



## The Preschool Child

Chapter 2 focuses on the importance of understanding children's development and learning in the preschool years and includes:

- Factors that influence development and learning (pp. 19–22).
- How the California preschool learning foundations describe development and learning progressions (pp. 22–32).

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Chapter 2 also includes:

- The 9 domains of the California Preschool Learning Foundations and how they align with the National Education Goals Panel’s Five Essential Domains for School Readiness (pp. 22–32).
- How play is an essential context for preschool learning and development (pp. 32–33).

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Table 2.1. Alignment of the Five Essential Domains of School Readiness with Nine California Preschool Learning Foundations

Five Essential Domains of School Readiness	California Preschool Learning Foundations
1. Social-Emotional Development	• Social-Emotional Development
2. Language and Literacy Development	• Language and Literacy • English-Language Development <sup>1</sup>
3. Cognition and General Knowledge	• Mathematics • Science • History-Social Science • Visual and Performing Arts
4. Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	• Physical Development • Health
5. Approaches Toward Learning	• Social-Emotional Development • Science

*California Preschool Program Guidelines, Page 23*

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Factors that influence learning and development in the early years, include:

- The integrated nature of early development.
- Individual differences.



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### Developmental Domains

- Social–Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- English–Language Development
- Mathematics
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Physical Development
- Health
- History–Social Science
- Science

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	Learning is integrated	Individual differences affect what and how we learn
	<p>Think of how some activities that you do routinely require integrating skills and knowledge from several of the developmental domains in the foundations.</p> <p>Examples: cooking, driving, performing daily health routines, shopping, organizing an event</p>	<p>Are there ways in which we approach these activities that are different from other students?</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we cook? With whom?</li> <li>• Who taught us to drive?</li> <li>• What are our daily health routines—washing hands, brushing teeth, bathing?</li> <li>• How do we organize our shopping?</li> </ul>
Self		
Student 1		
Student 2		

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### Consider your own experiences:

- Learning is integrated.
- Individual differences affect what and how we learn.



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## The Preschool Child

### **Consider your own experiences:**

- List daily activities you perform as an adult.
- What knowledge and skills are needed to carry out those activities?
- Identify which developmental domains include those skills and knowledge.

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- What stands out for you from comparing responses?
- Where did you discover similarities? Differences?
- What might account for these differences? Family, language, or community differences? Different learned approaches?

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- Did you discover different strategies for approaching a problem to be solved or in organizing a complex task?
- Were there some things that one person liked and another did not?
- Did you discover strengths and challenges among students in each group?