

The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework

Promoting Positive Outcomes in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children 3-5 Years Old

The *Framework* represents the foundation of the Head Start Approach to School Readiness. It aligns with and builds from the five essential domains of school readiness identified by the National Education Goals Panel (see inner circle) and lays out essential areas of learning and development. The *Framework* can be used to guide curriculum, implementation, and assessment to plan teaching and learning experiences that align to school readiness goals and track children's progress across developmental domains. The domains \triangle and domain elements \blacktriangleright apply to all 3 to 5 year olds in Head Start and other early childhood programs, including dual language learners and children with disabilities.

FIGURE 1

