(9) Earth and space. The student knows that the natural world has recognizable patterns. The student is expected to describe and predict the patterns of seasons of the year such as order of occurrence and changes in nature.

(10) Earth and space. The student knows that the natural world includes earth materials that can be observed in systems and processes. The student is expected to:

(A) investigate and document the properties of particle size, shape, texture, and color and the components of different types of soils such as topsoil, clay, and sand;

(B) investigate and describe how water can move rock and soil particles from one place to another;

(C) compare the properties of puddles, ponds, streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans, including color, clarity, size, shape, and whether it is freshwater or saltwater; and

(D) describe and record observable characteristics of weather, including hot or cold, clear or cloudy, calm or windy, and rainy or icy, and explain the impact of weather on daily choices.

(11) Earth and space. The student knows that earth materials and products made from these materials are important to everyday life. The student is expected to:

(A) identify and describe how plants, animals, and humans use rocks, soil, and water;

(B) explain why water conservation is important; and

(C) describe ways to conserve water such as turning off the faucet when brushing teeth and protect natural sources of water such as keeping trash out of bodies of water.

(12) Organisms and environments. The student knows that the environment is composed of relationships between living organisms and nonliving components. The student is expected to:

(A) classify living and nonliving things based upon whether they have basic needs and produce young;

(B) describe and record examples of interactions and dependence between living and nonliving components in terrariums or aquariums; and

(C) identify and illustrate how living organisms depend on each other through food chains.

(13) Organisms and environments. The student knows that organisms resemble their parents and have structures and undergo processes that help them interact and survive within their environments. The student is expected to:

(A) identify the external structures of different animals and compare how those structures help different animals live, move, and meet basic needs for survival;

(B) record observations of and describe basic life cycles of animals, including a bird, a mammal, and a fish; and

(C) compare ways that young animals resemble their parents.

TEKS Second Grade ELAR

(b) Knowledge and skills.

(1) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, discussion, and thinking--oral language. The student develops oral language through listening, speaking, and discussion. The student is expected to:

(A) listen actively, ask relevant questions to clarify information, and answer questions using multi-word responses;

(B) follow, restate, and give oral instructions that involve a short, related sequence of actions;

(C) share information and ideas that focus on the topic under discussion, speaking clearly at an appropriate pace and using the conventions of language;

(D) work collaboratively with others by following agreed-upon rules for discussion, including listening to others, speaking when recognized, making appropriate contributions, and building on the ideas of others; and

(E) develop social communication such as distinguishing between asking and telling.

(2) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--beginning reading and writing. The student develops word structure knowledge through phonological awareness, print concepts, phonics, and morphology to communicate, decode, and spell. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate phonological awareness by:

(i) producing a series of rhyming words;

(ii) distinguishing between long and short vowel sounds in one-syllable and multi-syllable words;

(iii) recognizing the change in spoken word when a specified phoneme is added, changed, or removed; and

(iv) manipulating phonemes within base words;

(B) demonstrate and apply phonetic knowledge by:

(i) decoding words with short, long, or variant vowels, trigraphs, and blends;

(ii) decoding words with silent letters such as knife and gnat;

(iii) decoding multisyllabic words with closed syllables; open syllables; VCe syllables; vowel teams, including digraphs and diphthongs; r-controlled syllables; and final stable syllables;

(iv) decoding compound words, contractions, and common abbreviations;

(v) decoding words using knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VCCV, VCV, and VCCCV;

(vi) decoding words with prefixes, including un-, re-, and dis-, and inflectional endings, including -s, -es, -ed, -ing, -er, and -est; and
(vii) identifying and reading high-frequency words from a research-based list;

(C) demonstrate and apply spelling knowledge by:

(i) spelling one-syllable and multisyllabic words with closed syllables; open syllables; VCe syllables; vowel teams, including digraphs and diphthongs; r-controlled syllables; and final stable syllables;
(ii) spelling words with silent letters such as knife and gnat;
(iii) spelling compound words, contractions, and common abbreviations;
(iv) spelling multisyllabic words with multiple sound-spelling patterns;
(v) spelling words using knowledge of syllable division patterns, including words with double consonants in the middle of the word; and
(vi) spelling words with prefixes, including un-, re-, and dis-, and inflectional endings, including -s, -es, -ed, -ing, -er, and -est;

(D) alphabetize a series of words and use a dictionary or glossary to find words; and

(E) develop handwriting by accurately forming all cursive letters using appropriate strokes when connecting letters.

(3) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively. The student is expected to:

(A) use print or digital resources to determine meaning and pronunciation of unknown words;

(B) use context within and beyond a sentence to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words;

(C) identify the meaning of and use words with affixes un-, re-, -ly, -er, and -est (comparative and superlative), and -ion/tion/sion; and

(D) identify, use, and explain the meaning of antonyms, synonyms, idioms, and homographs in context.

(4) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--fluency. The student reads grade-level text with fluency and comprehension. The student is expected to use appropriate fluency (rate, accuracy, and prosody) when reading grade-level text.

(5) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--self-sustained reading. The student reads grade-appropriate texts independently. The student is expected to self-select text and read independently for a sustained period of time.

(6) Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts. The student is expected to:

(A) establish purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts;

(B) generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information;

(C) make and correct or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;

(D) create mental images to deepen understanding;

(E) make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society;

(F) make inferences and use evidence to support understanding;

(G) evaluate details read to determine key ideas;

(H) synthesize information to create new understanding; and

(I) monitor comprehension and make adjustments such as re-reading, using background knowledge, checking for visual cues, and asking questions when understanding breaks down.

(7) Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed. The student is expected to:

(A) describe personal connections to a variety of sources;

(B) write brief comments on literary or informational texts that demonstrate an understanding of the text;

(C) use text evidence to support an appropriate response;

(D) retell and paraphrase texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;

(E) interact with sources in meaningful ways such as illustrating or writing; and

(F) respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate.

(8) Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--literary elements. The student recognizes and analyzes literary elements within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse literary texts. The student is expected to:

(A) discuss topics and determine theme using text evidence with adult assistance;

(B) describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits;

(C) describe and understand plot elements, including the main events, the conflict, and the resolution, for texts read aloud and independently; and

(D) describe the importance of the setting.

(9) Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student recognizes and analyzes genre-specific characteristics, structures, and purposes within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse texts. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing characteristics of well-known children's literature such as folktales, fables, and fairy tales;

(B) explain visual patterns and structures in a variety of poems;

(C) discuss elements of drama such as characters, dialogue, and setting;

(D) recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including:

(i) the central idea and supporting evidence with adult assistance;

(ii) features and graphics to locate and gain information; and

(iii) organizational patterns such as chronological order and cause and effect stated explicitly;

(E) recognize characteristics of persuasive text, including:

(i) stating what the author is trying to persuade the reader to think or do; and

(ii) distinguishing facts from opinion; and

(F) recognize characteristics of multimodal and digital texts.

(10) Author's purpose and craft: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses critical inquiry to analyze the authors' choices and how they influence and communicate meaning within a variety of texts. The student analyzes and applies author's craft purposefully in order to develop his or her own products and performances. The student is expected to:

(A) discuss the author's purpose for writing text;

(B) discuss how the use of text structure contributes to the author's purpose;

(C) discuss the author's use of print and graphic features to achieve specific purposes;

(D) discuss the use of descriptive, literal, and figurative language;

(E) identify the use of first or third person in a text; and

(F) identify and explain the use of repetition.

(11) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to:

(A) plan a first draft by generating ideas for writing such as drawing and brainstorming;

(B) develop drafts into a focused piece of writing by:

(i) organizing with structure; and

(ii) developing an idea with specific and relevant details;

(C) revise drafts by adding, deleting, or rearranging words, phrases, or sentences;

(D) edit drafts using standard English conventions, including:

(i) complete sentences with subject-verb agreement;

(ii) past, present, and future verb tense;

(iii) singular, plural, common, and proper nouns;

(iv) adjectives, including articles;

(v) adverbs that convey time and adverbs that convey place;

(vi) prepositions and prepositional phrases;

(vii) pronouns, including subjective, objective, and possessive cases;

(viii) coordinating conjunctions to form compound subjects and predicates;

(ix) capitalization of months, days of the week, and the salutation and conclusion of a letter;

(x) end punctuation, apostrophes in contractions, and commas with items in a series and in dates; and

(xi) correct spelling of words with grade-appropriate orthographic patterns and rules and high-frequency words; and

(E) publish and share writing.

(12) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student uses genre characteristics and craft to compose multiple texts that are meaningful. The student is expected to:

(A) compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry;

(B) compose informational texts, including procedural texts and reports; and

(C) compose correspondence such as thank you notes or letters.

(13) Inquiry and research: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student engages in both short-term and sustained recursive inquiry processes for a variety of purposes. The student is expected to:

- (A) generate questions for formal and informal inquiry with adult assistance;
- (B) develop and follow a research plan with adult assistance;
- (C) identify and gather relevant sources and information to answer the questions;
- (D) identify primary and secondary sources;
- (E) demonstrate understanding of information gathered;
- (F) cite sources appropriately; and
- (G) use an appropriate mode of delivery, whether written, oral, or multimodal, to present results.