

The **SC Early Learning Standards** provide a framework for parents and educators to understand the skills children need to have to be ready to thrive in school. The standards are grouped across six domains of development:

- Approaches to Play and Learning (APL)
- Emotional and Social Development (ESD)
- Health and Physical Development (HPD)
- Language Development and Communication (LDC)
- Mathematical Thinking and Expression (MTE)
- Cognitive Development (CD)

Each month, we choose one standard and give it special attention throughout our programs, incorporating age-appropriate learning materials and activities into our work.

**JANUARY** | Children identify, manage, and express their feelings. (*Learning about Feelings, ESD-6*)

**FEBRUARY** | Children demonstrate self-expression and creativity in a variety of forms and contexts, including play, visual arts, music, drama, and dance. (*Creative Expression, CD-5*)

**MARCH** | Children demonstrate a beginning understanding of algebraic thinking by sorting, describing, extending, and creating simple patterns during play and other activities. (*Foundations for Algebraic Thinking, MTE-3*)

**APRIL** | Children engage in increasingly complex play. (*Play and Imagination, APL-3*)

**MAY** | Children express positive feelings about themselves and confidence in what they can do. (*Developing a Sense of Self, ESD-2*)

**JUNE** | Children use most grammatical constructions of their home language well. (*Learning to Communicate, LDC-6*)

**JULY** | Children begin to identify, describe, classify and understand shape, size, direction and movement during play and other activities. (*Foundations for Geometry and Spatial Understanding, MTE-4*)

**AUGUST** | Children form relationships and interact positively with other children. (*Developing a Sense of Self With Others, ESD-4*)

**SEPTEMBER** | Children develop awareness of their needs and the ability to communicate their needs. (*Self-Care, HPD-6*)

**OCTOBER** | Children show curiosity and express interest in the world around them. (*Curiosity, Information-Seeking, and Eagerness, APL-1*)

**NOVEMBER** | Children demonstrate a positive sense of self-identity and self-awareness. (*Developing a Sense of Self, ESD-1*)

**DECEMBER** | Children develop phonological awareness. (*Foundations for Reading, LDC-11*)

