California's
Early Learning and Development System

Program Guidelines & Resources

Curriculum Framework

Learning & Development Foundations

Professional Development

Desired Results Assessment System

California Department of Education, Child Development Division

Element 1: At the center of the system are the *Learning and Development Foundations* that describe the learning and development that preschool children typically demonstrate with appropriate support at around 48 and 60 months of age. Having statewide foundations provides all teachers and programs with knowledge of the expectations and goals for children in California to use as they plan activities, the environment, and interactions.

Element 2: Infant and Toddler and Prekindergarten Learning and Development Guidelines presents information about how to provide high-quality early care and education, including recommendations for program policies and day-to-day practices that will improve program services.
In addition, the *Preschool English Learner Guide* provides teachers with the knowledge and tools they seek to educate preschool English learners most effectively.

Element 3: Curriculum Framework is a new component under development. These publications are a resource for teachers to support them in setting up environments, selecting appropriate materials, supporting children's self initiated play and learning, and planning and implementing teacher guided learning activities. They are not a curriculum. In California that is a local decision.

Element 4: The fourth component of the system is the Desired Results System. It is a continuous improvement system that is intended to improve program quality. The system consists of the Desired Results Developmental Profile, which measures children's progress towards the Desired Results, the parent survey which measures parents satisfaction with the program, the Environment Rating Scales which assesses the classroom environment, and the program self evaluation which assesses program quality.

Element 5: In California numerous professional development opportunities are available to assist programs. These include PITC, CPIN, CALSAC, Family Child Care at Its Best, the mentor programs, pre-service, the Faculty Initiative Project, the training consortium and the Desired Results Training and Technical Assistance Project.