

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards

Family Tip Sheets Using the WMELS Family Tip Sheets

How Do I Use the Tip Sheets?

The Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) Family Tips Sheets were developed to help families understand how the WMELS can help them think about what their children should know and what their children should be able to do. There is a tip sheet for each of the five domains of the WMELS:

- Health and Physical Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development and Communication
- Approaches to Learning
- Cognition and General Knowledge

Organization

Each tip sheet includes:

- Definition and rationale for each domain;
- How families can support their child's development at home and in the community;
- What to expect during the stages of infancy, toddlerhood, and the preschool years. The Center for Disease Control Developmental Milestones is used to provide guidance on developmental milestones.

What should I do if I have a concern about my child's development?

- Talk to your early learning program provider;
- Talk to your doctor. If you and your doctor are still concerned;
- Call Wisconsin First Step 1-800-642-7837 (24 hour service, a parent specialist is available M-F, between 8AM and 4PM);
- Services for children with disabilities are provided through Birth to 3 or Early Childhood Special Education for children age three to five.

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Guiding Principals

The WMELS were developed based upon the following principles or beliefs:

1. All children are capable and competent;
2. Early relationships matter;
3. A child's early learning and development is multi-dimensional;
4. Expectations for children must be guided by knowledge of child growth and development;
5. Children are individuals who develop at various rates;
6. Children are members of cultural groups that share developmental patterns;
7. Children exhibit a range of skills and competencies within any domain of development;
8. Children learn through play and the active exploration of their environment;
9. Parents are children's primary and most important caregivers and educators.



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Remember – Your Child Learns and Grows Across all Five Domains!

Each tip sheet includes information about how your child develops across the domains.



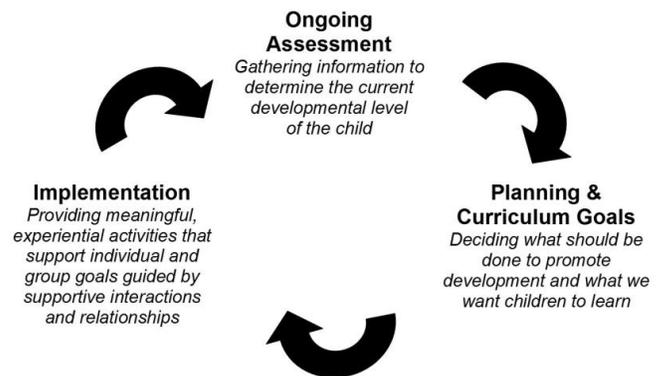
Focus on the Whole Child

The WMELS focuses on the development of the whole child. This means that we think about the child within the context of the world in which he or she lives.

Thinking about the whole child involves taking into consideration how a child's development is influenced by aspects of his or her physical and social environment:

- Relationships with family and other significant people;
- The child's biology or development (temperament, learning style, interests, etc.);
- The environment in which the child and family live;
- The child or family's life experiences, history, biology;
- The child's and family's culture.

The Teaching Cycle



The Teaching Cycle

The parts of the Teaching Cycle include:

- **Ongoing Assessment** – What does your child know, what can your child do;
- **Planning and Curriculum Goals** – Setting goals for your child and planning activities and materials to support learning around those goals;
- **Implementation** – Teaching through play and interactions with materials and people.

The Teaching Cycle is used by teachers in your child's early childhood program every day. Parents can use the Teaching Cycle when:

- **You wait** – Give your child time to play with materials and people;
- **You watch** – Watch what your child is doing;
- **You wonder** – Wonder what does this mean? What does my child know? What can my child do? How can I support my child's learning?

Sources: Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, Third Edition, Developmental Continuum, February 2011
Center for Disease Control and Prevention Developmental Milestones <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>