

## Training Guide:

### Incorporating the South Carolina Early Learning Standards into Your Training

The **SC Early Learning Standards (SC-ELS)** is a resource used to describe the goals established for children's learning and development from birth to 5 years old. Below you will find communication points to include within training sessions in the introduction, purpose, and domains section. Please use this guide within all content based trainings.

#### **Introduction**

- The South Carolina Early Learning Standards (SC-ELS) is a resource developed to describe the goals South Carolina has established for children's learning and development from birth to 5 years old.
- The goals and developmental indicators describe what is expected of high quality care and education of all young children in the state of South Carolina.
- The SC-ELS was based on current research in child development and produced by an interagency collaboration of professionals in areas related to young children's growth and development.
- The goals and developmental indicators describe what is expected of high quality care and education of all young children in the state of South Carolina.
- The SC-ELS was based on current research in child development and produced by an interagency collaboration of professionals in areas related to young children's growth and development.

#### **Purpose of SC-ELS**

The SC-ELS should be used to:

- Guide teachers and caregivers in the development of appropriate curriculum.
- Provide a framework for implementing high quality early care and education programs.
- Encourage and promote family and community involvement in young children's success.
- Foster an integrated approach to early learning that reflects the diversity of children and families served in SC.

The SC-ELS should not be used to:

- Serve as a checklist of competencies or evaluation tool.
- Serve as stand-alone curriculum or program.
- Emphasize child outcomes over program requirements.
- Limit or exclude children from learning opportunities.

#### **Six Domains of SC-ELS**

1. Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)
2. Emotional and Social Development (ESD)
3. Health and Physical Development (HPD)

4. Language Development and Communication (LDC)
5. Mathematical Thinking and Expression (MTE)
6. Cognitive Development (CD)

### Developing a Training Outline

The activities and outline of all certified content-based trainings must incorporate the SC-ELS. Trainings will be scored on the following criteria based on information provided on the *Training Outline Format*.

The score sheet requirements for the SC-ELS are:

- **Referenced within the learning objectives** – objectives should specifically relate to the goal of a domain or subdomain.
- **Specifically referenced in the training outline** – trainer must intentionally reference the ELS within their training sessions. Example, a trainer developing a session regarding math activities would use the ELS as a reference tool as well as include specific information within the outline such as domain information and strategies.
- **Properly cited** – (correct alpha/numeric code) For example, when referencing a standard: APL-2f - this includes the domain of Approaches to Play and Learning (APL), the goal number (2), and the indicator letter (f). For more information, review pages 7-14.
- **Content/domain meets the identified topic area** – content should align with the DSS topic areas (Curriculum, Growth & Development, Health & Safety, Nutrition, Child Guidance, Special Needs).
- **Addresses age/developmentally appropriate practice** – Content should align with the age identified as the target audience. The content should also show the continuum of development across the age range. For example, a training session targeted for infants and toddlers should include age range information from 0-3.
- **Includes information & practices for children that are culturally, linguistically, and/or ability diverse** – Information and strategies are identified within the ELS document that provides guidance within this requirement.

Examples of each SC-ELS training outline requirement can be found on the *SAMPLE Training Outline Form*.

Please note: Program Administration and Professional Development topic areas are exempt from SC-ELS requirements for content-based trainings unless training is a general training about the SC-ELS.

#### **Citing the South Carolina Early Learning Standards:**

South Carolina Early Learning standards Interagency Stakeholder Group. (2017). *South Carolina Early Learning Standards*. Columbia: Author