

California
Preschool Program
Guidelines


California Department of Education • Sacramento, 2015

Current Issues in Early Childhood Education: Unit 1, Key Topic 3

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

“Recent Research on Brain Development”



California Preschool Program Guidelines, p. 6-10

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

- The Science of Early Childhood Development (p. 7)
- NIEER Preschool Policy Brief - Connecting Neurons, Concepts, and People: Brain Development and Its Implications (p. 8)
- The Bilingual Brain: What Is Known from Neuroscience (p. 9)

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

InBrief Articles from the Center on the Developing Child

The InBrief articles are from the Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University. Some of the InBrief articles also are available in Spanish and/or have a video version, as noted for each article.

- InBrief: The Science of Early Childhood Development (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-science-of-ecd/> (accessed January 20, 2016)
- InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-impact-of-early-adversity-on-childrens-development/> (accessed January 20, 2016)
- InBrief: Early Childhood Program Effectiveness (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-early-childhood-program-effectiveness/> (accessed January 20, 2016)
- InBrief: The Foundations of Lifelong Health (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-foundations-of-lifelong-health/> (accessed January 20, 2016)
- InBrief: Executive Function: Skills for Life and Learning (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-executive-function/> (accessed January 20, 2016)
- InBrief: Early Childhood Mental Health (Spanish, Video)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-early-childhood-mental-health/> (accessed January 20, 2016)

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- What words or phrases did you note as particularly interesting?
- What information was new to you?
- Why is it important for preschool teachers to be aware of this research on brain development?

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

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- ✓ Develop a role-play in which you are speaking at a school board or city council meeting.
- ✓ Include a 3-minute presentation followed by a few questions from the policymakers.
- ✓ Create a one-page fact sheet to distribute prior to your presentation.
- ✓ One person should be the speaker and the others the policymakers.

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- ✓ Develop a short presentation and information sheet for family members.
- ✓ One student can role-play being the teacher, and the other students can be family members.
- ✓ Provide copies of your information sheet to the class.

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- Which facts from the research briefs do you remember?
- Which ones were the most intriguing to you?

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- How did preparing a presentation for policymakers or families help you understand the significance of the research on early brain development?
- What key messages from the research will you remember and apply as a preschool teacher?

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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?

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Write an annotation of one article, including:

- ✓ Full citation for the article
- ✓ Summary
 - Main point(s)
 - Topic(s) covered
 - Main argument(s)

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✓ Assessment

- Goal or purpose of the article
- Usefulness as a resource
- Reliability of the information

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✓ Reflection

- Applicability of the information to your practice
- Changes in your thinking or understanding based on the article
- Recommendation of the article to colleagues

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