

## Welcome to The Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)



Georgia has a long history as a leader in promoting early learning and development outcomes for children. Georgia introduced its latest set of high-quality, research-based early learning standards for children birth to age five called the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). The GELDS promote quality learning experiences for children and address the question, "What should children from birth to age five know and be able to do?" They are a set of appropriate, attainable standards that are flexible enough to support children's individual rates of development, approaches to learning, and cultural context. The GELDS are a continuum of skills, behaviors, and concepts that children develop throughout this time of life. They are divided into age groups and serve as a framework for learning. The GELDS are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for K-12, and the Work Sampling System.

The GELDS support the growth of the whole child, birth to five.

<p><b>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MOTOR SKILLS</b> PDM</p>  	<p><b>SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b> SED</p>  	<p><b>APPROACHES TO PLAY AND LEARNING</b> APL</p>  	<p><b>COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY</b> CLL</p>  	<p><b>COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE</b> CD</p>  
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The purposes of the GELDS are to:

- Guide teachers who work with children from birth through five in providing quality learning experiences;
- Guide parents in supporting their children's growth, development, and learning potential;
- Lay the groundwork for applying the standards in pre-service training, professional development, curriculum planning, and child outcome documentation;
- Create a "Universal Language" for all stakeholders to use regarding the learning and development of children. Stakeholders would include parents, teachers, pediatricians, early interventionists, policy-makers, etc;
- Raise public awareness about the significance of the early years as the foundation for school success and lifelong learning and the importance of the teacher's role in the process; and
- Support the early identification and referral of children with special learning needs.

Visit [www.qualityrated.org](http://www.qualityrated.org) to find quality early learning programs that are using the GELDS in your area.





**Select Domain:**

Physical Development and Motor Skills (PDM)

Social and Emotional Development (SED)

Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)

Communication, Language, and Literacy (CLL)

Cognitive Development and General Knowledge (CD)

*For printable GELDS documents click on the Resources tab*



Hide Filters

Start Over

Select Domain:

Physical Development and Motor Skills (PDM)

Social and Emotional Development (SED)

Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)

Communication, Language, and Literacy (CLL)

Cognitive Development and General Knowledge (CD)

Select Age Group:

ALL  0 - 12 Months  12 - 24 Months  24 - 36 Months  36 - 48 Months  48 - 60 Months

For printable GELDS documents click on the Resources tab

Standards by Strand:

Click on the standards below to view the age appropriate indicators.

[expand all](#)

1. Health and Well-Being

– Standard: PDM1 - The child will practice healthy and safe habits.

Age Appropriate Indicators:

Click on indicators to view.

0 - 12 Months	12 - 24 Months	24 - 36 Months	36 - 48 Months	48 - 60 Months
<b>PDM1.0a</b> Sleeps well and shows alertness during waking periods.	<b>PDM1.1a</b> Sleeps well and wakes rested.	<b>PDM1.2a</b> Sleeps well, wakes rested and ready for daily activities.	<b>PDM1.3a</b> Stays awake except during nap time.	<b>PDM1.4a</b> Stays awake and alert except during voluntary nap time.
<b>PDM1.0b</b> Initiates active play and engages in some physical activity.	<b>PDM1.1b</b> Actively participates in physical activity for three to five minutes at a time.	<b>PDM1.2b</b> Actively participates in games, outdoor play, and other forms of physical activity for sustained periods of time.	<b>PDM1.3b</b> Actively participates in a variety of both structured and unstructured indoor and outdoor physical activities for a sustained period of time.	<b>PDM1.4b</b> Actively participates in a variety of both structured and unstructured indoor and outdoor activities for a sustained period of time that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility.
<b>PDM1.0c</b> Responds to verbal or physical signals of danger.	<b>PDM1.1c</b> Identifies and tries to avoid dangers with assistance.	<b>PDM1.2c</b> Pays attention to simple safety instructions and avoids dangers with assistance.	<b>PDM1.3c</b> Independently shows awareness of dangerous situations and responds with some knowledge of safety instructions.	<b>PDM1.4c</b> Consistently follows basic safety rules and anticipates consequences of not following safety rules.
<b>PDM1.0d</b> Reacts to simple directions to support safety.	<b>PDM1.1d</b> Communicates beginning understanding of dangerous situations.	<b>PDM1.2d</b> Verbalizes simple safety rules.	<b>PDM1.3d</b> Communicates to peers and adults when dangerous situations are observed.	<b>PDM1.4d</b> Communicates the importance of safety rules.
<b>PDM1.0e</b> Shows beginning awareness of personal health needs and self-care needs.	<b>PDM1.1e</b> Makes adult aware of personal and health needs and seeks assistance.	<b>PDM1.2e</b> Attends to personal health routines and self-care needs with some assistance from an adult.	<b>PDM1.3e</b> Attends to personal health needs and self-care needs independently.	<b>PDM1.4e</b> Identifies the importance of and participates in activities related to health and self-care needs.
				<b>PDM1.4f</b> Can name people who keep them safe and healthy.

+ Standard: PDM2 - The child will participate in activities related to nutrition.

2. Use of Senses

+ Standard: PDM3 - The child will demonstrate an awareness of the body in space and child's relationship to objects in space.

+ Standard: PDM4 - The child will use senses (sight, touch, hearing, smell, and taste) to explore the environment and process information.

3. Motor Skills

+ Standard: PDM5 - The child will demonstrate gross motor skills.

+ Standard: PDM6 - The child will demonstrate fine motor skills.



## GELDS Resources

### Supplemental GELDS Resources

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is pleased to offer a variety of supplemental resources to support early learning programs in implementing the GELDS. The resources are available at no cost; however, customers will be responsible for fulfillment and shipping charges. Click the link below to visit the e-store. RR Donnelley manages the e-store, fulfills and ships orders for DECAL.

Please note that the e-store site is **NOT** compatible with mobile devices. First time visitors to the e-store must create an account in order to explore the available resources. There is no charge to create an account.

To place an order go to: <http://custompoint.rrd.com/DECAL>

### Resources to Support Home Learning

- Emotions with CALi Placemat
- Family Tips for Math
- Family Tips for Reading
- Fine Motor Placemat
- Free Educational Resources for Kids
- Fun Game Placemat
- Fun Learning Activities for Kids at Home
- Get Georgia Reading-Digital Books
- Get Georgia Reading
- Home Learning Activity Calendar
- Home Learning Ideas
- Literacy Placemat
- Math Placemat
- Non-Screen Learning Activities
- Phonological Awareness Placemat
- Positive Behavior at Home Tipsheet
- Reading Screen Learning Activities At Home
- Reading Tip Sheet
- Simple and Fun Ideas to Keep Your Young Child Learning
- Talking with Your Children about COVID-19
- Technology Tools

### COVID-19 Resources in Spanish

- Covid-19 Resources in Spanish
- Positive Behavior at Home Tipsheet in Spanish
- Talking with your Children about COVID-19 in Spanish

### PEACH Resources

PEACH Phase 2 Overview [wmv]



### Informational Webinars

#### 1. Introduction



#### 2. GELDS and Child Care



#### 3. Pre-K Teachers



#### 4. Pre-K Administrators



#### 5. Communication, Language and Literacy for Infants and Toddlers



#### 6. Physical Development and Motor Skills for Infants and Toddlers



#### 7. Approaches to Play and Learning for Infants and Toddlers



#### 8. Science for Infants and Toddlers



#### 9. Pre-K Parent Orientation



#### 10. GELDS and Quality Rated



### Printable GELDS Documents



GELDS Resource Guide for Birth to Five



GELDS Resource Guide for 3-and 4-year-olds



### GELDS Presentations

- GELDS Overview
- GELDS - GSE Alignment

### Lesson Plan Templates

These lesson plan templates are for birth to five teachers who are not Georgia Pre-K Program teachers. All Georgia Pre-K Program teachers are required to use the lesson plan templates located at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/PreK/Planning.aspx>

- Lesson Plan Template 1
- Lesson Plan Template 2
- Lesson Plan Template 3
- Lesson Plan Template 4
- Lesson Plan Template 5 8.5" x 14" Legal Size

### (DIY) Summer School for Families

- What is Summer Learning Loss?
- GELDS (DIY) Summer School
- GELDS (DIY) Summer School Activity Calendar June 2017
- GELDS (DIY) Summer School Activity Calendar July 2017

### Helpful Links

- Dual Language Learners: Research Informing Policy
- How to Help Your Child Learn to Share
- How to Help Your Child Learn to Trade
- How to Help Your Child Manage Time and Understand Expectations
- School readiness development from birth by National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families.
- "What Works" Practice Guide: Teaching Math to Young Children [The Institute of Education Sciences' What Works Clearinghouse, November 2013]
- Math in the Early Years [The Progress of Education Reform, Vol. 14, No.5, October 2013]
- National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Position Statement on Early Childhood Science Education



## GELDS Training

### GELDS Training Sessions Update:

All Georgia Resource & Referral agencies are offering a GELDS training course called **Standards 101: How to Use the GELDS**. Programs can sign up for GELDS training through their local R&R Agency. If you are unsure which R&R agency serves your region, go to <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/CCRRSystem.aspx?r=QI> for more information.

### Writing Intentional Teaching Plans for Infants Using the GELDS

Infant Lesson Planning podcast

age appropriate  
open-ended materials

Watch on YouTube

Copy link

### Writing Intentional Teaching Plans for Toddlers Using the GELDS

Toddler Lesson Planning Podcast

Watch on YouTube

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### Writing Intentional Teaching Plans for Preschoolers Using the GELDS

Preschooler Lesson Planning podcast

Watch on YouTube

Copy link



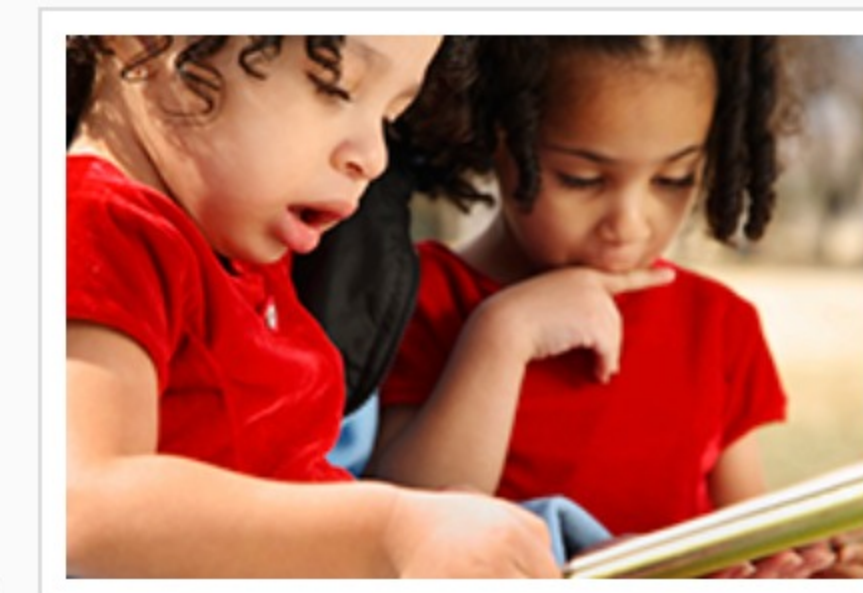
## About GELDS

For over two decades, the K-12 education system has embraced standards-based learning as an integral part of ensuring student success. Recognizing the importance of standards-based learning, Georgia has served as a pioneer in generating thoughtful and appropriate standards for children at all age levels. Georgia’s Early Learning Standards (GELS) and Pre-K Content Standards were developed to improve child outcomes in early care and learning programs and to promote high-quality early education programming for all children.

However, developments such as the implementation of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for K-12 and revision of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework have called additional attention to the importance of high-quality standards for children’s learning and development.

Georgia answered this call for higher quality standards by commissioning a year-long analysis of its early learning standards to determine their comprehensiveness and alignment with other documents, such as the CCGPS for Kindergarten, the Head Start Framework, and Work Sampling Online. Drs. Sharon Lynn Kagan of Columbia University and Catherine Scott-Little of UNC-G conducted the analysis. As a result of their recommendations, Georgia drafted a new set of standards called the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) for children birth to age 5. To access the GELDS, please visit [www.gelds.dec.state.ga.us](http://www.gelds.dec.state.ga.us).

If you have additional questions, contact the Instructional Learning Manager at [GELDS@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:GELDS@dec.state.ga.us) or (404) 657-1778.



[Comment On GELDS](#)

## About DECAL

Bright from the Start is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages Quality Rated, Georgia’s community powered child care rating system.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education.

