



California
Preschool Program
Guidelines

California Department of Education • Sacramento, 2015

Current Issues in Early Childhood Education: Unit 1, Key Topic 5

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Current Issues in Early Childhood Education

Chapter 1, California Preschool Program Guidelines, pages 11–15:

- The California Context (pp. 11–12)
- Readiness Gap (p. 12)
- Desired Results for Children and Families (pp. 12–15)
- Overview of Preschool Learning Foundations (p. 15)

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Find similar demographic data for the county, using:

- Kidsdata.org - Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

<http://www.kidsdata.org/>

- KIDS COUNT data center – Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

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- Children Now
<http://www.childrennow.org/>
- California Department of Education DataQuest
<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>

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Data can include:

- Total population
- Number of children
 - under the age of five by ethnicity
 - with home languages other than English
 - in linguistically isolated households
- Number of languages spoken in public schools

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Data can include:

- Number of children enrolled in preschool
- Number of children living in low-income families and in poverty (include definition of low income and poverty)
- Number of children with disabilities or special needs
- Other interesting data

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- Develop a 5–10 minute class presentation of your data findings.
- Include how the county data compares with the state data.
- Explain why this information is important to your role as a preschool teacher in ensuring high quality in your program.

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- What information from your research stands out the most for you? What information from your classmates' findings was the most interesting?
- What data was the easiest to find? What was more challenging?

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- Was the information about your county what you expected? Where were there some surprises? What was of particular concern?
- What might you do differently as a preschool teacher based on what you learned about your county?

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Choose one topic from Chapter I for more in-depth study:

- Readiness Gap
- Desired Results for Children and Families
- Overview of Preschool Learning Foundations

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Readiness Gap

- Research the California Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) program.
- Write a summary of what it is and how it is addressing the school readiness gap.
- If you live/work in one of the 16 RTT-ELC counties, interview a staff member of the lead organization.

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Desired Results for Children and Families

- Review information about the California Department of Education's Desired Results and the Desired Results Web site: <https://desiredresults.us/>.
- Write a 2 to 3 page paper describing how the Desired Results system is designed to improve program quality.

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Overview of Preschool Learning Foundations

- Provide a review of the content and background of the 9 domains in the preschool learning foundations.
- Summarize the 5 domains of school readiness.