



California Department of Education • Sacramento, 2015

Current Issues in Early Childhood Education: Unit 1, Key Topic 1

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

California Preschool Program Guidelines, Chapter 1, pp. 3-11: General Issues

- Benefits of high-quality preschool programs
- Societal benefits of investing in early childhood education programs

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California Preschool Program Guidelines, Chapter 1, pp. 3-11: General Issues

- Research on brain development and implications for young children's learning and development
- Key features of preschool relevant to young children's school readiness and long-term achievement

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California Preschool Program Guidelines, Chapter 1, pp. 11-15

Issues and Initiatives in California

- Demographics—including young dual language learners, socioeconomic status of families, and children with disabilities or other special needs
- Readiness gap and California's children

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California Preschool Program Guidelines, Chapter I, pp. 11-15

Issues and Initiatives in California

- Desired Results assessment system
- California preschool learning foundations

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General Issues in Early Childhood Education and the California Context

Record the key points for your designated pages, and then share your key points with the other members of your group. Discuss with your group what the key message(s) and research highlight(s) should be for each section.

Section 1: "... issues that are central to early childhood and preschool education throughout the United States." (pp. 3-11)

Evidence from Research (benefits of ECE programs)	The Need for High-Quality Preschool Programs	Early Childhood Investments and Societal Impacts	Recent Research on Brain Development	School Readiness

Key message(s):

Research highlight(s):

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- What key points do you remember from your group's discussion of the chapter? Which main message? Which research highlight?
- Describe how your group decided on the main messages and research highlights. What was easy about the process? What was more challenging?

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- What relationships do you see between the two major sections of the chapter?
- What are implications from this chapter for your program or community?

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- Which ideas stood out most for you?
- What seemed familiar or reinforced what you already know or have experienced?
- What gave you a new perspective or insight that causes you to think differently about teaching preschool children and/or engaging their families?

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- Why do you think the content of this class session was presented the way it was? How did this approach help you understand the content? What else would have helped?
- What does this tell you about how you learn?

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- How will you decide what to apply from this class session in your work with preschool children and families?
- What will you do to ensure you will implement what you have decided to use?