

North Dakota Early Care and Education Framework



North Dakota children and families will be well supported by a system of individualized, high-quality, accessible, and inclusive early childhood services and resources that contribute to healthy child development today and a stronger future tomorrow.

Our Values

- ✓ Child-focused – Children's healthy physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development depends on the quality of their surroundings and their relationships with others.
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate – Supports should genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs and reflect the strengths, needs, values, languages, and cultures of children and families.
- ✓ Family-focused – Family is the most important factor in a child's development. Family engagement is essential to an effective and sustainable early childhood system.
- ✓ Evidenced-based – The development of comprehensive system components is supported by research, best practice, and experience.
- ✓ Community based – Families live in communities, and supports should honor the individual strengths and knowledge of local needs, perspectives, and cultures.
- ✓ Accessible – All children and families should be made aware of and have access to, as early as possible, the services and supports they need.
- ✓ Integrated – Services interact as seamlessly as possible to ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from birth to kindergarten entry.

 Only 34% of North Dakota children are reading at or above proficient levels by 4th grade.



Success in 3rd grade and beyond begins with a strong foundation in early childhood.



In 2013, only 38% of all North Dakota 3 and 4 year olds were enrolled in a formal ECE program; sixth lowest in the nation.

Our Priorities



Access

Children must have ACCESS to comprehensive, high-quality, care and education.



Workforce

A skilled and stable early childhood WORKFORCE is critical to quality.



Coordination

Effective COORDINATION of information is necessary to support children and families.

The North Dakota Early Care and Education Framework represents a commitment to ensuring children's healthy development and success. Many North Dakota early childhood stakeholders developed the Framework in the Fall of 2014 to recognize that we are better able to achieve our vision by working together. The Framework is intended to guide future planning and decision-making regarding early childhood policy, programming, and financing. It is a call to action for all who work with young children to identify what they can do to achieve the vision of healthy child development and learning for all North Dakota children.