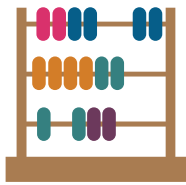


# High-Quality Preschool

## Developing Essential Skills

High-quality early education provides young children with opportunities to develop skills and knowledge across all areas of development through play, strong relationships, and intentional instruction. Positive early childhood experiences in public and private settings, guided by qualified educators, help children learn foundational skills for successful lifelong learning. The high-quality early learning experiences in preschool and prekindergarten build on a child's natural curiosity to help children become well-rounded learners and future graduates



### Play and Effective Instruction

Effective educators design play activities with specific learning goals to support children's engagement in learning. They provide individualized, intentional, and differentiated instruction to facilitate successful learning for all students.



### Whole Child

Effective preschool programs support children's learning and development across cognitive, language, emotional, physical, and social learning areas and recognize that children learn best when learning is connected and integrated across learning domains.



### Interactions

Learning is most effective when adults, children, and peers engage in respectful, enjoyable conversations and interactions. Learning opportunities occur during individual exploration during play and through engaging small and large group learning interactions.



### Curriculum

Curriculum tools in high-quality preschool programs are evidence-based and provide children with learning opportunities appropriate to individual development. This includes learning opportunities in whole and small groups, and child-directed settings with intentional instruction in key areas of literacy and numeracy.



### Professional Learning

Effective educators in high-quality early learning programs engage in frequent, ongoing professional learning, including coaching, to support educator development. The lead educator in a classroom holds a credential or degree in early childhood education or a related field. Administrators establish and evaluate program goals in a cycle of continuous quality improvement.



### Family Engagement

High-quality early learning programs recognize parent(s)/guardian(s) as children's first and most important teachers. Family members are supported and invited to actively participate in their child's education through effective communication and information sharing, ensuring they are always partners.

The Becoming Quality School Readiness Grant Program was created to provide grants to an eligible private provider or an eligible LEA to assist an existing preschool in becoming a high-quality school readiness program. The High-quality School Readiness Grant Program was created to expand access to high-quality school readiness programs for eligible students through grants administered by the department for eligible LEAs and private providers.

### Utah Code (Effective 7/1/2024)

- 35A-15-202: Elements of a high-quality school readiness program.
- 35A-15-301: Becoming Quality School Readiness Grant Program.
- 35A-15-302: High-quality School Readiness Grant Program

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