

New York State Core Body of Knowledge

Assessing our strengths

We can look at our strengths in several ways.

What we understand about the children and families

What we know how to do

What we like about what we do

As we think about our work in the field, we can think about:

What we know (knowledge)

What we are really good at (skills)

How we feel about doing this work (attitudes/dispositions)

Areas of early care and education

Child Development

Knowledge: Do I have knowledge in these areas of growth

Physical

Social

Language

Intellectual

Creative

Emotional

Other areas to consider:

Influences on development

Realistic expectations

Skills: Can I

Recognize growth

Recognize delay

Observe/record and assess each child's development

Maintain confidentiality and always show respect

Attitudes: Can I be

Accepting

Receptive

Consistent

Creative

Main strengths



### The learning environment

Knowledge : Do I know

- What is needed for an effective learning environment
- Why it is important to mental health
- Why it is important to learning
- Understand the importance of the emotional environment

Skills: Can I

- Plan room arrangements
- Organize an effective learning environment
- Assess environmental stress
- Intervene to make environment psychologically safe

Attitudes: Am I

- Able to observe easily
- Clean and neat
- Flexible, able to change
- Able to find ways to make the environment work
- Able to accept responsibility
- Sensitive
- Responsive to needs

Main Strengths

### Curriculum

Knowledge: Do I have knowledge about

- Math, Science, Technology, English, Language Arts, Social Studies
- Oral and written communication
- Arts – visual, music, movement, drama
- Program learning standards for age groups
- Community resources
- Children meet learning standards
- Keeping records of children meeting learning standards
- Knowing sources for continuing education to learn these areas

Main Strengths

Skills: Can I

- Look at children's learning to check for meeting standards
- Express what I know in writing and speaking
- Be creative when I am expressing what I know

Attitudes: Am I

- Open with others
- Creative and resourceful
- Curious and interested in continuing my learning

### **Pedagogy (How to Teach)**

Knowledge

- Do I understand children's learning styles?
- Do I understand my different learning styles?
- Do I understand how to adapt to special needs?

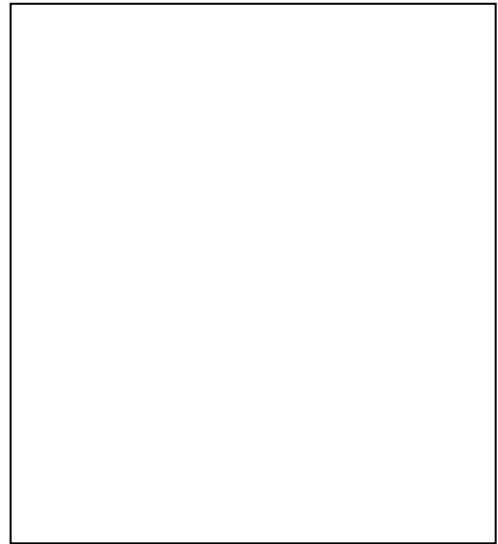
Skills: Can I

- Plan activities for different needs – age and learning style
- Plan effective transitions between activities

Attitudes: Am I

- Putting the children's needs first
- Changing my style to fit the children's needs
- Being logical when I approach my work with children?

Main Strengths



### **Working with families**

Knowledge: do I understand

- That parents are the first teachers
- How families fit in society
- The many different cultural values and beliefs held by families
- The challenges of children learning English

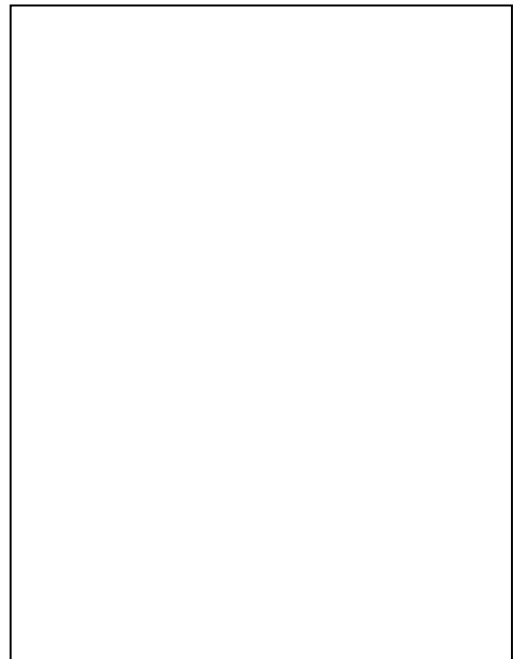
Skills: Can I

- Successfully involve families
- Make referrals for community supports
- Communicate in the home language
- Reflect families' culture and values in classroom
- Work with families' strengths

Attitudes: Am I

- Always respectful, honest, and understanding
- Always empathetic and sensitive

Main Strengths



**Child Assessment**

Main strengths

Knowledge: Do I know

Different ways to assess children  
How to interpret the assessment tools

Skills: Can I

Assess children's progress  
Adjust curriculum to meet needs as they change

Attitudes: Am I

Organized, fair and neutral in assessing children  
Able to work to children's strengths  
Respectful and able to maintain confidentiality

**Program Management**

Knowledge: Do I

Understand program policies and procedures  
Understand how to schedule and plan  
Understand importance of working together  
Understand recordkeeping systems  
Understand how to provide leadership

Skills: Can I

Follow guidelines  
Manage time efficiently  
Be cooperative and communicative with co worker  
Keep records  
Solve problems

Attitudes: Am I

Reliable, on time, cooperative  
Accurate in record keeping  
Independent

Main Strengths

### Communication

Knowledge: Do I know

- Appropriate use of language – vocabulary, grammar
- How to overcome communication difficulties
- The challenges of those who don't speak English as a first language
- The many styles of communication that I and others use

Skills: Can I

- Listen to others
- Speak so I am understood by others – children, parents, co workers
- Communicate with those who speak other languages

Main strengths

Attitudes: Am I

- Respectful in our communications
- Polite
- Willing to use different ways to communicate

### Professionalism and Leadership

Knowledge: Do I know

- Regulations by OCFS, guidelines by government agencies
- Many pathways for continuing my professional development
- Resources in our community for families and children
- How early care and education can be better for children and families

Main strengths

Skills: Can I

- Meet the regulations, guidelines, requirements
- Enroll in classes, courses, workshops
- Find community resources
- Be a voice for children and families and staff

Attitudes: Am I

- Willing to meet regulations, requirements, and guidelines
- Active in finding ways to be developing to our potential
- Responsible in speaking up for children, families and staff
- Cooperative when it comes to making choices for our professional development

### Health and Safety

Knowledge: Do I know

- Common illnesses and symptoms
- Healthy practices
- First aid
- Safety hazards
- Nutrition
- Emergency procedures

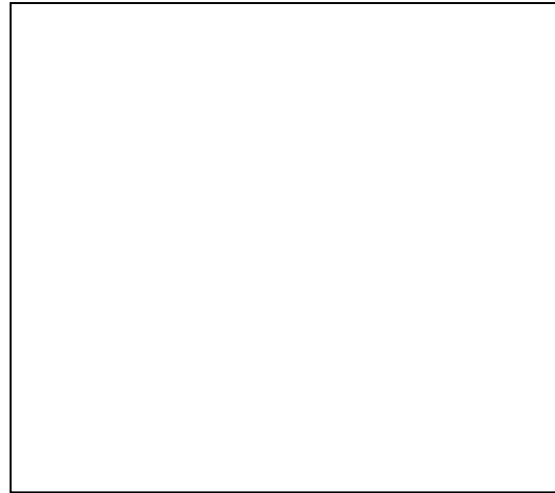
Skills: Can I

- Recognize symptoms, hazards
- Keep environment clean and healthy
- Follow policies for sick children'
- Plan for health, teach and model good practice
- Apply first aid knowledge

Attitudes: Am I

- Attentive
- Confident in making decisions
- Caring and calm
- Compassionate

Main strengths



### Child Abuse/Neglect Recognition

Knowledge: Do I know

- The indicators of child abuse/neglect
- The procedures to document and report

Skills: Can I

- Report abuse/neglect
- Keep records
- Talk to families about abuse/neglect

Attitudes: Am I

- Attentive to detail
- Fair
- Tactful
- Respectful of confidentiality

Main Strengths

