

Guiding Principles for the Full Participation of Young Children, Birth through Age Eight, in New Mexico's Early Learning System

Every child in New Mexico has diverse strengths rooted in his or her family's unique culture, heritage, language, beliefs, and circumstances. Early learning programs that support the full participation of every child build on these strengths by promoting a sense of belonging, supporting positive social relationships, and enabling families and professionals to gain advocacy skills that positively impact the life of every child.

We believe that . . .

- Every child has unique gifts and abilities that are to be celebrated and nurtured
- The early years hold enormous promise for every child to reach his or her full potential
- Every child learns within the context of relationships and through playful interactions within their environment
- Every child and his or her family deserve equitable access to appropriate services and supports that acknowledge their uniqueness and enable them to reach their full potential

Therefore, we are committed to . . .

- Valuing and embracing all children and their families
- Involving families and communities as partners and decision makers
- Suspending biases to build trust and establish collaborative partnerships that benefit children, their families and the professionals who work with them
- Providing choice, flexibility, and continuity of services and supports for families within communities
- Making a variety of services and support available so all children have access to and can participate in opportunities that are both respectful of and responsive to their family experiences, culture, beliefs, abilities, and circumstances
- Advancing advocacy efforts for inclusive practices that build upon unique child, family, and community strengths and are accountable to every child and their family

We will . . .

- Promote every New Mexico citizen's understanding of the importance of high quality inclusive early childhood programs and practices
- Support interactions and relationships that foster self reflection
- Utilize information about the growth, development, and experiences of individual children and families for program and curriculum development and improvement
- Continuously improve services and supports by evaluating current practices and incorporating effective methods, models, and research in our work with children and families
- Promote the establishment of aligned services and supports that build on both the unique assets of each child and acknowledge the strengths of children's and families' heritage, language, and culture
- Ensure that services and supports are provided by people who reflect the diversity of the community, are well educated, and are well compensated
- Establish an integrated, multi-disciplinary system of professional development, training, and technical assistance that supports the design, implementation, and evaluation of practices that are respectful of and responsive to each child and family