

# ABOUT THE *IDAHO EARLY LEARNING eGUIDELINES*

## WELCOME

Welcome to the *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines*!

For those who care for and teach young children, the *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* is a resource designed to assist in guiding children's development and learning. The *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* is a foundational resource document which can be utilized in several different ways:

- A relatively comprehensive foundational document, the purpose and function of the *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* is to provide detailed guidelines and strategies for early childhood development. It is a comprehensive piece designed to guide adult practice and policy making for young children.
- A series of collateral products to meet the needs of specific users; including parents, child caregivers, child care educators, early intervention educators, and more.
- The *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* are an electronic resource, allowing any user to access the broadest to the most specific information available in that user's area of interest. This electronic format links to important resources, research, and supplemental information enabling opportunities for efficient editing and additions as new information becomes available.

Adapted from the products of a number of states, national experts, and professional organizations, a representative group of Idaho educators and professionals generated the *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* utilizing the latest research in early childhood development. Idahoans and national experts revised and refined the product to meet the unique needs and concerns of children, parents, and stakeholders in our state. We wish to acknowledge the work of Washington State, Alaska, and other states for providing foundation material for the *Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines*; as well as the guidance and support of the National Child Care Information Center.

The other links in the *About the Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines* section outline the background, principles, and framework for this body of work. This information will aid your understanding of why the *eGuidelines* were created and how to use them.

## DECEMBER 2013 UPDATES, REVISIONS, AND ALIGNMENTS

We are pleased to present the revised *Idaho ELeGs*, the latest set of high quality, research-based, *eGuidelines*. They are the result of an almost two-year study and revision process by a team of Idaho's dedicated early childhood professionals. The work was sponsored, funded and coordinated by the Idaho Head Start Collaboration, Carolyn Kiefer, Director, and Shannon Dunstan, Part B-619 Coordinator, State Department of Education.

We started with a study by Dr. Patricia Hampshire of Boise State University, who used a national model to evaluate the depth, breadth and internal consistency and balance of the original *ELeGs* launched in 2009. She also did a search and review of 2009 to 2012 research literature. Her work was the foundation of our revision work.

In the summer of 2012, we convened two teams, a Work Group and a Review Team to undertake the revisions and updates of the *ELeGs*, and at the request of the State Department of Education, to align the *ELeGs* with the national Common Core Standards for K-3. The Work Group was divided by expertise to address each Domain. In addition we had specialists in infant and toddler development, early intervention/special education, and early childhood/kindergarten/primary education.

Following five intense work days the edits and recommendation of the Work Group were collated and organized for presentation to the Review Team. The Review Team spent 3 days with a significant sample of the Goals and Indicators to validate the scope and content of the Work Groups edits. Their recommendations were then returned to the Work Group who came to Boise for the final round of edits, alignment and recommendations.

The Idaho Head Start Collaboration Office integrated and edited the updated text and then rebuilt the electronic format. The State Department of Education, Part B compiled the Crosswalk with the Idaho Core Standards, published and posted them to the website.

Dr. Janice Fletcher, Professor Emeritus, University of Idaho, did the final content review and edits as she did for the original *ELeGs*. We are deeply grateful for her expertise and years of dedication to the nurture of children, and to the field of early childhood in Idaho.

## OUTCOMES

- All 5 Domains, 64 Goals, and 6 Age Groups were reviewed and extensively revised.
- The new research was incorporated.
- All of the child indicators were clarified and put into developmental sequence within Age Groups.
- Caregiver strategies were expanded and strengthened.
- The Developmental Growth statements for each age and goal were carefully reviewed, clarified and aligned by age and goal.
- A new table was created by Domain with all of the Developmental Growth statements by age and goal.
- We added content reflecting the latest research on self-regulation and executive functioning, key to school and life success.
- We added content and revised Domain 5: Communication, Language and Literacy to align with the Common Core skills and to clarify the unique and parallel processes in reading and writing.

In addition, we developed a crosswalk document for the *ELeGs* and Common Core Standards for use by early educators and schools. The *ELeGs* are also cross walked with the Head Start Early Learning Framework, with thanks to Melissa Bandy and Annie Dalgetty, ICFI, Region X Head Start TTA. The work and content of the revisions were incorporated in the early childhood portion of the Idaho State Literacy Plan.

## ***IDAHO EARLY LEARNING EGUIDELINES REVISIONS TEAMS***

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